

# TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of **TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018** in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:-** Cllrs T Armour, D Brindley *Mayor*, G Maskell, R Maskell, B Page, C Robinson, I Sharkey, A Smith, J Wilkins

**Also present:** Stella Newman, Town Clerk & RFO (*minutes*)  
15 members of the public.

## **1392. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr L O'Connor had a question and was happy for his name to be recorded in the minutes. He stated that at the last meeting the Council agreed that regarding a Freedom of Information request, if the Council did not hold the information they could respond to that effect. Mr O'Connor requested transparency and clarity between the Council flock of community sheep and the flock of sheep belonging to Stud Farm and wants details to be available and recorded. *Cllr Smith responded by advising that the Council do not hold eartag numbers and to collate the information would create too much work. The Council has profit and loss records which show the sheep are making a profit and also have records of sheep purchased and lambs sold.*

Another member of the public stated that sheep are destroying wildlife on the Tye and although his dog has died, he wants to buy another one and walk it on the Tye. He asked what the point of having the sheep was and when the decision was made to purchase the sheep. Another member of the public then asked if the sheep are making a profit?  
*Cllr Smith responded yes the sheep are making a profit.*

Cllr Robinson advised that a holding register should be completed regarding sheep flocks and should be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December.  
*Cllr Armour replied he completes this every year.*

Another resident asked if a lamb is given an eartag number when it is born and will the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) mean someone will be employed to police it.  
*Cllr Armour replied that each lamb is given an eartag which contains a chip recording the flock number.*  
*Cllr Smith replied that 20 lambs and ewes have been destroyed over the last year which is the reason for applying a PSPO and he explained what it entailed.*

Mr O'Connor stated that a Defra Register for the 2017 year should be available and asked if the Council flock and Stud Farm flock had different flock numbers.  
*Cllr Armour confirmed that both flocks had different flock numbers.*

Due to the numbers of public present and the many questions that were being asked, the Mayor, Cllr Brindley, agreed to extend public question time but requested that people raised their hand and waited to ask their question, rather than shouting out.

A member of the public asked if the PSPO would mean it is illegal to take their dog on a lead on the Tye.  
*The Town Clerk advised that following a pre-consultation carried out by Lewes District Council, 3 options of wording had been agreed, but pointed out that these have not yet been agreed by Telscombe Town Council – that is the reason for the meeting tonight. If the 3*

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## **1392. Public Question Time (Contd)**

*options are agreed, they will have to go to Lewes District Council's cabinet for approval and if they approve, the possible PSPO will go out to full public consultation for 8 weeks when all members of the public will be able to respond.*

Another resident asked if there are only 3 options now, as the Saltdean Residents Association had been asked to respond on the pre-consultation and there had been 5 options.  
*She was advised that following the pre-consultation responses, 3 options were being put forward.*

A member of the public asked when the PSPO goes to Lewes District Council for consideration if Councillors who are Telscombe Town Councillors and also Lewes District Councillors will be present and take part in the discussion.  
*Cllr Smith advised no, both he and Cllr R Maskell will have to declare an interest.*

A resident asked why keep sheep if they do not make a profit.  
*Cllr Smith responded that they do make a profit.*

A resident asked when the sheep come off the Tye.  
*Cllr Smith replied that there are grazing rights on the Tye all year round.*

A resident asked if it could be made clear which areas of the Tye the PSPO will be applied to.  
*The Town Clerk answered that a map will go out with the public consultation papers, but it is restricted to the main area of the Tye.*

The Mayor, Cllr Brindley, brought public question time to a close at 8.18pm.

## **1393. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Mendoza due to work commitments, Cllr A Loraine who has been granted leave of absence until November, Cllr D Wright due to annual leave and Cllr Harris who had undergone hospital treatment on his eyes. These reasons for absence were accepted.

## **1394. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Armour declared an interest in agenda item 5, the Public Space Protection Order for Telscombe Tye.

Both Cllrs A Smith and R Maskell who are also Lewes District Councillors previously advised that they are taking part in discussions at town level and will declare an interest at Lewes District Council and not take part when the PSPO is discussed.

## **1395. TO DISCUSS & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018**

Cllr Robinson advised she does not agree with Cllr Smith's comments in minute 1386, p 2809 regarding Freedom of Information requests and wants this item to be brought to the next Policy & Resources meeting. She is not disputing the minutes record what he said. She did advise, however, that she mentioned at the last meeting of the costs involved of £25 per hour with a maximum of 16 hours.

Cllr Smith responded by saying that if we go into detail with every Freedom of Information request, it would cost the Council a lot of money.

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## **1395. To Discuss & Approve Minutes Of The Meeting Held On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (Contd)**

Cllr Robinson then quoted wording from the Freedom of Information Act, advising that there has to be a holding register of sheep and that we should therefore have a list of the Community Flock to provide an answer to Freedom of Information enquiries.

Cllr Armour agreed that each flock needs to have a holding register but advised that individual eartag numbers do not go to Defra, only the total number of sheep held.

Cllr Robinson asked if the information regarding the costs involved could be added to the minutes which was unanimously **agreed**. The Town Clerk therefore wrote in the information. It was then proposed by Cllr A Smith, seconded by Cllr T Armour and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were a true record of the proceedings and were signed as correct by the Mayor, Cllr D Brindley and the information added by the Town Clerk was also initialled by the Mayor.

## **1396. TO APPROVE WORDING FOR PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER FOR TELSCOMBE TYE**

The 3 proposed options of wording were noted by the Committee. Cllr Robinson asked for clarification of 'close control' suggested by the Kennel Club but they would need to be approached regarding this.

It was proposed by Cllr A Smith, seconded by Cllr R Maskell and **RESOLVED** by a majority vote that the suggested 3 options of wording be forwarded to Lewes District Council for consideration. Cllr Robinson voted against.

## **1397. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING**

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed.....

**Mayor**