



ISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk & RFO: Lee Dunkley BA (Hons), MPhil, FSLCC
isfieldparishcouncil@aol.com

Council meeting – 20th November 2024

Minutes of the Council meeting of Isfield Parish Council as above, held at Isfield Village Hall, TN22 5XG at 19:00.

Present: Cllrs Sambrook (Chair), Keys (Vice Chair), Cramond, Roundell.

Absent: Cllrs Mitchell-Cobb.

In attendance: L Dunkley, outgoing Clerk; A Emery incoming Clerk; Cllr Coleman (WDC); Cllr Galley (ESCC); 5 members of the public.

2024/55 Apologies for absence.

RECEIVED from Cllr Mitchell-Cobb.

2024/56 Declarations of interest/Request for dispensations. None.

2024/57 Public Participation.

Two members of the public spoke against WD/2024/2221/O.

2024/58 District and County Councillors' reports

Cllr Galley (ESCC) gave an update which included: Kiln Lane potholes have been filled; ESCC are constrained by budgetary issues which are not projected to improve. Cllr Sambrook raised whether further fibre-optic broadband will be rolled out; Cllr Galley reported that 96% of properties are now covered and any further roll-out is for a national initiative to capture. Concerns were raised over further potholes at Buckham Hill.

Cllr Coleman (WDC) gave an update which included: NPPF changes should be known around 19th December which will then inform the Local Plan. Sixteen of eighteen recent planning appeals were dismissed, demonstrating that planning decisions are robust. A local food partnership, which looks at food economies, waste reduction and food banks has a new website. On 3rd December in Uckfield there is a climate change strategy consultation. New community orchards are due to be rolled out across Wealden. Uckfield leisure centre now refurbished and open and membership has increased.

2024/59 Council meeting minutes: 18th September 2024

RESOLVED that the [minutes](#) of the meeting of the Council as above having been previously circulated, be taken as read and approved. Proposed/seconded. Majority in favour. No matters arising **NOTED**. **Clerk to publish.**

2024/60 Planning Applications

RECEIVED a consultee request and **RESOLVED** a response:

WD/2024/2221/O: [Proposal for three detached houses, landscaping and Parking](#). Oaks Farm, Horsted Lane, TN22 5TX

This Council felt that this is a reapplication which is very similar to the previous application on the same site in 2023 and therefore the Council's response is identical – namely that the Council strongly objects to this application because:

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. The Parish Council appreciates the need for more affordable housing in rural areas but this will do nothing to help address that need.
5. 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.
6. The site is on a narrow country road and access to it is on a particularly dangerous road with two blind bends.
7. 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.

Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to respond.**

2024/61 Wealden District Association of Local Councils renewal

CONSIDERED [renewal](#) as above at a cost of £20.29 and to **RESOLVED** to renew. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous.

2024/62 Schedule of payments

RESOLVED to approve as above. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to action.**

Payee	Description	Gross Amount
Narke Design	Annual support package	£300.00
Barcombe Landscapes	Mowing playing field and surround	£572.40
Isfield Village Hall	Venue hire	£40.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fee	£300.00
ESALC	CLlr training (planning) x2	£96.00
Southern Landscapes	Pathway project	£14,456.40
L Dunkley	Expenses May-November	£134.58
WDALC	Annual subscription	£20.29
East Sussex Pension Fund	Professional fee - pension related	£132.50
ESCC	Extra grass cutting 2024-25	£770.40
Isfield Village Fete	Newsletter printing	£122.38
Clean Corner	Pavilion cleaning	£216.00
Payroll – October & November		£3,108.56

It was noted that the project for the pathway around the recreation ground has been completed, adding a significant safety feature for pedestrian access.

2024/63 External Audit Report 2023/24.

NOTED [as above](#).

2024/64 Budget considerations 2025/26.

CONSIDERED [as above](#). **DISCUSSED** and **RESOLVED** to set expenditure at £25,900 and the precept demand at £25,890.

Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to action.**

2024/65 Christmas Tree expenditure

RESOLVED to agree expenditure at the same value as the previous year. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous.

2024/66 Emergency shelter project

RECEIVED a request for support for [the above](#). The project proposer was not present and the discussion was deferred.

2024/67 Playground bearing quotation

RECEIVED [as above](#) and **RESOLVED** to spend £170.62 + VAT. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to action.**

2024/68 Recreation Ground rentals

CONSIDERED as above and **RESOLVED** to remain at the same value as the previous year. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to action.**

2024/69 Verge Cutting options

CONSIDERED [as above](#) from East Sussex County Council and **RESOLVED** to fund two additional cuts. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Clerk to respond.**

2024/70 Traffic and highways matters

DISCUSSED [as above regarding Station Road](#). **Cllr Cramond to research speed sign options.**

2024/71 Complaint regarding KPS waste disposal site

RECEIVED a [request to write to KPS](#). It was outlined in correspondence from Cllr Coleman that “Best Practical Measures” were deemed by the Environment Agency to be being taken by KPS and as a result there was no action forthcoming from them unless there is new evidence to assess.

2024/72 Update: EV Charge Points

RECEIVED as above from Cllr Cramond. Land registry registration is being awaited. Cllrs Sambrook and Keys have been liaising with the solicitor which the Council have appointed. **Cllrs Sambrook and Keys to pursue.**

2024/73 Notification of meeting/Suggested items for next agenda

It was decided that Council meetings for 2025 should take place on the fourth Wednesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 19:30.

NOTED any suggested items for the next meeting: Land Registry matter at the recreation ground; Emergency Shelter Project (if further information forthcoming).

2024/74 Reports from Council representatives

NOTED verbal reports from Councillors –

Recreation Ground: ditch-clearance may need to be addressed in the coming months. Hedge cutting contract is currently not in place and should be addressed by Council – it was suggested that both the grass cutting contractor and the current contractor can be approached. **Incoming clerk, and Cllr Keys, to pursue.**

2024/75 Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential/special nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable that the press/public be excluded and instructed to withdraw during discussion on the following items: Staffing. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous.

2024/76 Staffing update

RECEIVED as above and **RESOLVED** to appoint A Emery as the Clerk from 1st December 2024. Proposed/seconded. Unanimous. **Chair, Vice Chair and incoming Clerk to sign the agreed contract of employment.** The incoming Clerk was welcomed and the outgoing clerk thanked.

Meeting closed at 20:15.