

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.30pm at Wilmington Village Hall

Present: Councillors Pam Merritt (Chair), Claire Church, Tyler Butterworth, Michael Bridges, Jeremy Christey, Helen Baulcombe, District Councillor Michael Lunn and County Councillor Stephen Shing.
Claire Reynolds (Clerk)
1 member of the public was present.

1. Chairman's welcome

Councillor Merritt Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies

Councillors Lizzie Chisholm and Alison Cotton (Tree Warden)

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Discussion (15 minutes maximum)

a. Wilmington Bus Shelter

A request was made to put a bench in the shelter and to move the rubbish bin so it was outside of the shelter. Councillor Bridges volunteered to take this forward.

A query was also raised regarding reclaiming the VAT for the new bus shelter. The Clerk will look into this.

5. To consider the Minutes of the meeting dated 14 November 2022 and approve by signature as a true record

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

6 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022

Item 9b: Milton Street: The tree branch has now been removed.

7. Report of the County Councillor – Councillor Stephen Shing

- a. ESCC Highways: Councillor Shing reported that there will be a new ESCC Highways Contractor appointed from April 2023 – April 2030. It will then be reviewed again.
- b. ESCC Local Plan: The Public Consultation had taken place. Comments received will be integrated into the Local Plan. There will be three meetings taking place with a final decision being made in November 2023.
- c. Exceat Bridge: The planning application for this had been approved in December 2022 subject to conditions. Tenders will be put in place for contractors to be appointed.
- d. Milton Street signage: Councillor Shing had been liaising with Councillors Butterworth and Baulcombe with regards to new signage for Milton Street and thanked them for their assistance.
- e. Council Tax: There will be an increase in the Council Tax for the 2023 / 2024 year.

8. Report of the District Councillor – Councillor Michael Lunn

Councillor Lunn reported the following at the meeting:

a. Wealden Local Plan

Wealden District Council and others have been lobbying the Secretary of State regarding the housing target formula regarding the south-east area protected sites. The Government have made a U-turn which means that the housing numbers will now be decided based on the local need and not the original formula. Once the Local Plan is published and approved this will then put the brake on future developments. It is good news in the long term.

b. Cuckmere

The shingle at the mouth of the Cuckmere estuary had been cleared recently. There is a ring fenced amount of money to carry out similar work as required. Flooding is still occurring but is disappearing quicker. Farmers have reported that the Cuckmere Valley sluices are not working and Councillor Lunn is meeting with the Water Levels Management Board next week to discuss this. The dialogue between all parties concerned with this appears to be working well now.

c. South Downs National Park Visitor Centre at Exceat

This is now open to all. The site includes SDNPA offices, café, car parks, etc and is being well utilised. An improved grazing regime for wildflowers is also underway.

9. Reports of the Parish Councillors

a. Folkington

Councillor Chisholm will be standing down in the not too distant future.

b. Milton Street

- i. The offending branch as per the last Minutes has now been removed.
- ii. Approval for the new Milton Street signs is due in March 2023.

c. Wilmington

- i. Village Hall Lift: Councillor Church reported that the majority of funding had now been secured to install a new lift at the Village Hall.
- ii. Wilmington Junction Planting Scheme: Councillor Church reported that the deadline for comments regarding this is the 15 January 2023.
- iii. Councillors have received queries regarding issues about building works taking place. After discussion it was advised that the owners of the properties be approached in the first instance. It can then be reported to South Downs Planning Authority if necessary.
- iv. Councillor Vacancy: Councillor Merritt will be standing down at the next election. It was agreed to put a notice in the Parish Magazine to try and recruit new Councillor.

10. Report of the Tree Warden – Alison Cotton

Alison Cotton had sent her apologies but asked that the following be reported:

- a. Currently collecting feedback to the Wilmington Junction planting plan.
- b. Concerns had been raised at the large volume of tree felling at a property in Milton Street and this will be followed up.

11. A27 news

- a. **Roadworks:** Resurfacing of the A27 is taking place from the 9 – 14 January 2023 overnight.
- b. **Traffic Lights:** The problem with the traffic lights had been reported to Highways.
- c. **RIS3 Project:** This is ongoing.

12. Council Elections – 4 May 2023

Councillor Merritt explained the following regarding the Council Elections:

Forms for Councillors standing for election need to be submitted to Wealden District Council by 4.00pm on the 4th April 2023. An appointment will need to be made by prospective Councillors with WDC Electoral Services Department so that their applications can be gone through prior to the deadline.

All Councillors will need to submit their applications even if there is not an Election.

Nomination packs will be sent to the Clerk to distribute.

Councillors require to be over 18 years of age, qualified as citizens and lived in or within 3 miles of the Parish for the last year.

If insufficient nominations are received but the Council is still quorate Councillors can then be co-opted throughout the year.

Councillors will take office on the 9 May 2023.

The LMPC Meeting will therefore take place on the 15 May due to the Election timetable.

Declaration of Interest and Acceptance of Office Forms and Expenses Form need to be Submitted (by 2 June 2023). If expenses are nil forms still need to be submitted otherwise Councillors will not be able to sit on the Parish Council or vote.

