

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held at Telscombe Civic Centre on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Committee Members Present: C Clarkson, C Gallagher, D Judd *Mayor*, L O'Connor, B Page, C Robinson & I Sharkey

Also Present: Stella Newman, Town Clerk & RFO (*minutes*)
Cllr J Harris
One member of the public

1610. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr O'Connor nominated Cllr Gallagher as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Judd and it was unanimously **agreed** that Cllr Gallagher be elected as Chairman.

Cllr O'Connor proposed Cllr Robinson as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Judd and it was unanimously **agreed** that Cllr Robinson be elected as Vice Chairman.

The meeting was suspended at 7.40pm to take questions from the public.

1611. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The member of the public present had 3 questions as follows (1) She has counted 400 sheep on the Tye, why is that allowed and what actions are the Council taking? (2) She would like Telscombe Town Council to make contact with the farm as they have been threatening to the public on the Tye and told them that they will be followed by a drone if dogs are further than 2 metres away from the owner & they will be arrested. (3) Who manages the Council's Facebook (FB) page – Wander Coffee and Stud Farm's alpacas have been advertised on their and do they pay?

Regarding question 3, the Town Clerk advised that Council Officers manage the FB page and that places/things of interest to the public are put on there and no payment is requested. Wander Coffee have a licence with the Council to be in the park and their presence enhances the public's use of the park and the Stud Farm alpacas paid for a stall at the summer fayre and were therefore mentioned on FB.

Cllr Gallagher advised that Cllrs O'Connor and Judd have had meetings with Stud Farm and she would be happy to bring agenda item 10 forward regarding sheep grazing numbers on the Tye.

Cllr O'Connor advised that threatening behaviour should be reported to the Police. He explained that there had been a big gap in meetings with Stud Farm, however, at the last meeting it was stressed that we wanted the farm to work with the Council and made it clear that grazing is for 252 sheep only which included lambs. At this stage the Council do not want to go down the legal route as it will be costly.

The member of the public said she felt the Council should exercise their legal right.

There were no other questions and the meeting re-convened at 7.48pm.

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1612. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllrs Brindley and Cheta were absent but had not sent apologies. Cllr Harris is not a committee member, but attended the meeting.

1613. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

None.

It was **agreed** to bring agenda item 10 forward for discussion while the member of the public was present.

1614. TO DISCUSS AND AGREE SHEEP GRAZING NUMBERS ON THE TYE

Cllr Clarkson asked what the Council's legal rights are and whether we can enforce the numbers allocated in the Commons Register.

Cllr O'Connor advised that the Council is trying to forge a good relationship with the farm. The farm have been advised that 252 is for sheep which includes lambs, however, the farm believe that the number is for a unit which is a sheep plus lambs and that restricting the total number to 252 does not meet their business plan.

During discussion it was felt that the Council had given the farm the opportunity to work with us but they had not responded and that perhaps the next move is to take legal action if they do not adhere to the 252 number. It was therefore proposed by Cllr O'Connor, seconded by Cllr Judd and unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that (1) we write to Stud Farm and re-iterate that by 2023 we are expecting the total number of sheep, including lambs, to be 252 and that we will take legal advice with a view to enforcing this and (2) that the Town Clerk contacts solicitors to get prices for undertaking this work to be brought back to a future meeting for discussion/agreement.

Cllr O'Connor asked if the meeting could be suspended so the member of the public could speak again and this was unanimously **agreed**.

Meeting suspended at 8.09pm.

The member of the public advised she would send through information regarding the drone incident and that the farm need to realise that the Town Council are the land owners. She also asked that the Council let the public know that they are trying to restrict sheep numbers on the Tye to 252.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.15pm and the member of the public left the meeting.

1615. TO APPROVE AND SIGN NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022 were proposed by Cllr Judd, seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously **RESOLVED** that they were a true record of the proceedings and were signed as correct by the Chairman, Cllr Gallagher.

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1616. TO NOTE ACTION LIST

The actions detailed on the list were noted.

1617. TO AGREE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO 31st MAY 2022

The Town Clerk's report detailing any significant differences between budget and actual spend figures, along with the full income and expenditure list detailing the current budget lines for the Committee and Earmarked Reserves were noted. It was unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that the actual total year to date figures to 31st May 2022 for the Committee of £130,954 income and expenditure of £26,881 be **agreed** as correct.

1618. BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The updated version 2.4 of the Business Plan was noted by the Committee. The Town Clerk advised that a strategic review had been undertaken by the working group and a revised plan is being taken to full Council on 20th July for agreement. It was decided at the working group meeting, however, that general updates for items continue to be agreed at Committee.

1619. TO AGREE TYE CUTTING ESTIMATE

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously **RECOMMENDED** to accept the estimate from Countrymans Contractors to cut, collect and remove the grass on the southern area of the Tye only being approximately 30.5 hectares at a cost of £5,350 plus VAT which allowed for 40 bales and that if there was more waste, an additional charge of £50 per tonne plus VAT would be implemented which would be substantiated by waste tickets.

1620. UPDATE ON TYE OBJECTIVE & AGREE MEETING WITH CONSULTANT

It was noted that the Tye Objectives working group felt that a Countryside Stewardship Agreement would be the most suitable option for the Tye following the end of the HLS agreement in April, but that the next start date would not be until January 2024. This would mean an 8 month period without stewardship funding. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Robinson and unanimously **RECOMMENDED** to have a meeting with Stuart Nicolls of Savills at a charge of £142 per hour plus VAT to discuss options and that updates be taken back to future meetings.

1621. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Robinson advised that the 'please shut the gate' signs on gate 2 of the Tye had been removed, the bottom gate by the Gorham Way flats and gate 4 was not shutting properly and that there is fencing down on the East Saltdean side of the Tye, the exact location of which she will forward through. Cllr Gallagher advised that we need the regular inspections to be carried out and reports taken to Committee.

Cllr Harris advised that there is a dangerous situation where the cycle lane crosses next to the bus stop on the South Coast Road at the bottom of Telscombe Cliffs Way and he was advised to report this at the next Planning & Highways meeting.



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1622. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following items pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

1623. TO APPROVE AND SIGN CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Judd, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and unanimously **RESOLVED** that they were a true record of the proceedings and were signed as correct by the Chairman, Cllr Gallagher.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date for next meeting of the Committee – Monday 12th September 2022