

EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th DECEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Cllrs. Colin Field, Bob Norris, Keith Martin and Sandy Simpson.

In attendance: Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk), District Cllr. Graeme Barrett and three members of the public.

135.12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

District Cllr Barrett reported:

- Youth Centre - West Sussex County Council were now proposing to sell the building to the Woodger Trust rather than leasing the building as originally agreed.
- Rural car park - the District Council were proposing to remove the free time available in the car park adjacent to Northern Crescent.
- Consenting regime for ordinary water courses - West Sussex County Council had devolved this power to Chichester District Council and this was a shared officer position with Arun District Council.
- Tenancy strategy - residents within the social sector were no longer entitled to a home for life.

136.12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

On a proposal by Cllr. Field it was RESOLVED that Cllr. Martin be elected as Chairman. The acceptance of office was duly signed.

137.12 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

District Cllr. Peter Clementson – prior engagement.

138.12 CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Declarations of Interest on items included on the agenda – Cllr. Bob Norris 142.12 member of the Earnley Manor Close Residents Association.
2. Dispensation requests – none.

139.12 MINUTES

On a proposal by Cllr. Field it was RESOLVED to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2012. This was duly completed.

140.12 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

It was noted that the District Council had advised that no call for a bye-election had been called. The Clerk had advertised the casual vacancy and written to two parties who had expressed an interest in being co-opted, however subsequently one applicant had withdrawn due to personal reasons. Applicants were required to submit the application form and a CV by 14th January 2012. It was agreed that candidates would give a short presentation on why they wished to

become a parish councillor and if successful, the applicant would be co-opted at the full parish council meeting on 24th January 2013.

141.12 FINANCE

- a) Bank balance as at today's date £45,100.10
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques

Staples	15.49	300081	stationery
East Wittering & Bracklesham Parish Council	21.00	300082	room rental
North Mundham Parish Council	87.66	300083	shared expenses
West Sussex County Council Pension Fund	64.92	s/o	month 9
Mrs. Louise Chater	240.58	s/o	salary
Mr. Doug Goodman	75.00	300084	bus shelter cleaning August/September/October 2012

On a proposal by Cllr. Field, it was RESOLVED to make payment and sign the cheques including the additional payment to Doug Goodman as listed above. This was duly completed.

- c) Financial Report November 2012 – On a proposal by Cllr. Norris, it was RESOLVED to accept the financial statement for November 2012.
- d) Loan – the application had been submitted to Sussex Association of Local Councils.
- e) 2nd Budget Review for 2013/14

Cllr. Simpson (Chairman of Employment Committee) stated that the Employment Committee recommended that the Clerk's salary be increased by one scale point to scale point 19 at flexible 10 hours per week with effect from 1st January 2013 and in recognition for the commitment and extra hours worked a one off payment of £200.00 be made in January. – ALL AGREED

Clerk's Salary (scale point 19 at 10 hours per week) £4811.56

Flood Alleviation Scheme Loan £5000 10 year annual repayment - £560

Community Warden - £350

Annual Parish Assembly £150

On a proposal by Cllr. Simpson, it was RESOLVED to agree the budget including the changes listed above.

- f) Council Tax Reform – The Clerk reported that a grant was not available from Chichester District Council due to the number of second homes within the parish and that the grant was potentially only available for one year for those Councils that qualified. The Clerk stated the Government had declared that the council tax cap would not be imposed on Parish Councils for the financial year 2013/14.
- g) Precept request for 2013/14 – On a proposal by Cllr. Field, it was RESOLVED to request a precept in the sum of £10998.00

CLERK

142.12 BOOKERS LANE FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Mr Carey, Bookers Lane Residents Group, reported that the Environment Agency had carried out preliminary site surveys. As a result it appeared that it might be necessary to relocate the services which would incur further costs which had not

been mentioned previously. It was noted that the gas main had been included on the plans used during discussions and as such it was considered that the Environment Agency should have been aware of their existence prior to the survey. The Environment Agency were considering alternatives which might not be as effective, however, it was noted that the Medmerry breach had been delayed until Autumn 2013 and this gave the opportunity for the scheme to be implemented fully following negotiations.

Mr Carey stated he considered that there were three options available:

1. Raise further funds approximately £70,000.
2. Accept a reduced scheme with a lower risk threshold.
3. Put political pressure on the Environment Agency to meet the costs.

It was noted that although the Parish Council had been advised that all other parties had signed their part of the Deed this had not happened. When the Deed was presented to the Parish Council it was against specific costs and included a force majeure clause. It was considered appropriate to place pressure on the Environment Agency with the other major funders upon receipt of the official report. It was agreed that Mr. Carey would brief County Cllr. Pieter Montyn. The Parish Council considered that the reduced scheme should be the last resort for the residents.

143.12 REPORTS ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA'S

1. Black and Veatch Meeting – the Chairman reported that he felt it was carried out very professionally and in particular the presentation on the significance of culverts in the drainage system was very interesting and it highlighted the adverse affect they had on the overall effectiveness of the drainage system if they were too small or not properly maintained.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm

Signed *K. Martin* Chairman Earnley Parish Council

Dated 24th January 2013