From: Colin Hunt <Colin.Hunt@lancingparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 September 2010 12:05
To: Keith Morgan
Subject: Beach huts
Attachments: Full Council 01-09-10.doc

Hi Keith,

Council has decided to press ahead with the modified planning application for 15 huts at Shopsdam and to include a five hut extension of the Widewater site.

I will prepare some new plans and amend the application as necessary but can you advise me if there will be any additional charges for this application please due to the proposed Widewater element?

I still expect opposition from the owners og golden sands but this was considered at the meeting and enclose the minutes FYI. Items 35.1 & 38.3 refer.
Regards,

Colin

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DRAFT & UNCONFIRMED

LANCING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 1st September 2010 at 7.30 p m.

Present: **Chairman:** Councillor Ann Bridges.

Councillors: Pat Beresford**,** Melvyn Blackband, Richard Burt, Brenda Collard, Mary Hamblin, Fred Lewis, Steve Martin, Lorna Read, Ann Terry & Norman Wright**.**

In attendance; Colin Hunt, Clerk to the Council**.**

In response to a representation made by Fire Brigades' Union in West Sussex in August concerning proposed changes to the Fire and Rescue Service in West Sussex, the Chief Fire Officer had been invited to attend this meeting to give a presentation.

Due to the number of residents attending, this part of the meeting was moved to the Jubilee Hall.

The Chief Fire Officer was represented on the evening by Mr Sean Ruth, Deputy County Fire Officer who was assisted by Mr. Andy Tonks, the District Commander for Worthing and Adur.

The Chair welcomed the speakers and the residents to the meeting and explained that this was a Council meeting and that this part of the meeting was primarily to hear the Chief Fire Officers proposals in order for the Council to give an objective response to the proposals.

Mr Ruth thanked the Chair and opened his presentation by stating that this was to be a five year strategy and that the proposals were all linked to the objectives of the service. He gave a presentation and explanation into the reasons why the changes were necessary, which had been based on a strategy of balancing resources to risks and education and training to improve levels of service. Mr Ruth gave an overview of the proposed changes West Sussex wide and the local proposals for the Lancing Station.

Once Mr Ruth had delivered his presentation the Chair firstly invited questions from Councillors.

Cllr Brenda Collard was concerned about the possible delay in responding to calls from neighbouring stations due to Lancing's main feeder roads which were always heavily congested.

Mr Ruth stated that drivers were trained to deal with traffic congestion and use audio and visual alarms as necessary. He also informed the audience that only 3% of the time dealing with call outs are spent travelling and that the normal response time of a second appliance was 15 minutes.

The Chair asked why not remove a pump from Worthing and leave Lancing still with two.

Mr Ruth responded by explaining that Worthing is designated a key station and is far busier than Lancing. Worthing also supports neighbouring stations, which includes Lancing.

Cllr Mary Hamblin asked what savings would be achieved by removing the second pump in Lancing.

Mr Ruth tendered a figure of £100k which included the appliance (£18k), staffing (£56k) and training. Mr Ruth also reinforced the strategy by explaining that the proposals were about balancing resources and not solely about financial savings.

Cllr Pat Beresford suggested that the second pump was not used to its full capacity currently as the staffing levels at Lancing prohibit its more regular use. Also in not having a second pump as support the risks increase on the principal appliance.

Mr Ruth explained that the retained status at Lancing normally meant that there were insufficient personnel available to operate the second appliance. This situation had however been managed in the past and will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of the proposals.

The Chair invited questions from the audience.

Mr Mark Eden of The Tynings referred to statistics that he had obtained concerning the appliances in Shoreham and Worthing which suggested that these had hardly been used and asked The Deputy Fire Officer to comment.

Mr Ruth refuted the statistics and said that much data has been produced and analysed and that his figures show very different usage levels. He cited usage levels of 93% at Worthing and 100% in Shoreham. Mr Ruth continued by offering to discuss the statistics outside the meeting if any member of the audience wished to do so.