13. Long Man Parish Clerk Vacancy

Councillor Merrit reported that 4 applications had been received for the position of Parish Clerk/RFO. Interviews will take place this coming Wednesday and Friday. Although her last day was the 4 January 2023, the current Clerk was willing to work up until the end of January 2023 whilst the recruitment process takes place and handover to the new Clerk. Councillor Merritt therefore proposed that LMPC pay the Clerk up until the 31st January 2023. This was seconded by Councillor Butterworth and all Councillors present agreed.

14. To receive the Report of the Clerk to the Council

ai. Finance -To receive the Finance Report and agree the accounts for payments.

The report was circulated at the meeting which revealed a bank balance of £14,265.53 in the Current Account (as at 30/12/2022). This figure included the £5,000 ring fenced for emergencies, £2,500 designated for grants and donations and the £250 for the Milton Street Phone Box Fund.

Authority was sought from the Clerk to make the following payments:

Claire Reynolds (Clerk's Wages for December 2022 and January 2023)	£755.30
Claire Reynolds (Mobile phone monthly cost for Sept – Jan 2023)	£67.45
Wealden District Association of Local Councils (Subs for 2022/23)	£5.00
STRIPES (2 nd half year grass cutting at The Triangle at Wilmington)	£60.00

TOTAL: £987.75

The above payments were proposed by Councillor Butterworth and seconded by Councillor Christey. All Councillors present agreed.

aii To agree the proposed Budget and Precept figure for the 2023 / 2024.

The proposed Budget and Precept figure for 2023 / 2024 was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion the proposed figures were agreed and will be submitted to Wealden District Council.

b. Correspondence

- i. A report had been received from Maria Caulfield MP and covered the following topics: Welcome news regarding housing targets, Call to boost the take-up of Pension Credit, Homeless Prevention Funding, Funding for Defibrillators and East Sussex Lane Rental Consultation. To see a copy of the full report please contact the Clerk.

15. Planning

- a. The following Applications had been received for discussion at this meeting:
 - i. SDNP/22/05718/FUL – The Giants Rest, The Street, Wilmington, E Sx, BN26 5SQ
Description: Gazebo for outdoor eating and drinking during inclement weather allowing for possible further covid or similar restrictions.
Following discussion LMPC had no objection to this application.
 - ii. WD/2022/3326/LB – Stream Farm, Thornwell Road, Wilmington, BN26 6RL
Description: Proposed internal alterations to form larger kitchen on the ground floor along with additional bedroom, new ensuite, slightly smaller bathroom on the first floor.
Following discussion LMPC had no objection to this application.

- b. To report on Applications and Decisions received and observations made since the last meeting. The following report was circulated:

South Downs National Park Authority

SDNP/22/05232/LIS – MILTON COTTAGE, BACK LANE, MILTON STREET, WILMINGTON, EAST SUSSEX, BN26 5RN

Description: CONVERSION OF INTEGRAL GARAGE AND ALTERATIONS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FIRST FLOOR BATHROOMS.

LMPC had no objection to this application.

Decision: Application in progress

Wealden District Council

WD/2022/2780/F – CHURCHWOOD FARM, LEWES ROAD, WILMINGTON, BN26 5RS

Description: CATTLE BARN

LMPC had no objection to this application.

Decision: Approved 15/12/2022

WD/2022/2725/MFA – MILTON GATE FARM, MILTON STREET, POLEGATE, BN26 5RS

Description: VARIATION OF CONDITIONS 16 AND 21 OF WD/2020/2407/MAJ (CHANGE OF USE FROM AGRICULTURAL LAND TO A PRIVATE POLO CENTRE INCLUDING PROVISION OF POLO PITCH WITH ANCILLARY ENGINEERING WORKS TO CHANGE LEVELS; AND WILDLIFE POND; AND TEMPORARY WIDENING OF AGRICULTURAL ACCESS TRACK). TO REDEFINE "PRACTICE DAYS" AND RECTIFY A TYPING ERROR IN THE DECISION NOTICE.

LMPC had no objection to this application.

Decision: Approved 16/12/2022

WD/2022/3075/F – OLD HIDES, BAYLEYS LANE, WILMINGTON, BN26 6RT

Description: CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF VERNACULAR BARN TO SINGLE DWELLING INC NEW ACCESS AND DRIVE – AMENDMENT TO APPROVAL WD/2021/0736/F.

LMPC had no objection to this application.

Decision: Pending

WD/2021/2235/FR – LAND ADJACENT TO MILTON FIELD, MILTON GATE, WILMINGTON, BN26 5RS

Description: PART RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE TO SITE 2 NO. GYPSY STATIC UNITS TOGETHER WITH TOURER PARKING, STABLES, FENCING AND SERVICES.

LMPC responded with various comments.

Decision: Pending

- c. To report on any application that is received too late for the agenda - none.
- d. To report on any correspondence, enforcement letters or any other planning matter including any out of Parish applications on which LMPC has been consulted.
 - i. Out of Area Consultation.
 - ii. Planning Appeals notified to LMPC.
 - iii. Enforcement Action carried out.
LMPC is currently in contact with the Wealden District Council Enforcement Officer regarding the field opposite the entrance to the Long Man Nursery.
 - iv. Correspondence with SDNPA/WDC

15. Representation feedback from:

a. Wealden District Association of Local Councils

Correspondence received had been emailed round to Councillors.

b. Cuckmere Flood Forum

Correspondence received had been emailed round to Councillors.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 13 March 2023 at Wilmington Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.

These Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed:

Position:

Date: