

Pyecombe Parish Council

Tel: 07909 332605.

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Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on at Wayfield Park Farm Shop, Pyecombe on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7:00pm.

Present – Cllr D. Wilson Chairman, Cllr T. Cullen, Cllr K. Grocott, Cllr M. Saich and Cllr L. Sullivan.
Clerk D. Langston.
Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler.
West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis.
Three members of the public.

Minutes

8.24 No apologies for absence were received.

9.24 No interests were declared.

10.24 West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis updated on the following items:

- Budget balanced without the use of reserves. Additional funds for highways projects.
- School numbers were published all pupils within catchment area for Downlands have been accommodated.
- 273 bus routes run by Metrobus will see improvements run by additional funding. These include new bus shelters, bus stops and digital travel update screens.
- Riparian office set up to deal with county issues. It is envisaged the office will take on more enforcement tasks.
- WSCC Highways priority to be given to managing potholes in another way.
- WSCC have responded to the MSDC District Plan as statutory consultees. Highlighted plan is unsound on several points.
- Bid has been submitted for hydrogen buses.
- Members of the public highlighted issues with falling trees on the London Road. Cllr Dennis will investigate this matter and update Clerk.

West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

11.24 Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler updated on the following items.

- Councillor Zeidler will review the SDNP plan and consult with Clerk on any potential planning issues.
- MSDC passed their budget and business plan at council. Council tax is going to be increased by 2.95%.
- £300k deficit which will be funded by reserves.
- Housing rate reassessment will have fundamental impact on the financial income of the council.
- Statutory services are those services which are resulting in excessive costs for local councils. As government funding drops the impact on local councils rises.

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- Parking strategy intends to introduce parking charges within the rural village car parks over the next few years.
- MSDC District Plan Regulation 19 consultation period has now closed.
- Development site in Fulking for a gypsy traveller settlement was refused. Following the refusal applicants appealed. Councillor Zeidler recently attended the hearing in Midhurst however no decision has yet been published.
- Councillor Zeidler is continuing to consult with colleagues to push for works within the Wyshe play area.
- Southern Water meeting being held at Sayers Village with other local statutory bodies to assist with flooding and sewage issues.
- Councillor Grocott highlighted problems with litter around the service area.

Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Zeidler left the meeting at this point to attend another meeting.

12.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2024. Minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

13.24 To receive an update on Parish items to include:

- Flooding on London Road. A recent site visit was held between WSCC Highways representatives and Operation Watershed engineers. A plan on how best to deal with the flooding issues will be drawn up following which council will need to apply for funding.
- Trees for new landscaping project. Councillor Grocott and Wilson will review the site and Clerk will then order the required number.
- Litter issues within the parish. Council will look into installing additional bins adjacent to the service station.
- Bus shelters project. Clerk confirmed benches and windows are now installed. Councillor Sullivan will consult with Councillor Grocott regarding the purchase of planters adjacent to the bus shelter on the A273.
- SDNP crossing. The signage heading northwards has now been completed. The second sign is due for installation on 11th March 2024.

14.24 Financial Matters

Balance Sheet handed to all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

Insurance renewal quote was reviewed by councillors and acceptance was agreed.

Council agreed the purchase of additional equipment for parish maintenance project.

Payments raised since last meeting:

£531.95 WSCC Invoice 8001738473 Salary & Pension

£109.51 MSDC Invoice 4102058982 Dog bin collection services

15.24 Date of next meetings confirmed as 7th May 2024.