Mr Dawkins of Beachcroft Place, who had lived in Lancing for many years, stated that the Village was still expanding with more new developments planned. The increase in population meant that more people would be at risk.

Mr Ruth explained that this was a pressure all over the South east of England and was one of the reasons why the Burgess Hill station was being upgraded. Mr Ruth explained that new homes are now built to a better standard with fire resistant

materials and smoke alarms, access and water supplies etc which is testament to new regulations brought about by education and training programmes. Population densities were also a consideration when placing appliances in certain areas.

Mr Terry Beck, a retired fire fighter, stated that the Lancing station also covered Shoreham Beach and that reducing the support from Lancing station would spread resources too thin which endangers fire fighters.

Mr Ruth explained to the audience that unfortunately 75% of fire related deaths occur before the appliances arrive at the scene. Mr Ruth emphasised that the strategy will not put its fire fighters at risk and the proposals firmly support greater training and safety measures intended to reduce risks to the fire fighters.

Mrs. Fuller of Bustical Lane was concerned about the elderly and disabled and the difficulty that these groups have in exiting burning buildings. Mrs. Fuller quoted a figure of £1M as being the cost of the loss of a life and that the saving of £100k seems insignificant in relation.

Mr Ruth accepted the fact and conceded that the there was always going to divided opinion with the proposals but restated the balancing act between resources and risk. He spoke that tough decisions were always difficult.

Cllr Steve Martin referred to the fact that deaths had decreased in West Sussex steadily over the last ten years and was concerned that these figures climb again.

Mr Ruth responded by informing the audience that lives are saved not only by responding to emergencies and that community education is a major contributing factor in those reduction figures and that this element of the fire and rescue strategy will continue.

Ms Ann Fisk of Addison Close was also concerned about disabled people and accused the proposals of putting money before life.

Mr Ruth assured Mrs Fisk and the rest of the audience that this was certainly not the case. In a number of cases the proposals will increase resources but that it is not practical or financially viable to flood areas with resources.

Mr Tim Loughton MP was not interested to hear about resources being increased in other areas but was concerned about the downgrading of the local service and that information from the fire service about the reasons was sparse.

He reminded the Deputy County Fire Officer that Lancing is a densely populated area, with an airport, a large business park, congested roads and close to a very busy harbour and that any reduction in service could be disastrous.

Mr Loughton was also concerned with the viability of the Lancing station once the second engine is removed as the pattern suggests that stations with a single

appliance were vulnerable as the proposals for Findon and East Preston had suggested. He was also critical of the lack of information that appeared available to the general public.

Lastly, Mr Loughton expressed his concern that the Deputy Fire Officer had failed to convince the audience of the reasons why Lancing's second appliance should be withdrawn which left the audience uneasy.

In response, Mr Ruth stated that there was a host of information available on the web site with a number of links to other related sites and assured Mr Loughton and the audience that this was not part of a grand plan to close Lancing but based upon current factual information. Mr Ruth qualified the proposals as being much needed and resulted from an internal service review which although not financially driven had identified cost savings which been welcomed.

However Mr Ruth could not predict if any further compulsory cuts would be required as part of central government's spending review of public services and that in his ministerial position within the current government, Mr Loughton himself would likely be faced with even tougher decisions.

At that point the Chair closed the meeting but reminded the audience of a further meeting at the Parish Hall on Thursday 9th September starting at 7pm.

The Fire and Rescue consultation ends on 8th October.

Members moved back to the Council Chamber to continue the Council meeting.

The Chair again welcomed the members of the public present.

31. Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Simon Bridges and Kim Bonnett.

32. Declarations of Interest.

There were none.

33. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

33.1 Full Council held on 7th July 2010.

With the exception of 3 item numbering errors, the Minutes of this meeting were accepted and agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising

33.2 Planning Advisory Committee held on 21st July 2010.

The Minutes of this meeting were accepted and agreed at the Planning and Advisory Committee meeting held on 4th August 2010 and were attached to that agenda which all Members received.

