



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 19th February, 7.45 pm at the Council Meeting Room.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Loveday (Chairman); C Judge (Vice-Chair), M Bussell, J Forbes, K Lindsay, and J Samways

IN ATTENDANCE: Caroline Leet (Clerk); Ceri Evans (Handyman) **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 0

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

283. Public Questions

None.

Responsibility of

284. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllrs Bright and Phillips' were received and **resolved; the reasons were accepted.**

285. To receive Declarations of Interests from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda

Cllr Lindsay declared an interest in item 11 on the agenda; she was a member of the Ashurst Wood Community Tennis Club.

286. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th December 2018

The minutes were **approved as an accurate account of the meeting.**

287. Recorded meetings: to approve deletion of recording – *there were no recordings currently being held.*

288. To receive the income and expenditure and review the budget for Public Services

Cllr Loveday reminded members the Dog Bins (4230) overspend was because the invoice for 2017/18 had not been paid until recently due to an overcharge by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and a delay with receiving the amended invoice; the 2017/18 budget had had zero expenditure as a result. Members had no questions.

289. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was received.

a To note: MSDC will now be holding twice yearly Emergency Planning Liaison Group meetings; April and September

Noted. Cllr Samways said that these meetings had in the past been very useful with reports given from the emergency partners, but were now being scaled down to twice yearly due to dwindling attendance.

290. To receive a report from the Handyman

The Handyman gave a verbal report. He had cleared the mulch from the gullies along Hammerwood Road (section from Maypole Road to Cansiron Lane). He had carried out litter picking around the village, but there were no notable issues; however, he had observed dog fouling in the Rec. The bus shelter on the A22 had had a panel broken, which he had cleared away the majority of the glass and reported on Lovewestsussex. Cllr Lindsay mentioned

Handyman

the drain pipe on the War Memorial bus shelter had come away from the gutter; the Handyman said he would attend to this.

Handyman

The Clerk reported that the Handyman had cleaned the gutters to the Council facilities and the Village Hall. Cllr Loveday asked the Handyman if he needed any additional equipment to help clear gullies; the Handyman replied the snow shovel was very effective.

291. To receive an update on the Winter Management Plan

a To receive an update

Cllr Loveday said that there had been several emails recently with updates regarding the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) local farmer agreements. WSCC had now issued an amended agreement for both the local contractor and the Village Council to sign. The Clerk had sent this to the Council's insurers to query. Cllr Forbes said that the contract was ridiculous and that the agreement should be between WSCC and the contractor; she advised the Council should not sign the contract as they could potentially be liable, unless the insurers reply that there was already adequate cover. However, looking at the future, if East Grinstead Town Council were to consider snow ploughing arrangements, maybe the two councils could consider funding a separate public liability policy. Cllr Loveday said that it had taken too long for the agreement to be issued by WSCC. The Village Council already had an arrangement with a local contractor and his vehicle insurance covered snow ploughing when working for the Council; the Council's policy had confirmed public liability cover should an incident be proven to be the result of the snow ploughing. The Council had already agreed to pay the contractor direct for snow clearance. The only benefit of the WSCC agreement would be the ability to reclaim £35 per hour from WSCC for snow clearance above 5cm deep and this instruction had to be triggered by WSCC.

Cllr Loveday suggested that the Council should consider purchasing a motorised hand push gritter for the pavements and side roads. He added that it needed to be a motorised gritter to cope with the grit solution. Several emails from residents had been received complaining about ice and the lack of gritting. He acknowledged the efforts by the Handyman, but he did not have the equipment to effectively do more than he already was. Members discussed and agreed it would be good to have a purpose gritter and asked the Clerk to investigate the options and prices.

Clerk

It was noted that this winter there had been some icy periods in January and some snow fall, but not enough to trigger snow ploughing. The grit salt in the grit bins had been used by residents and the Handyman had been out gritting junctions and pavements including around the school. Scoops have been purchased and are in all grit bins.

b To consider purchasing a grit bin for Hammerwood Road (far end section at the triangle) and the expenditure of £104

Members discussed and **resolved the expenditure of up to £104 to purchase a new green grit bin for Hammerwood Road along the section near Yewhurst Close and Cansiron Lane.**

Clerk

292. To receive an update on Highways matters

Cllr Loveday referred to the recent meeting in February with Richard Speller (WSCC Highways Manger for Mid Sussex); County Council Jacquie Russell, Cllr Phillips and the Clerk. The Clerk had circulated some notes from that meeting. Key points from the meeting:

- Maypole Road/School Lane junction: it was noted that the Primary School would need to include any improvements to this junction on its

Safer Routes to School. It was noted that the Individual Works Programme (IWP) application for a speed table had been considered and concluded it was not a viable solution for the junction.

Cllr Loveday said the new Council (following the May elections) should consider continuing to campaign for improvements at this junction.

- Lewes Road/A22 junction to Hammerwood Road. Cllr Russell had raised the possibility for pedestrian lights for Lewes Road. Members discussed with mixed views. Cllr Forbes thought this could be an effective way to slow down traffic and with the Wealden House development pedestrian activity may increase. Cllr Lindsay thought it a ridiculous idea and was not needed as there were no issues crossing the road using the existing island. She also said she could see it causing more traffic disruption. Cllr Loveday said that the primary school children did not use the crossing at this point when going to Brambletye School to use its facilities; they used the Park Lane junction. Cllr Samways suggested tying-in the lights to control the Hammerwood Road junction.
- Wall Hill Bends: Richard Speller had indicated that there could be support to widen the bends if the residents at Quarry Cottages would support cutting the hedges back to the boundary line (in line with the telegraph pole). He had said the moderation panel had said they would not agree to build anything that was substandard as they had to take in to account all users and there was not enough space to create a 1.2-1.5m path. However, if enough space could be gained to create a path behind a painted line, WSCC would likely to support. Members discussed and said that ideally, traffic lights would be placed at this junction. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents.
- Highways Complaints: Cllr Forbes noted that Richard Speller had advised that councils should not get into extended email exchanges with residents on highways matters and advised that residents be referred to the WSCC corporate complaints stage one.

Clerk

293. To receive an update on possible tennis court improvements – John Pears Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that there was nothing further to report; the Officer at MSDC had advised that money had been ring fenced; he was just trying to work through some of the issues with the software and the management arrangements, but was aiming to start the project in April 2019. Cllr Lindsay mentioned that as part of the pilot scheme membership rates needed to be reviewed and the Tennis Club and MSDC would need to work together on this.

Clerk/KL

294. To receive an update on the scheme for a Speed Indicator Device with other parishes in the Cluster Group

Cllr Loveday said that following the recent Cluster Group meeting, all six parishes were now committed to the shared scheme. Four Clerks had met to consider a suitable device. It was likely they would purchase the Speed Indicator Device (SID) which had four batteries which should allow for charged batteries to always be available; it was also priced at the lower end of the budget which would allow a reserve for any replacement parts or servicing. Richard Speller had confirmed he had ordered the new SID; funded by the WSCC County Local Committees (CLC). A rota had been drawn-up and with the two SID machines in circulation, parishes would have a SID for one month in every three.

Clerk

The Clerk asked for a councillor to be nominated to prioritise locations for the



SID in the Ashurst Wood. Members suggested Cllr Bright.

295. To receive a draft copy of the Community Resilience Plan and to consider additional information

Members reviewed the draft Community Resilience Plan. There were some inconsistencies which the Clerk was asked to tidy-up. Cllr Bussell advised against publishing personal contact details in case these changed, but that an up-to-date list should be available from the Council office. Members **resolved to adopt the Community Resilience Plan (once the amendments had been made)**. It was agreed to publish it on the website, to keep a hard copy in the office and a copy to be sent to the relevant authorities.

Clerk

296. Any items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda
None.

Cllr Lindsay reported she and Cllr Bright had attended the Discover Gatwick Airport tour.

297. Date of next meeting – TBC

Meeting closed: 20:24

Chairman.....

Date.....