East Dean & Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th November in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Gilberts Drive, East Dean, commencing at 7.00 pm

Councillors present: Cllr Bustard, Cllr Fowler, Cllr Greenway, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hill, Cllr Larkin, Cllr Morris, Cllr Seeley, District Cllr Greaves & County Cllr Shing.

In attendance: Clerk & RFO Phil Burgess.

Public Session: A PowerPoint presentation was given to council by 3 members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (Tim Pontin, Jonathan Timberlake & Lesley Durso). The presentation summarised progress to date towards the referendum and a request for budgetary allowances for projects within the plan. The full presentation is on the council website.

Tim Pontin announced that he had made a complaint against Cllr Bustard. The ruling by the Monitoring Officer at WDC will be published in the minutes at the time.

No other members of the public were present.

Cllr Fowler retained the chair following Planning.

2188 **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Baker.

2189 **Declarations of Interest.** None.

2190 **Member of Parliament report.** None received.

2191 **County Councillor Report.**
Exceat Bridge Compulsory Purchase orders have been granted for the necessary land for the project.
Budgeting Care costs continue to be a drain on resources and rise year on year.
C40 Polegate Road Cllr Harvey was disappointed that a promised resurfacing had been just a patching and surface dressing. The surface, however, remains better than the A259 in places. The new white lining on the outside of the road has a tendency to push traffic towards the centre of the road and the cat's eyes still need replacing.
Recent ESCC/Balfour Beatty publicity Cllr Seeley said this was more significant for what it did *not* say. Number of potholes fixed was publicised, but no benchmark (number reported) was revealed to indicate a clearance rate.
Footpath FP25 to Friston Church Deterioration of several areas of the path had been reported at the recent SLR meeting. However, only a short section of the path had been inspected and marked for repair.
Road Sweeper Cllr Hill requested more regular visits for the Upper Street, Lower Street and Gilbert's Drive area, focussing on the deposits around the gully at the Upper St junction with the A259 which has still not been addressed. *Action: Cllr Shing would forward Ray Smith's contact details to the clerk to request the sweeper.*

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2192 **District Councillor report.** Cllr Greaves' report will be forwarded for circulation. The main points were as follows:

- £450,000 funding is available to wards. £10,000 per ward. The cricket club should qualify. Deadline for applications is 31/3/2026.
- Small grants are available to "warm spaces" providers to cover equipment.
- An easy-look-up matrix of grants from WDC is available including youth grants and business funding (*Action: to be publicised by Clerk*)
- Air quality improvements have been made within the district.
- Drought conditions likely to remain in place until March.

2193 **Minutes of the meeting on 2nd October.** These were approved by council and signed by the chair.

2194 **Matters arising.** None

2195 **Update on Actions outstanding.**

Minute 2052 Broadband. City Fibre approached for an update and the scope of the changes is still under consideration.

Minute 2179 Downs View Lane Fly tipping. Contact with residents shortly.

Minute 2180 Greensward Litter Bin. EDFRA notified of bin replacement. Bin ordered.

Minute 2185d DofE participants depositing rubbish on Old Willingdon Rd. The DofE will pursue if we are able to identify the organisation conducting the walk.

2196 **Payments and receipts.** All approved as detailed.

2197 **Bank Balances and Reconciliations.** Three accounts agreed and signed by the chair. The defibrillator account will be closed once no further interest is applied. *Action: Clerk to check regularity and rate of interest on deposit account. Further signatory to be added to bank mandate.*

2198 **Budget Progress.** Report breakdown noted. *Action: Lead councillors should submit 26/27 budgetary requirements to clerk by 27th November at the latest for a draft precept budget to be prepared for December meeting. Clerk to prepare CIL update for precept budget.*

2199 **Social Media Policy.** The proposed policy was approved. Other proposals were deferred until December as Cllr Baker was absent.

2200 **Café East Dean.** The signage issue was debated, and the following courses of action were decided:

- Existing sign on the west-bound bus shelter (A259) would be replaced like-for-like. The sign would include a walking person icon, QR code and Chinese, English & Korean directions to the shops and cafe.
- Cllr Bustard and the clerk would meet with the complainant on Gore Farm Close with the offer of signage near the junction to restrict vehicular traffic to residents only.
- The Clerk would make the proprietor of Café East Dean and the Shop aware of guidance regarding A-frames. (Note the A-frames on the A259 comply with this guidance).

Actions: as detailed above

2201 **Grant Application.** The application for Tyler's Trust was rejected on the grounds that the council should support charities in proximity to the village. *Action: Clerk to advise applicant.*

2202 **Tree Preservation Order.** The council would not apply for a TPO on private land within the parish. However, it remains open for the applicant to request such action. *Action: Clerk to advise applicant.*

2203 **Pavilion Project.** Further meeting arranged later this month with Peter Shoesmith to view and refine requested drawings.

2204 **SLR Meeting.** Actions from the meeting have commenced (see minute 2191 above) but little contact has been made since the meeting. *Action: Clerk to chase.*

2205 **Urgent Items.**

Remembrance Sunday arrangements Participants to meet by 10.50 at the War memorial for wreath laying. The Minute's silence would occur at 11.00 am. A church service will follow at 11.30 (in previous years, the church service had preceded the war memorial ceremony).

2206 **Reports.**

a) **Chair of the council.** No report.
b) **Defibrillators.** All in order. Batteries shortly due for replacement on some. A spare unit is held for Friston and there has been an offer of power from a resident. Cllr Hill/Cllr Greenway to pursue. A budget is required for 26/27 for training/familiarisation with defibrillators and CPR.
c) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.** Presentation prior to the meeting.
d) **Rights of Way and Highways.** None
e) **Tree Warden.** None
f) **Recreation Ground.** Cllr Fowler has restored and re-stained all benches on the recreation ground. Playground inspection also carried out. *Action: Clerk to retain inspection report.*
g) **Downlands Estate Management Group.** No report.
h) **Traffic Group.** No report.

2207 **Correspondence.** None.

2208 **Election of Chair.** Cllr Bustard was elected unanimously. A declaration of acceptance of office was signed.

2209 **Election of Vice Chair.** Cllr Fowler was elected unanimously. A declaration of acceptance of office was signed.

2210 **Date of next meeting.** This will take place on Thursday 4th December at 7.00 pm.

Meeting Closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minutes confirmed as a true representation: Signed…….Date……

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