

Minutes of the Isfield Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 27th March 2023
at Isfield Village Hall.

87. Present

Cllrs G Sambrook (Chairman), A Keys, A Brooks, S Cramond and T Mitchell-Cobb.

County and District Councillor R Galley and Alison Stevens (Clerk). There were four members of the public present.

88. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

89. Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 22nd February 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

90. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on this agenda

The Clerk reminded everyone that this is an election year for Parish Councils and that completed nomination forms need to be with Wealden between 21st March and 4pm on the 4th April

91. Disclosures of Interest

There were no declarations of interests nor were there any changes to the Register of Interests.

The meeting was then suspended.

92. Report from the County and District Councillor, Roy Galley

County Councillor Galley reported;

- The state of the roads is still an issue and he continues to fight for roads which are not falling apart.
- Wealden is building a new Leisure Centre in Uckfield. He agreed that a short term solution is needed to keep the existing one open in the meantime.
- Along with the Chairmen of Isfield, Maresfield and Fletching Parish Councils, he is going to meet the Leader of Wealden District Council to better understand the position of the District Council on the Ashdown Forest development.
- The Ashdown Farm development is not expected to be submitted to Planning Committee North for a Decision until at least May.

A discussion followed in which councillors expressed their fear that the Ashdown Business Park development will be used as justification for one at Owlsbury Farm and that as the company initiating the latter is registered in Jersey it could reflect badly on the District Councillors. Councillor Galley said it is his view that this is just a case of the landowner wanting to sell his land to make money and he pointed out that no planning application has been submitted for any development at Owlsbury Farm yet.

Councillor Keys also complained about the lack of response from Planning Officers when he called them.

93. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then reopened.

94. Reports – to include;

i: Safety Report

- A Feasibility Study has now been commissioned. Councillors asked the Clerk to find out what the criteria for it is.
- At the January Meeting, Isfield Parish Council resolved to put a grit bin on the verge outside the Recreation Ground. The bin has now been ordered and the Council awaits its delivery. Councillors agreed to let the Clerk know when it needs refilling.
- It was also resolved that whilst Isfield Parish Council agrees with Hadlow Down Parish Council about the state of the roads in the County, it feels their approach is not the right one.

ii: Planning Report - Councillors considered the following application for a Certificate of Lawful Development;

WD/2023/0574/LDE - Roweback Stud, Tile Barn Farm, Station Road, Isfield, TN22 5XG - Use of land as mixed residential and equestrian planning unit including 'The Chalet', an additional independently occupied mobile home – Isfield Parish Council has nothing to add to this application.

They also commented on the following planning application;

WD/2023/0495/F - Farm Place, Lewes Road, Isfield, TN22 5TY - Two storey residential extension – Isfield Parish Council has no objections to this application.

iii: Wealden Against Over Development Meeting – The Chairman, Nikos Mikelis, is standing down so the Group will be electing a new Chairman. The Steering Group has been scaled down.

v: Recreation Ground and Pavilion Report

- i. The height restriction barrier has been adjusted and the Cricket Club has confirmed it is now fine.
Councillor Brooks confirmed he has the fixture lists from the ground's three main users and he also reported an issue with mould in the Pavilion. He will get an expert opinion on what's causing the problem and report back.
- ii. Isfield Parish Council resolved to fit a defibrillator with a heated cabinet at the Village Hall. The Village Hall Trustees have given their permission and a specific location has been agreed. The Clerk will now order one.

The First Responder has also received a defibrillator. It is not brand new but has a working battery and pads and has had a recent software update. The Parish Council has been unable to trace its origin so Councillors asked if there is any way of getting it checked.

vi: Village Hall Report – Councillor Cramond said he will attend the Village Hall AGM as a representative of the Parish Council. It is understood the Trustees of the Hall will be formally asking the Parish Council to take out a Public Works Board Loan to help fund the new extension.

95. Finance Report

Councillors resolved;

- i. To approve the payments list to the 27th March 2023. The payments were as follows;

		£
101626	Costain – Grit Bin	328.00
101627	Isfield Village Hall - Hall Hire	52.00
101628	A Stevens – Salary – January	562.45
101629	A Stevens – Salary - February	562.65
101630	ESCC – Pension	378.58
101631	Clean Corner – Pavilion	275.00
101632	ESCC – Feasibility Study	600.00

- ii. To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation to 21st February 2023.
iii. To donate £1000 to the South Brockwells Farm Shop upon receipt of its accounts. The grant is for their educational project.

96. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Brooks asked if Highways can be asked to repair the footpath in Station Road which runs not far north of Lavender Field the entrance to the village shop past the village sign, opposite the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will ask Highways.

Councillor Keys reminded everyone that it is time to reassess the situation with the verge at the entrance to the Culpeper Development in Station Road. He will have a look at it and report back.

Councillor Sambrook asked for the new trees on the ICE Field to be registered on the Queen's Green Canopy website because it would be a positive move for the village. The deadline for registration is 31st March 2023.

The Clerk also reminded councillors they need to decide what the next stage of the Recreation Ground project is going to be.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.