



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Document Reference 2419

Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Monday 30th September 2024 at 7:30pm in West Hoathly Village Hall

Members

Ken Allfree

Will Buckley

Martin Robinson (Vice
Chairman)

Bob Darvill*

Peter Browne

Paul Brown*

Claire Hilton

Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)

Amy Marshall*

Manfred Lindfield

Sinead Young*

* denotes absence

Also present:

Leanne Andrews (clerk)

Anita Emery (RFO)

District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho

There were no members of the public present.

127) To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Amy Marshall, Cllr Sinead Young, Cllr Bob Darvill and Cllr Paul Brown.

128) To receive declarations of interest from Parish Councillors in respect of any matter on the agenda

Cllr Ken Allfree declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda (To consider a grant application from the Friends of the Priest House, West Hoathly)

129) To approve minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on 2nd September 2024 (Document Reference 2417)

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman

130) To receive the clerk's report

The clerk's report was received.

131) To receive Councillor reports

a) West Sussex County Councillor Report – Cllr Garry Wall

- Cllr Wall has asked for an update on the white lines in Top Road and general maintenance before winter sets in.
- WSCC Winter Preparedness Briefing – Monday 14th October – Clerk to attend

- Quarter 1 is already showing that savings will need to be made in year. Adult social care already reporting an overspend of £13m.

Mid Sussex District Councillor Report – Lorraine Carvalho

Cllr Lorraine Carvalho gave an update on Pre-application meetings held in relation to Deanlands Farm (DM/24/1761) and Horncastle (DM/24/1761) as outlined in Cllr Paul Brown's report.

Martlets Shopping Centre, Burgess Hill- Cllr Lorraine Carvalho explained how MSDC has agreed to enter a joint venture with New River to deliver a redevelopment of The Martlets Shopping Centre. The project has a 36-month timeline.

Cllr Carvalho was pleased to see that WHPC have an agenda item to consider adopting a Dark Skies Policy.

Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- District Cllr Paul Brown – sent via email

District Cllr. Report by Paul Brown to WHPC meeting on 30th September 2024

I send my apologies for absence due to the clash with Open Spaces Society local correspondents conference in Birmingham.

Deanlands Farm, Horsted Lane, Sharpthorne (Pre-application DM/24/1761)

I attended an architects' Design Review Panel meeting on 11th Sept to consider the "Proposed erection of a building of exceptional quality [under NPPF s.84] with design and landscape enhancements and associated works (pre application)". I had not been invited to any prior pre-application meeting. Meeting was called by Andy Watt and the Planning officer is Caroline Grist. The proposal was judged by the DRP to fail the NPPF application due to lack of attention to sustainable design.

Horncastle [care home] Plaw Hatch Lane, Sharpthorne DM/24/1685

I attended a pre-application meeting with applicants Carless Adams architects on 19th September. The proposal is to demolish the fire damaged remains of Horncastle House and Maple Lodge but retain Willow Lodge and build a new care home to accommodate 80 residents. This is a significant intensification in residential care on the site.

I made the following observations: I thought WHPC would welcome pre-app discussions with the applicant; that staff recruitment and their ability to travel to the former care home had been a problem; and that I had promoted a plan to provide a footway from Sharpthorne and Tyes Cross to Plaw Hatch Community Farm (opposite Horncastle). This would provide access to multiple PROW currently not safely accessible from Plaw Hatch Lane by pedestrians; I have written more fully to the Planning officer Joseph Swift.

MSDC Full Council meeting on 25th September

Council agreed to create a Special Purpose Vehicle with New River to unlock The Martlets redevelopment plan in Burgess Hill town centre by 39 votes in favour and 4 abstentions. I abstained in support of BH members who have worked hard to enable a community hub to be established in otherwise empty shops. By abstaining we want MSDC leader and cabinet members to support and facilitate relocation of these facilities during the reconstruction phase.