There were no matters arising

33.3 Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 21st July 2010.

The Minutes of this meeting were accepted and agreed as a true record at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18th August 2010 and were attached to that agenda which all Members received.

In relation to item 39.2 of those Minutes, the Chair informed Council that Mr Robert Ellerby of the CAB had expressed his thanks to Council for the continued support for the local office.

There were no other matters arising

33.4 Planning Advisory Committee held on 4th August 2010.

The Minutes of this meeting were accepted and agreed at the Planning and Advisory Committee meeting held on 18th August 2010 and were attached to that agenda which all Members received.

There were no matters arising

33.5 Planning Advisory Committee held on 18th August 2010.

The Minutes of this meeting were due to accepted and agreed as a true record at the Planning and Advisory Committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting and were attached to that agenda which all Members received.

There were no matters arising

33.6 Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 18th August 2010.

The Minutes of this meeting were accepted and agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising

34. Chairman's Announcements/Report.

34.1 The Chair informed Council of her very pleasurable visit to Le Plan De La tour, where she was a guest of the Mayor, Madame Florence Lanliard and attended the last week of the festival. The Chair informed Council that the role of the Mayor in

France is quite different to that in England as in France the Mayor has huge responsibilities for all manner of services in the village.

The Chair had received an invitation from Madame Lanliard for the band of the Robert Woodard Academy to play in Le Plan de la Tour next year and she hoped to speak to principals of the Academy about this matter soon.

34.1 The Chair enquired if Council would support her idea of an Easter bonnet and egg hunt in 2011. Council agreed that this would be a worthwhile event and should be developed through the A&E Committee.

35. Public Forum & Questions.

35.1 Mr Moses Cooper of Golden Sands Caravan Park spoke against the proposal to erect Parish beach huts in front of the ones on his property (agenda item 8.3). He felt it unfair and would represent a loss of income as he had now filled all the spaces. Mr Cooper maintained that there were other places on the beach which could be used and offered to contribute to any planning fees if an alternative could be found.

Mr Cooper considered that the proposal given by Council was not a compromise and that he had spent considerable money in preparing plans of alternative solutions.

The Chair informed Mr Cooper that this matter had been debated at length and that the solutions offered by him had previously been considered by Council at an earlier meeting and that his objections would be considered again when Council debated the matter later in the meeting.

The Chair thanked Mr Cooper for his comments.

There were no other questions

36. Correspondence or issues in respect of the District and/or County Councils.

36.1 Provisional West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2016

Email from WSCC regarding road show events as part of the consultation process in relation the above. The road show will be visiting Worthing Town Hall on Thursday 2nd September between 9am & 5pm.

Details were attached to the agenda.

37. Other Correspondence.

37.1 A list of email correspondence from a variety of sources received since the last meeting was attached to the agenda. Members may contact the Clerks Office and

request any of the documents or attachments on the list which may be of interest to them.

The items on the current list would be kept available until the next Full Council meeting when it will be replaced with a new list of the then current items.

38. Reports of the Clerk.

38.1 Power of Well Being training – Wednesday 27th October @ 7pm.

Council were advised of the accredited training session which has been arranged at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 27th October at 7pm. to be conducted by Mr. Trevor Leggo, Director of the Sussex & Surrey Associations of Local Councils and was expected to last about 90 minutes.

Members were reminded and urged to attend as it is a requirement that at least 13 Members of the Council receive accredited training before the Powers are adopted.

38.2 Matters arising from the Annual Village Residents Forum held on 27th May 2010.

Council accommodation.

Members were reminded that at the last Full Council meeting it was resolved to allocate those items raised at the annual meeting to its programme committees, with the exception of the possible purchase by the Council of the building on Beach Green.

This matter was to be dealt with by Full Council and the Clerk was instructed to produce a report which would also encompass matters concerning the continued viability of the Parish Hall complex (item 28.3 referred).

