



BUXTED

PARISH COUNCIL

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11th October 2023

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Five Ash Down Village Hall, Five Ash Down on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 1915 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. Blandford (Chairman), Duck, Humphrey, Marshall, Roberts, Rose, Smith
Also present: ESCC Cllr. Galley, Clerk Claudine Feltham.

Public : None

01/10/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Coxon, Cllr Wilson and Clerk Beccy Macklen.

02/10/23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

All councillors declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Ionides Trust by virtue of the parish council being managing agents of the site.

Cllr. Rose declared a prejudicial interest in any matters relating to the land west of Church Road (Beechbook Park due to having owned part of the application site)

Cllr. Duck declared a personal interest in matters relating to High Hurstwood Village Hall Committee and Bonfire Society by virtue of being a member.

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in matters relating to the allotments by virtue of being an allotment holder.

Cllr Smith and Cllr Blandford both declared an interest in respect of Buxted Horticultural Society as both had participated in this year's event.

03/10/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

04/10/23 ESCC/WDC REPORT

Cllr Galley: attended a county meeting 10th October 2023. There is a consultation about Gatwick northern runway and the focus was for the questions to be raised. Many questions were raised re noise, environment, road, rail links etc. East Sussex County Council will only be a consultee.

Within the monthly report Cllr Galley included a road maintenance update. This week there will be carriageway patch repairs on Station Rad, Buxted – there will be an overnight road closure.

Cllr Humphrey spoke about the continued issue about grass cutting in Five Ash Down – it has not been cut at all this year. This was first raised on 13th July, and still having issues getting a response for action. In some places it is more than 7ft high. Action: Cllr Galley to raise this with ESH tomorrow.

Cllr Rose raised an issue about the layby between Buxted and Hadlow Down – which has been filled in and seeded, presumably by ESH. Action: Cllr Galley to make some enquiries about this.

05/10/23 **GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PAYMENT IN 2024-2025 FINANCIAL YEAR**

A summary of the completed applications for the 2024-2025 period was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the applications and the following grants were awarded as proposed by Cllr Humphrey and seconded by Cllr Roberts:

Buxted Art Club to be awarded £400

Five Ash Down Chapel to be awarded £330

Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down to be awarded £3179

Buxted Methodist Church to be awarded £500

FAD Pop In to be awarded £350

St Wilfreds Hospice to be awarded £1,000

Buxted Horticultural Society to be awarded £585.50

Ashdown Forester Conservators to be awarded £1,000

PTA of Buxted Primary School to be awarded £13,000 from CIL funds (not as a grant).

Wealden Citizen Advice Bureau to be awarded £850. Action: Clerk/RFO to contact Wealden CAB to request that they give information on what grants other local parish council and town councils have contributed.

Action: Clerk/RFO to contact all applicants and advise them of the outcome.

The grant application forms and policy documents are always available on the parish council website.

06/10/23 **READING ROOM – DISPOSAL OF READING ROOM – UPDATE**

There has been more interest since the site went on the open market with a viewing last weekend. No offers received yet. Members considered the options and also of going with another agent. Action: Clerk to contact other agents and consider marketing with other agents.

07/10/23 **SIGNING OF CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE**

Everyone agreed that the council should sign the pledge. Action: Clerk to complete the pledge online.

08/10/23 **REVIEW OF COUNCILS RISK ASSESSMENT AND FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Copies of the updated Risk Assessment and Financial Risk Assessment were circulated with the agenda. Cllr Roberts asked for RA/FA to refer to deposits being made only with recognised banks and licenced deposit takers, and then only with full council approval.

Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Humphrey and seconded by Cllr Blandford

09/10/23 **OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

Mobile Phone Coverage: Nothing to report

Public footpaths:

- **FOOTPATH NO.24 VANGUARD WAY CONTINUED CLOSURE – UPDATE**

As requested, the Clerk sent a letter of support for the petition to the Chairman of ESCC.

Cllr Galley has had a full and comprehensive explanation of the history and current situation at the site.

The petitioners have had this information but are pressing on with the petition to keep the pressure on ESCC to resolve this issue.

Cllr Duck queried why this had taken so long, and at what point would the council take legal action against the landowners.

Cllr Galley advised the petitioners to continue with their efforts on this.