A 'motion on notice' deploring the government withdrawal of Winter Fuel Allowance to Pensioners not in receipt of Pension Credit was proposed by the Conservative group, amended and debated and supported by councillors with just one vote against the motion.

Some MSDC councillors would like to return to publishing a paper copy of Mid Sussex Matters. Meanwhile may I recommend that WHP Councillors and residents sign up to receive the online version of the newsletter which is full of news, events, and information. Go to MSDC home page and type in 'Mid Sussex Matters' in the search box. Please let me know if you think the paper copy should be reinstated.

Cllr. Paul Brown

26th September 2024

132) Planning applications

a) To note decisions from the Local Authority

The following applications have been granted permission

DM/24/1039 - 16 Garden Mead
DM/24/1040 - 17 Garden Mead
DM/24/1579 - 5 And 6 Hoathly Hill
DM/23/1599 - Wildgoose Stables
DM/24/1577 - Wickenden Farmhouse

b) To consider planning applications received from the Local Authority

DM/24/1836 - Philpots Manor School, Hook Lane, West Hoathly

Erection of Equestrian and Land Management Centre for educational purposes to expand and improve the learning opportunities at Philpots Manor School, together with associated access.

The Parish Council has **no objections**

DM/24/2074 - 17 Highcroft Road, Sharpthorne

Single story rear extension that will also replace the existing detached garage/workshop

The Parish Council has **no objections**

DM/24/1688 - Rhiw Glyn, 8 Hamsey Road, Sharpthorne

Installation of an Air Source Heat pump

The Parish Council has **no objections**

133) To review the Financial Statements

a) To approve the **Parish Council** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
b) To note the **Parish Council** combined bank rec and year to date accounts
The Parish Council Financial Statements were noted.

- c) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
d) To note the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** combined bank rec and year to date accounts

The Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Financial Statements were noted

134) To ratify and approve the payments for August & September 2024

a) To approve the **Parish Council** expenditure as itemised on the schedule
The payments of £4,225.45 for August were ratified and approved. Two additional payments was presented for September:

1. £858.00 Barcombe Landscapes Ltd
2. £400.21 HQO Plumbing

The payments of £13,193.55 for September were unanimously ratified and approved.

- b) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** expenditure as itemised on the schedule

The payments of £410.58 for August were ratified and approved. One additional payment was presented for September:

1. £191.40 HQO Plumbing

The payments of £599.81 for September were unanimously ratified and approved

135) To consider a grant application from The Friends of the Priest House, West Hoathly

The grant request of £350 was unanimously agreed

136) To note the conclusion of the External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2024

The conclusion of External Audit for the year ending 31st March 2024 was noted

137) To note correspondence from Cambridge & Counties Bank and to agree whether to further reinvest in a fixed rate bond

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to delegate the decision as to whether to further reinvest to the Clerk, RFO, Chairman and Vice Chairman.

138) To note correspondence from the Cambridge Building Society

The correspondence was noted

139) To discuss the Neighbourhood Plan review.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the NPPF

140) To adopt the Dark Skies Policy

The Dark Skies Policy was adopted

141) To adopt the 2024 Financial Regulations

It was agreed to remove 7.7 from the NALC 2024 Financial Regulations Model document. The Financial Regulations were adopted.

142) To receive Committee Reports

- a) To note Minutes of Meetings taken place
 - i) Asset & Highways 23rd September 2024 (document reference 2318)

It was noted that the minutes have not yet been circulated

143) To receive reports from external meetings attended by councillors

- Meeting with MSDC Officers to discuss improvements to Sharpthorne New Playground – Clerk and Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock attended. Follow up meeting to be arranged.
- As Chairman of WSALC, Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock attended a meeting with Trevor Leggo and Officers of MSDC to discuss the relationship between MSDC and Towns and Parishes. Meeting notes to be circulated to members once available.

144) To receive correspondence

The correspondence was noted

145) To note items of interest or items for inclusion at next meeting of the Parish Council

Date of next meeting 28th October 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:25

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Chairman-----