

WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON 1 APRIL 2015 AT 7PM

AT ASHKEYS, STANE ST, WESTHAMPNETT

PRESENT: R Holman (Chairman), R Fabricius, B Harding, Mrs J Hardstaff, Mrs C McLeish, Mrs C Moth and Mrs M Wood.

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Burt, Clerk to the Council
4 Members of the Public

334. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman:

1. Welcomed all those present.
2. Reported that he was meeting Rolls Royce the following Tuesday 7 April, 3pm on site, to discuss the footpath to the rear of Everymans Garage. Other Councillors were welcome to attend.
3. He was getting a quote for a seat to go in the bus shelter at Maudlin.

335. Apologies

None

336. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered. None were declared.

337. Community Hall Project

The Chairman advised that with developers keen to start on the *Basket World* site, the Council needed to start to firm-up its vision for a new community facility, which was due to be provided on the site by the developers. (This location was the Council's preferred location for the facility.) Two Councillors had previously prepared a draft specification for the facility and also several designs to help inform the debate. Members debated at length whether we should start to formulate our plans from a point of what we require, how large the village is, what can we afford, what would attract the most custom or what space is available? Responses from the Neighbourhood Plan survey on the subject had been lukewarm, but it was pointed out that with many halls, *if we build it they will come*. The Council had accumulated considerable funds to be put towards the scheme, most of which could not be spent on other projects, and therefore could be lost to the Parish if the scheme did not proceed. Possible management models for the facility once built were also discussed including the need for local bookings to take precedence over outside or commercial bookings. The need for running costs to be considered was stressed, particularly in the early years whilst custom was being built up. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would arrange a meeting to be held with Bellway Homes, the developer of the *Basket*

World site within the next three weeks, to which all Councillors be invited, to discuss with them the deliverability of a two storey facility, this being the Council's desired scheme. In the meantime Cllr Harding would firm-up the preferred design, which would be circulated to members in advance of the meeting, for comment. *Action in Rural Sussex* to be invited also.

It was reported that the closed landfill site to the rear of the site of the proposed new facility, which would make an ideal public open space to complement the facility, may not be available for several years.

(Note. An architect engaged on a previous scheme for the hall, had been seeking further payments for work done. Cllr Mrs Hardstaff had kindly examined previous correspondence, and believed that it is in fact the Parish Council that should be seeking a refund of fees. Clerk to write accordingly.)

Date of Next Meeting

MONDAY 18 MAY 2015 7PM (ANNUAL)

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman:

Date: