

# Pett Parish Council

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## Minutes of Meeting: 21st February 2012

Minutes of the Meeting of Pett Parish Council duly convened and held on Tuesday 21st February 2012 at Pett Village Hall

Present: Cllr. A. Dunlop (Chairman), Cllrs. Dr. J. Green, M. King, D. Richards and P. Stapley. Also in attendance: Mr. R. Hodgson – Acting Parish Clerk and S. Willoughby (newly appointed Clerk); C. Cllr. C. Maynard (from agenda item 11), D. Cllrs. R. Bird and R. Patten and 13 members of the general public.

1167. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. Dean and Hall.

1168. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2012 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

1169. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

1170. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11a – Finance, with reference to the grant application from the PCC as Treasurer of the PCC.

Cllrs. Richards and Stapley each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – Pett Community Allotments as individual allotment holders.

Cllr. King declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 Planning application RR/2012/10/P as a friend of the applicant.

Cllr. Dunlop declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 - Planning application RR/2012/10/P as the applicant is known to him.

1171. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Sarah Willoughby to those present and confirmed that Sarah had been appointed as the new Parish Clerk with effect from 1st March 2012.

1172. Public Time:

The Chairman, with the agreement of Members adjourned the meeting so as to allow Elected Representatives and any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at the meeting.

Elected Representatives and Members of the public addressed the meeting; details of comments/questions and Reports are available in the Record/Log of Public Time, which is available for inspection at Council meetings.

1173. Reports from Members and Representatives on external meetings, conferences, training courses and other similar events:

SALC – no report.

RALC – no report.

Pett Village Hall – Cllr. Green reported on the recent meeting and it was noted that the storage request for Parish archives had been agreed; the potentially dangerous tree overhanging the Village Hall was under investigation and that the heating problems had now been resolved.

Police Community Consultative Group – no report.

Pett Sports Association – no report.

Flood Warden – no report

Marsham Older Peoples Project – no report.

Pett Older Peoples Project – Cllr. Richards confirmed that the group were now meeting again following the recent problems with adverse weather and lack of heating at the Hall.

Rother Conference – the Chairman reported that he and the clerk had attended the Conference on Localism organised by Rother DC and SALC. There had been some interesting presentations covering Planning, Housing and Finance and Trevor Leggo of SALC had given good presentation about the Localism Act and how it might affect Councils.

Neighbourhood Planning was one aspect of the Localism Act that was being piloted elsewhere in the country with a £20,000 grant and consideration was being given to a similar pilot in the East/West Sussex area. The Clerk endorsed the Chairman's view that the Conference had been informative but more detailed information about the Localism Act would be available later in the year.

1174. Pett Parish Clerk:

The Chairman informed the meeting that following the interview of three candidates it had been agreed to offer the position of Parish Clerk to Sarah Willoughby. Cllr. Stapley proposed confirmation of the appointment which was seconded by Cllr. Richards and agreed unanimously.

1175. Pett Recreation Ground:

No matters for consideration at this meeting.

1176. Planning:

The clerk had circulated details of recent Planning Applications and other planning matters, details of which had been included on the schedule attached to the agenda. The Planning Applications

had been on display prior to the meeting.

Cllr. King re-iterated his personal and prejudicial interest in the next item and left the meeting. Cllr. Dunlop re-iterated his personal interest in the next item.

RR/2012/120/P – Belle Toute, Chick Hill – Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement.

The clerk read to the meeting to letters of objection which had been received from J. Crook and J. Dean.

Following discussion it was agreed that Council should object to the proposed development as it was considered to be an overdevelopment of the site and would have an adverse visual impact on the location.

Cllr. King re-joined the meeting.

RR/2012/171/P – Glen Cottage, Marsham Brook Lane – proposed demolition of existing bungalow and erection of new chalet bungalow – Object, as an overdevelopment of the site.

RR/2012/177/T – 7 Rectory Park – fell oak tree – Members gave consideration to the representations made during public time. Following discussion it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Rother DC Tree Officer for a final decision on the understanding that should the Tree Officer confirm the need for felling then the Council would not object to the proposal.

C. Cllr. C. Maynard joined the meeting.

1177. Finance:

a) Budget 2012/13 and Grants to local organisations – the clerk reminded Members that they had agreed to the Budget for 2012/13 being at the same level as 2011/12 and that they had wished to review the grant requests at this meeting.

The Chairman explained that items had been removed from the Village Maintenance Contract to assist in reducing expenditure but that the grant request could still not be met in full. Members were asked to consider the level of grants to be awarded for 2012/13.

Cllr. Green re-iterated her personal and prejudicial interest in the next item and left the meeting.

Pett Parochial Church Council – application for a grant towards up keep of Churchyard – Members discussed the question of responsibility for the upkeep and the position of the Churchyard as an amenity and focal point of the local community. It was agreed that the annual grant, currently of £500 should be continued for the next financial year.

Cllr. Green re-joined the meeting.

The grant for the Pett Village Allotment Association of £150 was agreed as provided for in the

Management Agreement between the Council and PVAA.

Following discussion the following grants for 2012/13 were also agreed:-

Boathouse Theatre Arts - £200

Pett Level Rescue Boat - £200

Pett Horticultural Society (Pett Flower Show) – a grant of approximately £340 for the provision of portable toilets for the show.

The Rural Rother Trust - £100

Cllr. Richards re-iterated his personal and prejudicial interest in the next item and left the meeting.

Pett Older People's Project – agreed a grant of £200 for 2012/13

Marsham Older People's Project – no grant for 2012/13

Cllr. Richards re-joined the meeting.

b) Authorisation of payment of Accounts –

The following payments were presented for payment and approved:-

R. Hodgson Clerks Salary and expenses, February 2012 £267.61

Impression IT (Parish News) £212.64

Pett Village Hall (hire charges) £11.50

c) Appointment of Internal Auditor –

The clerk informed the meeting that two offers had now been received for the position of Internal Auditor for Pett Parish Council. It was agreed to accept the offer from Mr. Gordon Campbell and his appointment was duly authorised. Council recorded their thanks to Lesley Wilkins who had also offered her services and also to Avril Thurley for her previous work as the Internal Auditor.

Cllrs. Richards and Stapley re-iterated their personal and prejudicial interests in the next item as individual allotment holders and left the room

1178. Pett Community Allotments:

Members had been circulated with a new draft Tenancy Agreement which had been prepared by PVAA. Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the new Agreement but without the restriction that all Allotment Holders must be residents of Pett.

It was confirmed that the revision of the Agreement to include reference to half plots did not alter the decision regarding sheds. The number of sheds would still be limited to a maximum of 26 as detailed in the planning application.

Cllr. Richards and Stapley rejoined the meeting

1179. Pett Parish Council – Portfolio Holders:

The clerk explained that Members had expressed a wish to examine the appointment of Portfolio Holders for specific areas of Council interest with the intention that such a scheme would assist the Parish Clerk. It was agreed that the matter be deferred to the next meeting and that prior to the meeting the Clerk to circulate a list of potential Portfolio topics.

1180. The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:

It had been stated during public time that the W.I were keen to be involved in any event organised to mark the Jubilee Celebrations. Cllr. Richards suggested that there were two ways of marking the celebrations, i.e. a permanent marker such as planting a tree and an event to mark the day such as a party or bar-b-q. It was confirmed that the Village Hall was currently free for the weekend in question. Following discussion no agreement was reached on an event to celebrate the Jubilee but it was suggested that the W.I. consider an article for the next issue of the Parish News to gain support and suggestions for the Jubilee.

1181. Correspondence:

The clerk reported on correspondence received since the last meeting.

In response to the letter received from J, Crook regarding recent incidents with dogs of footpaths and in local fields it was suggested that this might be considered if a Footpath Portfolio Holder were appointed.

1182. Parish Matters:

- a) Village Amenities – Members were reminded to submit requests as soon as possible to the Clerk for inclusion on the ESCC Village Maintenance Schedule. Two items suggested for inclusion on the Schedule were the Pett Road from Guestling where overgrown hedges were impeding the road width; from Pett Church to the Village Hall where grass verge was overgrown and reducing footway to single carriage.
- b) Footpaths – no other matters to report. Cllr. Dunlop confirmed to Cllr. King that erection of Map was in hand.
- c) Highways – no matters for report.
- d) Community Safety – no matters for consideration.
- e) Environmental Issues – the water leak outside of Recreation Ground still not repaired. Clerk to write to southern Water.

As Cllr. Maynard was not present for Public Time, the Chairman, with the agreement of Members, invited Cllr. Maynard to provide the meeting with a report from ESCC. Cllr. Maynard provided a report, details of which can be found in the Public Log Record.

1183. Notification to Members of Council decisions:

Members who had been excluded from the meeting because of personal and prejudicial interests were informed of the Council decision in respect of their particular agenda item.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.