



Sedlescombe Parish Council

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council**

held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 1830 in Committee Room 2 of Sedlescombe Village Hall

Present:

CLlr. Pauline Glew (PG). CLlr Jonathan Vine-Hall (JVH) - Chair. CLlr Roy Chapman (RC), CLlr David Caney (DC), CLlr Jackie Saul-Hunt (JSH). CLlr Greta Anderson (GA). CLlr Keith Saunders (KS). Parish & District CLlr Beverley Coupar.

Mrs Jackie Scarff (Clerk/RFO)

District & County Councillor C Maynard (CM) part time left at 19:20

Public participation session re matters on the Agenda at the Chairman's discretion.

There were two members of the public (MOP's)

End of public participation.

Item	Item (C24.)	
47	To receive and accept apologies & reasons for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1)) There were no apologies.	
48	Interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct i To receive councillors' declarations of interest regarding matters on the agenda and consider any written requests for dispensation as a result. Pecuniary Interests KS declared a pecuniary interest in item 58 and left the room during the discussion. Other Interests There were no other interests declared. ii To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. There were no requirements to grant any dispensations. Reminder any changes to register of interests should be notified to the clerk.	
	JVH explained that Peter Anson had sadly passed away. He spoke about the work that Peter had done during his 10 years on the parish council from 2012 - 2022. JVH invited all to join him in a minute's silence in memory of Peter.	
59	JVH proposed that he bring forward item 59 – all agreed. To receive a report on the health of the river and agree any actions required. JVH invited the MOP's to explain their concerns over the health of the river and actions they had taken. They explained that they had seen deterioration and noticed the loss of wildlife. There had been several contacts with the Environment Agency but no action as a result. They had commissioned a report on the water quality and had shared this with the clerk. The results of the testing were shared with councillors at the meeting. The Environment Agency had replied to the clerk and were not proposing to take any further action. MOP's highlighted areas that may be causing the problem and agreed to provide the clerk with a what3words location. JVH thanked the MOP's for bringing this to the council's attention. Resolved: The clerk was asked to report the issue to Rother's pollution control department in the first instance.	
49	To receive questions from members on reports from the District and County Councillors. The district cllrs reported back on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting the previous evening where the subject of charging in the Sedlescombe carpark was discussed. It was agreed that it would not be the right thing to do and would be presented at the Cabinet meeting. CM reported the latest information about the devolution white paper. KS asked a question about a report at the licensing committee. BC confirmed that there was no data available and the previous data was from 2016.	
50	To consider the minutes of the previous meeting of the full council, 17th December 2024, to approve these minutes and authorise the chairman to sign them as a correct record.	

	Resolved: that the chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the full council of 17 th December 2024 as a correct record.	
51	<p>If the committee wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed:</p> <p>‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.’</p> <p>There was no requirement for this resolution</p>	
52	<p>To hear an update on the traffic calming project and agree any actions required.</p> <p>The clerk confirmed that the reports had been sent to ESCC but there was no news yet.</p>	
53	<p>To discuss the Sedlescombe toilet block and carpark agree any actions required.</p> <p>JVH explained that a consultant for Rother had asked for a meeting to discuss the letter that had been sent to Lorna Ford. He suggested that Sedlescombe Parish Council had had an offer to lease the toilets with £15,000 towards their refurbishment which had been rejected. The consultant had not visited the Sedlescombe toilets. The consultant had explained that the building would be marketed until the end of January and then he would be back in touch. JVH had explained to him that the council wanted to have the freehold transferred and an amount of money to allow the parish council to get the toilets to the basic standard as per the survey that RDC had commissioned.</p>	
54	<p>To hear an update on the decarbonisation of the pavilion and agree any actions required.</p> <p>DC explained that it was inching close to being finished. The clerk was investigating an alternative to the BT Openreach solution – a mobile wifi solution that would allow the hive system to work. This would be fitted in the interim as it would be no more expensive than the monthly wifi. It may be a possible ongoing alternative if the signal is good enough.</p> <p>Resolved: To set up a mobile system and monitor its quality with a view to using long term if it is suitable.</p>	
55	<p>To present the current outstanding resolutions and agree any actions required.</p> <p>The clerk reported an update on:</p> <p>The BT pole: The clerk explained there is now a contact at BT Openreach who is following up to get this resolved.</p> <p>Its progressing and we should hear more by the end of the month.</p> <p>Riverside recreation ground legal requirements - the solicitors are now liaising, and we received an initial Heads of Terms. Feedback had gone to the solicitor that there was nothing in there about ongoing maintenance required by SEW.</p> <p>The Keep agreed to release the documents that the solicitor requires to register the land. The Keep are concerned that original conveyance documents won't be returned by the land registry.</p> <p>CM left the meeting at 19:20</p>	
56	<p>To discuss the budget for the forthcoming financial year in light of receiving the council tax base and agree a precept demand on the District Council.</p> <p>The clerk explained that there was no change to the budget but having received the tax base information. She had sent out a spreadsheet showing the impact to residents. The proposal of £70,000 would mean an additional £0.03 per week for a band D property.</p> <p>Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that in accordance with s41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1972 the clerk was authorised to give notice to RDC that Sedlescombe Parish Council has calculated its budget requirement for the financial year 2025/26 in accordance with s50 of the local Government Finance Act 1992 as being £70,000. The clerk will send the demand to RDC (the billing authority).</p>	

<p>57</p> <p>i</p> <p>ii</p> <p>iii</p> <p>iv</p>	<p>Finance and Audit</p> <p>To receive the monthly statement of accounts to 31st December 2024 for noting This was circulated ahead of the meeting and it was noted that the bank balances on 31st December 2024 totalled £154,888.84</p> <p>To receive the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2024 The bank reconciliation for Unity Trust bank was circulated before the meeting and it was noted that it reconciles to zero with the balance on 31st December 2024 showing £59,571.72</p> <p>To present for approval the payments for the month. Resolved: The payments were approved as presented. Castle Water £209.28 Cleaner £90.00 Pavilion Cleaning Maiden Accountancy Services £36.00 Payroll charge Evans & Langford £3,420.00 Inv 16078 Traffic Calming Orchard Landscapes Ltd £4,357.42 Inv 1727 Grounds Maintenance Handy Man £60.00</p> <p>To agree the transfer of funds to the CCLA account. Resolved: The clerk to arrange the deposit of £71,848.22 into the fund.</p>	
<p>58</p>	<p>To agree the delegation of negotiations for the village hall lease. KS left the room during the discussion. Resolved: The negotiations be delegated to JVH, RC & GA supported by the clerk.</p>	
<p>60</p> <p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p> <p>iii)</p> <p>61</p>	<p>Reports, Correspondence, Questions and Future agenda items not requiring decisions.</p> <p>Red Barn Field – the clerk explained that the residents in the corner of RBF told her that they had just put the second wire fence in as it was already there. RC will remove it.</p> <p>Sedlescombe Jobs Network – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Any other reports – PG asked if anyone knew where the dark skies meter is. JSH will check if she has it. JSH reported that she can apply to awards for all for a £500 grant for the Tea on the Green. JSH also mentioned looking for a grant to cover the cost of connecting to UK power networks on The Green.</p> <p>Date of next meeting. Change to the meeting advertised on the agenda. To note the date of the next meeting is the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 6.30pm CR2 not Full council as advertised on the agenda.</p>	