Action: Cllr Galley to find out if East Sussex would be prepared to take further action with the landowners and whether indeed it would be possible

Trees: Noting to report

Road Safety: Nothing to report.

Wealden Local Development Framework: No further update

Property issues:

- **THE DENE – UPDATE ON SALE**

The sale of The Dene to Uckfield Town Council has now been completed and funds transferred to Buxted PC.

When Cllr Blandford went past the other day the Uckfield TC employees were working hard and making the area look far better.

- **BUXTED RECREATION GROUND – FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE RENEWAL – UPDATE**

Now that The Dene has been completed, the council's solicitor will concentrate on the new lease for the FC. Clerk awaits feedback from initial lease ideas forwarded to the solicitor.

The Clerk has asked for the FC to arrange the annual risk assessment and fire assessment.

Communications Matters: Nothing to report.

10/10/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

No priority correspondence

11/10/23 **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Finance Committee meeting to take place at 7p.m. on Tuesday 31st October 2023 (venue to be confirmed).

12/10/23 **FINANCE**

- Payments:** On the proposal of Cllr. Marhsall seconded by Cllr. Rose, payments totalling £5871 excluding VAT (made via BACS) and the usual Direct Debit payments were approved.
- Bank reconciliations:** The clerk had circulated completed reconciliations for July, August and September 2023 which were checked and signed by Cllr Humphrey.
- Noted:** RBS reports: Ear marked reserves, Trial Balance, Receipts and Payments, Cash and Investment Reconciliation

13/10/23 **OTHER MEETINGS**

14/10/23 **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**
None

15/10/23 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Update message has gone into Buxted Messenger and should appear in the next edition. Part of the next PC update could include the drive to encourage the co-option of new councillors

The meeting closed at 1957 p.m.

DATE RAISED	CASE NO	DESCRIPTION	OPEN/CLOSED RESOLUTION
21/01/2021 ONGOING	00539076	Blocked drain outside St Mary's Church, Church Road, Buxted	25/1 – passed to officer to investigate
03/07/2023 ONGOING	GRC000971	Overgrown grass verge corner of Court Lane/Five Ash Down road	03/07 – reported to ESCC Highways Highways claim verge has been cut – it has not been cut since last Autumn 29/08 – clerk has requested a site meeting and sent photographs to Highways as proof 25/9 – Highways cut FAD verges after Cllr Humphrey chased ESCC a number of times 30/9 – Cllr Humphrey continues to chase Highways to ascertain when verges will be cut

Meeting started at 1959 hours

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Coxon, Cllr Wilson and Clerk Beccy Macklen

2. **Declarations of Interest**
None

3. **Consider the quote/contractors for the beacon:**

The Clerk/RFO had circulated the quotes for the basket, the oak post, and its installation prior to the meeting. Resolved: as proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Blandford members approved the quote. Action: Clerk/RFO to advise contractors.

4. **Car Park – Consider costs for parking enforcement :**

CPM Ltd have provided a proposal for enforcement for the car park and a quote for signs. Clerk queried the number of suggested signs which has now been reduced from seven to five at a cost of £70 per sign. It was also confirmed that white lines are not required and any reference to lines will not be included in the signage. The Clerk has contacted Buxted Surgery who are positively engaging with the Trust and may well start their own scheme if we chose to go ahead.

All members were happy to proceed with this.

5. **Proposals for new Scout Hut (update):**

No further update on the funding but the Scouts have requested permission to use the Ionides Trust site on Saturday 11th November 2023 for their annual bonfire evening. As part of the request, they have asked if they can remove the sleepers at the entrance to the site.

Members considered this and all agreed to refuse this request as the sleepers were there to help protect and mark out the buried foundations of the new village hall and to prevent the area becoming a muddy mess, as happened previously Action: Clerk to advise the Scouts. Groundsman to replace those reflectors on the sleepers which have been broken. Action: Clerk to advise Groundsman of this request.

Cllr Rose suggested that additional sleepers are considered in the future to mark the whole site of the planned community hall.

The scouts are ticketing their firework event again, as per last year, so that they can get a professional firework display company in rather than the old way of everyone turning up with a firework.

6. **Ionides Grant Awards** - on hold as other pressing needs on funds

Meeting closed at 2011 hours