**WEALD PARISH COUNCIL**

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th March, 2025

AT 7.15 P.M. in the Memorial Hall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs R Wood (in the Chair), Mrs L Harris, Mrs C Beddoe, Mr R Trapp, and Ms Jo Humphreys

Also attending were District Councillor Thornton, the clerk and fifteen members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –** County Councillor McArthur, District Councillor Hogarth, and Mrs Rachel Hewett and Mr. Steven Brennan.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – there was none.
3. **MEETING HELD ON the 19th February, 2025** – the Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**

1. **Kent’s Interim Plan for Local Government Reorganisation**

The above Plan was distributed to members for comment. Regular updates on consultations with Central Government will be circulated by KCC, SDC and KALC. Kent’s Town and Parish Councils will be consulted as the Plan is put in final form. The timing on this latter consultation has yet to be finalized. The clerk will forward information as received.

1. Litter Pick – Saturday 29th March

Residents are invited to join the Litter Pick on 29th March from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Pickers are invited to visit the Community Shop for a free coffee/drink and cake after the pick.

1. **VE 80 – Village Events**

The events previously announced will go ahead as planned. Full details will be shared with residents shortly.

1. **WPC Risk Management Policies – for review**

In line with the Parish Council’s Financial Regulations the clerk has prepared the attached Risk Management Policies for the Council’s review and approval. The policies were accepted by the Council. These policies will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as necessary.

1. **Application for CIL Funding**

An application for funding for an upgrade on the Memorial Hall Field play area, prepared by Cllrs Brennan and Humphreys, was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council was in support of the application but some material information required to complete the Council’s review of the application, such as quotes from prospective equipment suppliers and a full description of the planned equipment was not available for review by the Council and would be required by the CIL Spending Board by the final submission date of 24th March.

In view of the very tight deadline to provide, and have the above information reviewed, it was agreed that the Parish Council should postpone this application to the next round of funding of CIL’s Spending Board.

The Parish Council did, however, agree it should immediately fund a new piece of equipment in the play area costing approx. £4,500.

The clerk requested Cllr Humphreys to ask the contractor who undertook the remedial work on the play area in December/January to submit their invoice by the end of this month as the cost of this work had been included in the budget for FY2024/25.

1. **Neighbourhood or Village Plan?**

Despite the uncertainity around the proposed reorganisation of local government and the future roles and responsibilities for planning issues at a local level it is considered worthwhile for the Council to state its position by updating its current Village Design Statement (VDS). The Council will look for volunteers to put together this statement with leadership from the Council.

1. **gov.uk domain and e-mail accounts – an update**

The clerk will send through new email addresses to members later this week. The instructions provided on the link should be followed.

Please advise if there any issues accessing/operating the new email address.

Following the above, several problems have arisen which the clerk is investigating with Hugo Fox, the Approved Registrar, appointed to assist the Council.

1. **On-line banking – an update**

The clerk advised that the Council had successfully registered for on-line banking but that the authorization of signatories was not in line with the mandate. The clerk will contact the bank to change the signatory arrangements.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Circulated to members.

1. **PLANNING**

Details of current planning applications are available on the Parish Council website.

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Meeting adjourned at 7.45 p.m.

The Meeting resumed at 7.55 p.m.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were none

The Meeting closed at 8.00 pm