

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of **TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL** held on **Tuesday 17th November 2009** in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr R Maskell (**Mayor**)
Mr P Howson (**Deputy Mayor**)
Mr T Armour, Ms L Hallett
Mr J Harris, Mr D Neighbour
Mr B Page, Mr J Livings
Mr A Smith, Mr T Banning
Mr J Page, Ms M Pepper

APOLOGIES

Councillors: Mrs B Sawyers

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm to take questions from members of the public.

Prior to members of the public addressing the meeting the chairman made a statement in respect of a rumour that the Town Council were negotiating to sell the Tye. The Chairman advised these rumours were not correct and that the Town Council was not considering selling the Tye. A questioner asked if a report was being prepared on selling the Tye by consultants and the questioner was advised that this was not the case, there were no consultants being appointed and the issue of marketing would be addressed as part of the management plan for the Tye. The questioner was also told that marketing the Tye did not mean selling it. The Chairman reiterated that the sale of the Tye was not being considered. It was emphasised that there was a cost to the Council of maintaining the Tye such as the maintenance of the fencing. The Council's position on not selling the Tye was repeated and the need for a management plan to be in place to try and earn income from the Tye to help meet the maintenance expenditure. The term marketing was explained as looking at options for funding including subsidies from Central Government and balancing the requirements for obtaining subsidies against the cost of implementing the requirements to qualify for payment.

The issue of the recent bunding removal, consultation and Town Council representation at County Council planning committee were raised by a member of the public. Councillor Howson advised he had been told not to attend by a senior County Council legal officer. It was explained that there was an enforcement notice in place and the bunding had to be removed. The County Council were the only body with the power to vary the notice and they were undertaking the removal work and had consulted prior to the works. Councillor Neighbour advised that the bunding was put on by the last administration after advice from the South Downs Joint Committee. The bunding problem could be seen as an issue between two East Sussex County Council departments as the County was responsible for both waste and for planning.

A resident raised concerns in respect of bollards on the corner of Cissbury Avenue and Bannings Vale which were making it difficult for buses to turn. The questioner was advised that the bollards had been placed to protect an adjacent sewage manhole cover. The length of the grass on the verges was queried and the Clerk was requested to establish if another cut was due under the current contract.

In response to a further question on the term marketing, the questioner was told that marketing was a key aspect of stewardship and the need to make financially prudent

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Contd. Public Question Time

decisions. It was explained that there were options for raising revenue in respect of car boot sales, higher level and entry level stewardship (HLS and ELS). There were also commoners and lease holders with an interest in the Tye. The points system in respect of HLS payment was outlined, and was dependant on Natural England approval. Maintenance of environmental features such as dew ponds and hedges attracted increased points in the scheme. The Clerk advised that the RSPB were undertaking a free survey of birds on the Tye. In response to a query in respect of possibly expanded grazing resulting from HLS, the questioner was told that the grazing rights were already in place and would not be affected by any HLS application. A member of the public stated that local authorities in the South East were fighting to save the green belt and suggested that a covenant be put on the Tye so that it could not be sold without a referendum.

A speaker raised concerns about badgers being shot at the top end of the Tye and the matter had been reported to the Police. A resident living adjacent to the Tye confirmed there were still badgers on the Tye.

437. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF PREJUDICIAL AND PERSONAL INTEREST

None.

438. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes of the above meeting were approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

439. MATTERS ARISING

None

440. REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: -

(a) POLICY AND RESOURCES WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The Chairman requested that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Smith and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

(b) AMENITIES AND CIVIC CENTRE WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The Chairman requested that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Livings and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



440. Contd. Reports From the Following Committees:-

(c) PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2009

The Chairman requested that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Harris and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted

(d) TELSCOMBE VILLAGE CLUB WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

The Chairman proposed and the meeting **agreed** that the minutes from the above sub committee meeting be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

(e) PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2009

The Chairman requested that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted. Seconded by Cllr Banning and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted

441. NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS TO 31ST OCTOBER 2009

RESOLVED that payments of £21,079.39 for September 2009 be approved and receipts of £137,608.12 for September 2009 be noted and that payments of £17,648.84 for October 2009 be approved and receipts of £1,252.79 for October 2009 be noted.

442. TO NOTE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS TO 31ST OCTOBER 2009

RESOLVED the income and expenditure accounts for the Council to 31st October 2009 be noted.

443. TO APPROVE REVISED MEETING DATES FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010

The Meeting considered a revised draft diary of meetings for the period January to December 2010 and

RESOLVED that the meeting dates for January to December be agreed.

444. TO RESOLVE THAT THE COUNCIL HAS MET THE CONDITIONS TO EXERCISE THE POWER OF WELLBEING

The meeting noted that the requisite number of Councillors had been trained in wellbeing and the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had successfully completed the Cilca wellbeing module and it was

RESOLVED that the Council had met the conditions to exercise the power of wellbeing.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



445. TO SET THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PRECEPT FOR 2010/11 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Chairman advised that the precept would be considered at a special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee followed by a meeting of the Council on 8th December.

