

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

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr J Page (**Mayor**)
Mr R Maskell (**Deputy Mayor**)
Mr T Armour, Mr T Banning
Mr J Harris, Mr P Howson
Mr J Livings, Mr D Neighbour
Mrs B Sawyers

APOLOGIES

Councillors: Ms L Hallett, Mrs M Pepper

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

Members of the public were invited to address the meeting by the Chairman. A member of the public gave a brief presentation on the rich flora of the Tye with particular emphasis on wildflower growth on the bunding. The speaker emphasised the value of the wildflowers in attracting insect and bird life. The value of the flora as a resource for education was emphasised by the speaker, the chairman thanked the speaker for a very informative presentation.

A question was raised in respect of the Town Council's financial contribution for removal of the bunding. The Chairman explained that the contribution had been agreed following the service of an enforcement notice on the Town Council as the landowner for removal of the bunding and appropriate legal advice. In response to a suggestion that the bunding should be left alone, the Chairman emphasised the fact that an Enforcement Order had been issued and it could not be ignored. A resident advised that the capping covering the bunding had eroded and the chalk was now clearly visible.

A query was raised in respect of the removal of a farm cart parked on the Tye and the old fire engine being used as an advertising hording parked on the verge of the A259 adjacent to the entrance to the Tye. The Chairman advised that the fire engine was parked on County Council land and a request for its removal would be made, and the old farm cart would be investigated. In response to further comments concerning the bunding, the Chairman advised that Mr Robertson from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) would be giving an update during the meeting.

The meeting re-convened at 7.52 pm.

381. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Armour declared a personal interest as a commoner of Telscombe Tye.

382. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2009**

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

383. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Neighbour advised that parking on grass verges in Telscombe Cliffs Way and Arundel Road was still taking place and requested to know what, if anything, was being done. The Town Clerk advised that the matter had been repeatedly raised with the Police and further discussions would take place with the new Police Sergeant. Cllr Harris advised that the local Neighbourhood Watch Committee was also raising these issues with the Police.

384. **REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: -**

(a) **TELSCOMBE VILLAGE CLUB – MONDAY 26th JANUARY 2009**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

(b) **PLANNING & HIGHWAYS - WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 2009**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

(c) **TYE COMMONS COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2009**

The Chairman advised that that as this was an advisory Committee of the Council there was no need to formally adopt the minutes and these were noted.

(d) **PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

(e) **POLICY & RESOURCES – WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2009**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be accepted.

(f) **TYE COMMONS COMMITTEE – FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2009**

The minutes of the above advisory Committee were noted.

385. **NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS 1st TO 31st JANUARY and 1st to 28th FEBRUARY 2009**

It was proposed by the Chairman, unanimously seconded and duly

385. Contd. Notification of Payments and Receipts 1st to 31st January and 1st to 28th February 2009

RESOLVED that payments of £16,132.23 for 1st to 31st January and £15,448.69 for 1st to 28th February 2009 be approved and that receipts of £1,195.72 for 1st to 31st January and £801.71 for 1st to 28th February be noted.

386. TO NOTE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE COUNCIL TO 31st JANUARY 2009

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

387. OUTLINE OF PROPOSED ANALYSIS WORKS AND OPTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE TYE BUNDING BY MR ANDY ROBERTSON OF ESCC

The Chairman introduced Mr Andy Robertson, the County Council's Assistant Director of Transport and Environment. The Chairman emphasised that the Town Council must agree before any intrusive analysis of the bunding could take place.

Mr Robertson outlined the tender exercise that had been undertaken in the previous year. The level of tenders received was higher than expected and the County Council regulations required the exercise to be repeated. Mr Robertson advised that he had undertaken extensive discussions with the County Council's Legal and Planning Departments in respect of the bunding. Mr Robertson also said that at the recent Tye Commons Committee meeting it was apparent that no local consensus existed in respect of removal of the bunding. Mr Robertson stated that one of the reasons for removal was that the bunding may contain material that should not be there, and that investigation works might help establish options and inform any contract that was to be let. Mr Robertson said it would be easier to make decisions in respect of the bunding based on evidence obtained from the proposed analysis.

Mr Robertson outlined the decision of the planning inspectorate in turning down the appeal for the bunding to remain. Firstly the bunding was intrusive in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and secondly waste material had been deposited that required planning permission. Mr Robertson suggested it was not now unreasonable to ask the question "is the bunding still intrusive?" Mr Robertson suggested some areas may no longer be considered intrusive and consideration in respect of leaving these areas may be possible. Issues in respect of the impact on plants and wildlife that had populated the bunding were raised. It was acknowledged that in some areas there is visible evidence of rubble being dumped. It was considered possible that this may have been dumped subsequently to the original bunding material. Several Councillors advised they had spoken to local people who were also concerned about the effect on the wildlife if all the bunding was removed. It was suggested that the County Council should contact the Environment Agency who held details of analysis of the material. Mr Robertson was questioned in respect of the likely view of the Planning Inspectorate to options other than total removal. Mr Robertson said he was in close contact with the County Council legal and planning teams who in turn were looking at the validity of proposals for non total removal from the Planning Inspectorate's perspective. Mr Robertson advised that a section 106 Agreement would be required for any action other than total removal.

