

Minutes of the Isfield Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 25th September 2023
at Isfield Village Hall.

40. Present

Cllrs G Sambrook (Chairman), Cllrs A Keys, A Brooks and S Cramond.

District Councillor C Coleman, Alison Stevens (Clerk) and sixteen members of the public were present.

41. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Mitchell-Cobb. The reasons for her apologies were accepted by the Full Council.

County Councillor R Galley also sent apologies for his absence.

42. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on the 16th August 2023

The Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on the 16th August 2023 were read, confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

44. Disclosures of Interest

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

The meeting was then suspended.

45. Report from the County Councillor, Roy Galley

County Councillor Galley sent a written report in which he said;

'A large pothole outside the farm shop was reported to me and it has now been repaired.

Residents at Rose Hill have asked for police speeding checks on this stretch of road. I popped into the Chief Constable's office and was given an appropriate contact to try to take this forward. I'm working on it'.

46. Report from District Councillor, Christina Coleman

District Councillor Coleman said;

- i. Wealden has launched 'Let's Talk Wealden' which is a new online interactive hub to improve engagement with its residents.
- ii. The District Council is working 'at pace' on the Local Plan.
- iii. She met Wealden's recycling team and was very impressed with the work they are doing.

She also encouraged the Parish Council to sign up with CAGNE if it is against the latest plans to extend Gatwick Airport.

47. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from any members of the public.

The meeting was then re-opened.

48. Reports – to include;

i: Safety Report

- Feasibility Study – The Clerk asked Highways to cut back the vegetation which is overhanging the signs that support the 30mph speed limit because it may help to solve the problem of speeding. Highways rejected the request because it said there was no immediate safety concern. The Clerk also asked Highways to cut back vegetation to help improve visibility at the A26 exits from Horsted Lane and Lewes Road but received the same reply. She will now set up a site visit between the Highways Steward and Councillor Keys to check they are looking in the right places.
- Flashing Signs – Councillor Brooks asked residents in Station Road if they would like 30mph flashing speed signs but the result was divided. Residents present at this meeting were more positive and suggested potential locations. Councillor Brooks will now put an article in the village newsletter and send a copy for the Clerk to include on the website to seek a more definitive result.

ii: Planning Report - Councillors commented on the following planning application;

WD/2023/1434/F - 1 Ivy Cottages, Station Road, Isfield, TN22 5XA - Demolish an existing brick garage and replace it with a timber-framed building with a workshop and ancillary accommodation on the ground floor, and useable roof space – Isfield Parish Council has no objections to this application.

WD/2023/1644/O - Oaks Farm, Horsted Lane, Isfield, TN22 5TX - Proposal for three detached houses, landscaping and parking – Isfield Parish Council strongly objects to this application because:

- i. The design of the houses is out of keeping with the area. These houses are too close to each other and the road whereas the other houses in Horsted Lane are set apart and are back from the road. The proposed landscaping will have little effect.
- ii. This application will adversely affect the character of the village and could set a precedent for more development and this would also be to the detriment of the village.
- iii. These three houses are only on a relatively small part of the garden and there are concerns the rest of the garden will also be built on.
- iv. The Parish Council appreciates the need for more affordable housing in rural areas but this will do nothing to help address that need.
- v. There is no pavement to the nearest bus stop and home owners will need a car. Planning application WD/2020/0486/F was dismissed on Appeal for a number of reasons one of which was that there was no footpath. This application is on the same road.
- vi. The site is on a narrow country road and access to it is on a particularly dangerous road with two blind bends.
- vii. Seven car parking spaces for three, three bedroom houses is inadequate. Visitors, delivery vehicles etc will need to park in Horsted Lane which will cause considerable disruption and danger, and it will also obstruct the bus service.

Isfield Parish Council asks that this application is called into Planning Committee North for a Decision and that Tree Preservation Orders are placed on the oak trees on site.

iii: Working Group Against Over Development Meeting (WGod) – Councillor Sambrook (as Chair of WGod) and Steve Tolhurst (as Vice Chair) met Chris Bending, Director of Place at Wealden District Council.

Councillors Sambrook and Tolhurst were not hugely reassured by the meeting although everyone agreed that their main priority is to change the standard method of calculation.

District Councillor Coleman confirmed that the planning application for the Ashdown Business Park will be referred to a Planning Committee for a Decision. An environmental assessment (EIA) has also been requested.

iv: Recreation Ground and Pavilion Report

- i. Repairs to the Pavilion – The pavilion suffered some minor vandalism over the summer. Councillors thanked Mr Fellowes for carrying out the repairs and offered to reimburse him for any materials he used.

Having considered Councillor Brook's Action Plan it was resolved that Councillor Brooks will:

- Commission an Electrical Safety Check at the Pavilion.
- Put up a sign in the kitchen area which says how the kitchen should be left.
- Chase up the repairs to the disabled toilet.
- Find out if any grants are available to help improve security and insulation there.

Potential uses for the old Post Office will be considered at the next meeting.

- ii. Exercise Track – Councillors Brooks and Keys met a contractor to look at the options available at the recreation ground. Councillors then considered those options and agreed to seek a price to install a 1.2m wide path round the edge of the recreation ground from the car park to the play area, and which then also continues a path through the play area to the gate and out towards the top.
- iii. Councillor Cramond is looking into the possibility of installing EV charging points in the village and has approached two potential suppliers, Believ and Connected Kerb to look into what's involved. He has yet to hear back from Connected Kerb so will push ahead with Believ.

v: Village Hall Report – There was nothing new to report on this occasion.

49. Finance Report

Councillors;

- i. Resolved to approve the following payments :

		£
101659	Glynde Forge – Jim's Sign	2040.00
101660	PTM – Replacing cheque 101649	900.00
101661	HMRC – PAYE	426.80
101662	Clean Corner – Pavilion	240.00
101663	ESALC – Councillor Training	48.00
101664	Isfield Village Hall – Hall Hire	45.50
101665	PKF Littlejohn – External Auditor	378.00
101666	Play Safety Ltd – Park Inspections	111.00
101667	Zurich – Insurance	1744.34
101668	A Stevens - Salary - July	562.45
101669	A Stevens - Salary - August	562.65
101670	HMRC – PAYE	427.00
101671	ESCC - Pension	364.34
101672	WDALC - Subscription	20.00
101673	Barcombe – Grounds Maintenance	846.00

- ii. Resolved to approve the cash book and bank reconciliation to 26th July 2023.

- iii. Resolved to apply for a licence for, and donate up to £180 towards, the cost of this year's Christmas tree.
- iv. Agreed to reimburse the resident who kindly repaired the bus shelters in Horsted Lane for the materials they used but decided not to install cameras there because they felt they would be destroyed by vandals.
- v. Resolved not to have separate Parish Council email addresses.

50. Questions from Parish Councillors

Councillor Brooks told the Parish Council about a new initiative which is being set up in the village – the Good Neighbour Scheme.

Councillor Cramond said the Village Hall Committee have asked if the new defibrillator can have a cabinet with a key pad opening instead. Councillors disliked the idea because it will cause delay when urgency is imperative.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.