This matter was likely to be highly complex and emotive and much conjecture already surrounds the issue of valuations, with a variety of speculative figures being suggested.

In order to advance the matter the Clerk had originally proposed an indicative realisation figure of £650k be used to evaluate future options but that later information suggested that this figure be increased to £750k. Council was advised that this matter would likely be a lengthy process and although not to pre judge any outcome the current improvement plans for Parish complex (toilet refurbishment, redecoration etc) should proceed as planned.

Council noted this matter and RESOLVED to continue with the refurbishment programme as planned.

38.3 Planning Application ADC/0116/10 –Beach hut plots at Shopsdam Road

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of Full Council on 7th July (Item 28.5 refers) it was resolved to seek the comments of the owners of Golden Sands to a proposed compromise to reduce the number of plots along the western frontage to Golden Sands, thus allowing them to relocate a small number of huts eastwards to avoid the doubling up of the rows of beach huts.

A letter was sent to the owners on 15th July outlining the compromise and a response was received on 17th August from their agents in this matter, GTA Civils Ltd of Burgess Hill.

The proposals by GTA were practically identical to those presented and discussed by Council at its last meeting (reference Appendix A of agenda 7th July).

With due consideration to Mr Cooper's earlier comments on this item, Council considered that the alternatives presented by Mr Cooper's agent unfortunately did not match the ambitions of the Council in this matter and after discussion Council RESOLVED to submit the modified application for planning consideration.

38.4 Future of the Beach Patrol.

Members were reminded of the pilot beach patrol which was established this year. During the summer (May to September) the patrol had proved very successful and had provided a useful monitoring and regulatory arm to the Parish Council. The service had been well received by the beach users and was considered to be a popular addition to the services provided by the Parish.

ADC has requested that the Council agree a long term partnership of 3 or 5 years in order to plan the development and improvement of the service over this period.

Council were pleased that the patrol had been very successful and after discussion RESOLVED to seek a longer term partnership agreement. However, Council were minded of the long term financial commitment that this would entail and added that the agreement should be offered on the proviso that the costs of the service would remain static over the length of the agreement. The Clerk will discuss this matter with Worthing and Adur Services and report back to Council.

38.5 Swim zone at Beach Green.

There had been a number of reported incidents between kite surfers and yacht club members. The issue was that kite surfing novices have been drifting into the yachting racing areas and which had caused safety concerns.

This had been a recent development and a meeting between the two parties has highlighted the principal reason to be the positioning of the buoyed swim zone. The swim zone had been extended eastwards this year by two bays which had had a knock on effect and pushed the kite surfing areas closer to the yacht club.

The positioning of the swim zones is discretional and next year it was proposed to ease the zone back by one bay which would eradicate the problem. A plan was attached to the agenda which showed the proposals.

After discussion Council RESOLVED to consider this matter further and invite representatives from the Yacht and Kite Surfing Clubs to attend the next meeting of the Council.

39. Report(s) of Representatives on Outside Bodies.

39.1 Cllr Ann Bridges informed Council that the Youth Centre is thriving and the after-school club has proved highly successful, thanks in part to the ADC grant which has made possible a diverse range of accredited activities.

39.2 Cllr Steve Martin reported that the aircraft movements at the Airport had dropped again which is increasing the pressure on the Management Board to consider again the possible future development of part of the site.

39.3 Cllr Steve Martin informed Council of the meeting of the Croshaw Project Group which was planned for 17th September. The group had not met for a while and he apologised for the recent lack of communication. He assured Council that this matter will improve as a treasurer and secretary had now been appointed.

39.4 Cllr Mary Hamblin reported that the WOW had put on two events recently and that although she was unable to attend the last meeting reports were that the new web site and brochure was advancing.

40. Any Other Urgent Business (Agreed with the Chairman in advance).

There was no other urgent business

The meeting closed at 9:16 pm.

Colin Hunt
Clerk to the Council
2nd September 2010

Signed Chairman

Dated;