387. Contd. Outline of Proposed Analysis Works and Options in Respect of The Tye Bunding by Mr Andy Robertson of ESCC

It was proposed by the Chairman that the Town Council agree to the County Council's request to undertake intrusive analysis at their cost, to further understand the material in the bunding and to help inform a decision at a later date. The Chairman also proposed that the County Council should be requested to take into consideration work already done by the Environment Agency. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Neighbour and

RESOLVED unanimously that the Town Council agrees to the County Council's request to undertake intrusive analysis of the bunding on the Tye and that the County Council is requested to take into account any information available from the Environment Agency on the material included in the bunding.

388. TO NOTE THE AWARD OF QUALITY STATUS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

The meeting welcomed the award of Quality Status to the Town Council. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Neighbour and

RESOLVED to thank the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their hard work in helping achieve the award.

389. TO CONSIDER PURCHASING OF TWO ADVERTISING BANNERS FOR DISPLAY OUTSIDE THE CIVIC CENTRE TO PROMOTE COUNCILLOR SURGERIES, TOGETHER WITH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION COFFEE MORNINGS AND BINGO EVENINGS

The meeting considered a report from the Town Clerk proposing the purchase of advertising banners for the bingo evenings and the Councillor surgery and coffee mornings. It was proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr Harris and

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is requested to obtain a further quotation and undertake the ordering of two banners at the lowest price.

390. REPORTS FROM:-

- a) **The Mayor** advised he had nothing to report.
- b) **The Deputy Mayor** advised he had nothing to report.
- c) **County Councillors.** Cllr J Livings advised that he had recently attended a performance of Hansel and Gretel at Glyndebourne and had been particular impressed by the performance and the conduct of the children who attended. As children from Telscombe Cliffs School were in the audience Cllr livings asked if the Mayor would write to the Head Teacher expressing his admiration for the behaviour of the children at the performance. Cllr Livings gave an update following a site meeting on 25th February at The Joff and advised maintenance works were due to start shortly. Cllr Livings said the Audit Commission had awarded a four star rating to the County Council for its services. Cllr Livings outlined a motion being put to the County Council for consideration at the meeting on 31st March concerning the works on the Coast Road and reflecting the views of Peacehaven and

390. Contd. Reports From:-

c) County Councillors

Telscombe Cliffs residents. The motion supported the principles of sustainable transport and improved bus services but:-

1. Considered that the recent changes had made the situation worse.
2. Are concerned about narrow lanes, long queues, wasted money, poor road surfaces difficulty in turning right, rat runs and the road being blocked by busses at bus stops.
3. Consider that further improvements are required at the main junctions at Telscombe Cliffs, Rottingdean and Ovingdean.

The motion calls on the cabinet or Lead Member for Transport to:-

1. Make changes to the East Sussex to improve the experience of all users of the Coast Road
2. Write to Brighton and Hove City Council to encourage them to make changes in their part of the scheme.
3. Delay or alter the implementation of the forthcoming Newhaven to Telscombe Cliffs bus lane until residents concerns about the existing scheme have been addressed and the scheme is proved to be working.

Cllr Livings advised of forthcoming Road closures at Lewes Close, Saltdean and Brambletyne Avenue, Saltdean.

Concern was raised about the quality of the road repair work undertaken by the County Council, much of which had not been successful and would require redoing.

Cllr Livings said the Wastewater Treatment appeal had been dismissed, however, there was an option for an oral hearing in front of a Judge and this was being pursued by the appellant.

Cllr Howson reported that he would be presenting a petition on behalf of the residents and traders in Longridge Avenue in respect of the parking problems in the road. Cllr Howson advised that the County Council Health Overview Scrutiny Committee would be looking at dentistry in the area. It appeared many dentists may not be renewing their NHS contracts. The issue of how far residents have to go for treatment was raised as a potential question for the review. Cllr Howson updated the meeting in respect of a recent warning from Trading Standards in respect of thefts from users taking cash from ATMs, plus a bogus offer to provide cheap mobile phone insurance. Cllr Howson listed useful advice in respect of alerting the Police to a potential problem by inserting pin numbers in reverse, advice in respect of mobile phone thefts, and emergency use with a low battery. The Chairman proposed that the helpful information provided by Cllr Howson should be included in the next edition of the Town Crier and this was unanimously **agreed**.

d) **District Councillors.** Cllr R Maskell advised that the District Council had set its Council Tax at 2.9% for 2009 – 2010. Cllr Maskell also advised that the District had resolved not to implement a bin tax currently or in the future.

e) **Representatives on Outside Bodies.** There were no reports from Council representatives on outside bodies.

391. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The meeting noted the following items of correspondence: -

- (a) Hedleys Solicitors Lease from Vodafone
- (b) Sussex Review Magazine – Spring Edition
- (c) SERCO Information on their move to Eastbourne
- (d) Letter from Residents re traffic on Bridleway 8 requested to forward to ESCC
- (e) Strutt and Parker reply to invoice query
- (f) Clerks and Councils Direct March 2009 magazine
- (g) Invitation to Clerk to attend ESCC transport seminar
- (h) Lewes DC consent for works for trees with TPO's Telscombe Cliffs Way
- (i) HM Revenue and Customs Employer Pack 2009
- (j) Bob Milton CD of draft report
- (k) Lewes District Council planning lists
- (l) HM Revenue and Customs response to query re VAT registration
- (m) Lewes District Council Register of Electors update
- (n) Woodvale Bereavement Services Revised Fees and Charges

Signed
Mayor, Cllr J Page

NB The next Council meeting will be the **Annual Meeting** to be held on **Tuesday 19th May 2009** commencing at **8 pm**.