446. TO NOTE CIVIC CENTRE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS IN LINE WITH NEIGHBOURING TOWN, DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILS – CLOSED WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 28TH DECEMBER – RE-OPEN MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

The Christmas opening hours were noted.

447. REPORTS FROM: -

(a) THE MAYOR

The Mayor advised he had attended the Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC) annual general meeting at Ardingly. He also advised he had attended the judicial church service with the High Sheriff and the visiting Circuit Judge in Lewes. The Mayor said he was pleased to have attended an event organised by the Rotary Club for elderly residents.

(b) THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor advised he was pleased to have attended an event on behalf of the Mayor organised by Newhaven Town Council in aid of Mencap. The Deputy Mayor said he was proud to have represented the Mayor and Council at the annual Remembrance Day service in Peacehaven.

(c) COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Livings reported that a share of £50,000 for dial a ride services had been allocated to the Telscombe and Peacehaven area. The County Council was also undertaking some professional advice workshops on helping people return to work. The Bridies Tan traveller site was now partially open and was awaiting final planting before being completely open. Councillor Livings advised that the County Council Scrutiny Committee was looking at highlighted sites for Gypsies and Travellers. No sites had been identified in the Telscombe area. A meeting of the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee was planned for the next Friday.

In response to a question in respect of the progress on a possible 20mph speed limit in the residential areas, Councillor Howson reported that a safety audit was being undertaken by the County Council. The ongoing problem of parking on the grass verges and the lack of enforcement action against offenders was also raised. Councillor Howson advised that a meeting was being arranged with the new Police Sergeant to raise the problem.

Councillor Howson advised he had recently attended a County Council seminar on emergency planning and it was important that everyone was aware of the issues and the correct response.

Councillor Livings updated the meeting in respect of the County Council operation to remove the illegal bunding that had been successfully completed. Councillor Livings advised that 5,460 cubic meters of material had been removed from the site which equated to 364 lorry

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



447. Contd. REPORTS FROM: -

(c) Contd. COUNTY COUNCILLORS

loads. Councillor Livings reported that the waste removed had been treated as inert as no significant amounts of inert material had been found during the operation. The site had been rotavated and reseeded. The County Council had maintained a daily presence on site throughout the operation and were not aware of any adverse comment or publicity; they had only received positive comments from members of the public although some had asked about the possibility of travellers accessing the Tye.

Councillor Livings reported the final cost of the works was around £92,000 which was considerably less than the £170,000 being quoted last year and vindicated the decision to delay the works until this autumn. The Town Council's financial liability had been fixed at £5,000 and this had saved the Council many thousands in costs and a potential fine in the region of £60,000. Cllr Livings stated that there was evidence of illegal driving on the Tye and this was being addressed by the Town Council and the local Police. 5,460 cubic meters had been removed by 364 15 cubic meter lorry loads.

Councillor Livings updated the meeting in respect of the proposal by the Fire Service to set up regional fire authorities with regional control centres. Cllr Livings emphasised that the County Council and other local authorities were against the proposals. The new regional centre serving East Sussex would be based at Farnham. Cllr Livings reported that in response to a written question from the Lewes MP to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government indicated that the lease for the new centre would cost £43,337,023 over 25 years. £2,356,788 had been spent on the centre since completion in May 2008 and there was a £163,000 ongoing monthly cost for rent utilities and facilities management.

Councillor Livings drew the meeting's attention to pending road works and closures in respect of Ambleside Avenue which would be taking place between 30th November and 18th December. The bus company had been contacted with regard to alternative routes and information was awaited. Councillor Neighbour emphasised that the information in respect of the impending road works was a good example of Councils working together and the installation of the bunding was a poor example with the South Downs Joint Committee and the County Council not apparently working together

(d) DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The meeting was advised that the Head of Democratic Services at the District Council had retired in October after 47 years local government service.

(e) REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Livings advised that the Treasurer of Age Concern had retired after nine years service due to ill health. The Clerk was requested to send a get well card on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Livings said the Age Concern Christmas party would be held on the 5th December with a Christmas lunch organised for the 23rd December. A memorial bench to the late Kathleen Manning would be placed in the garden at Kempton House.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



447. Contd. Reports From: -

(e) Contd. Representatives on Outside Bodies

The meeting was advised that Age Concern need a new coordinator at Kempton House and anyone interested in the vacancy should contact Councillor Livings.

Councillor Livings said he would leave the minutes from the Peacehaven and Telscombe Forum at the Town Council offices for information.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.

Signed
Mayor, Cllr R Maskell

NB The next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th January 2010** commencing at **7.30 pm.**