

**UNADOPTED  
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Council Chambers, 49 High Street, Polegate BN26 6AL at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing (14)

**Not Present:** - T Bennett (1)

20 members of the public

| <b>Minute No.</b> | <b>Subject/Resolution</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
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| 11415             | <p><b>Opportunity for Public Comment</b><br/><i>Standing orders suspended</i></p> <p>A resident spoke on item 18 (minute 11432)<br/>He commented that he was pleased that the council planned to put the Brightling Road area into better use and in general supported the proposals. However, he was particularly concerned about car parking proposals on the site.<br/>He commented that there had been no papers on the proposal and the report from the Cllr had been received today. He stated that although it was comprehensive it did not set out any of the risks and how any of it would be funded. He commented that it was an important decision for the council to make and each councillor should be satisfied that they had enough information to reach a decision. He asked for a few queries to be addressed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the relevance of a cricket crease for the football club?</li> <li>2. Did the Cllr mean a crease or a wicket?</li> <li>3. He stated that resolution a. stated any other markings. He asked what other markings would there be?</li> <li>4. He didn't understand that other clubs may store their equipment in the container. He asked who else would be envisaged to use it and why?</li> </ol> <p>He stated that he thought the formula was incorrect and should be estimated costs/number of users and not the other way around. He stated he did not understand why they should grant a lease for a minimum of 10 years and presumed that this was to attract external funding. He stated that it was normal to write up 'heads of terms' when agreeing a lease. He stated that no such document had been agreed so asked how the councillors should know what the respective responsibilities are?<br/>He stated that he had serious concerns over traffic and parking. He stated that a short term licence would be more appropriate at this time than a lease.<br/>He stated that his main concern was about the parking. He also stated that he was concerned about the club using the field in the winter as it was notoriously wet at that time. He stated that because of this the parking was more likely to have to happen in nearby streets. He stated that a small amount of gravel would not alleviate the problem and anything more substantial would involve significant costs, which seemed to have been ignored at present. He stated that if council agreed a 10 year lease then in effect council was also agreeing to provide a suitable car park and council has no idea what it will cost. He felt that the decision should be deferred until the parking issues were resolved, estimated costs and planning permission granted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. He asked if councillors had sufficient information before them</li> </ol> |               |

to make an informed decision.  
A Cllr asked the Mayor if he would be permitted to address the concerns that the resident had raised.  
A Cllr stated that the lease would only be granted if a lot of other things fell into place. He stated that if the ground permitted parking it could be used (and that would be up to the football club to make a decision on whether it was too wet.) He stated that the ground could and would be used in an ad hoc manner until the process was taken forward. He stated that this was something that was proposed but that the Council did need costs on it. He stated that any potential lease would not be for a car park, just to play on the field. The discussions today were just to allow the football club to mark up the pitch and to trial it. The resident stated that he was very happy with the response and thanked the Cllr. He asked whether there would be an amendment to the proposed resolution, the Cllr confirmed that there would be.

Another resident spoke on item 18 (minute 11432)  
He congratulated the council on holding the open meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> to explain what was being considered at the grounds. It allowed the public to engage at an early stage, to air their views, which was to help the councillors in their deliberations. He stated that he felt the Council should also be applauded in pursuing the Field In Trust application to protect this land, which the town clerk has already had experience of. He stated that in 2011 he asked that the land be considered for the Queens jubilee trust, but the then council decided against that. He stated that possibly not all councillors were aware of the very real and present threat that hangs over all open spaces that are not protected. The last outgoing council were made aware of that and acted in haste to protect the war memorial ground by placing it in trust. Polegate became the first town in the country to have land designated at a war centenary field. The possibility that Brightling Road would have far more use and in the long term possibly further facilities, it was a large area, which was vastly underused. He commented that Polegate was a growing town and that all age groups needed recreation facilities. Some concerns were made at the meeting of some conflicting interests. He stated that the land was a Town asset that needed to be fully used and ALL users will have to coexist and act reasonably towards each others activities. He also requested that as Polegate would be hosting their matches if the Stone cross Royals football club request goes ahead that they might consider renaming themselves Polegate and Stone Cross (similar to the cricket club before them).

Another resident spoke on item 18 (11432). He commented that often it was easy to come up with reasons not to provide facilities for the children of Polegate and he had no doubt that some residents close to Brightling road would come up with one or two. He commented that the land had been acquired for sports and recreation purposes and that it was high time the Council developed it for more sporting purposes and encouraged the young people to fill their spare time constructively. He commented that we all want the young not to cause trouble trying to keep themselves occupied and he felt that the Town Council should out up some money and

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|              | <p>encourage this proposal.</p> <p>A representative of the football club commented that from the meeting that had been held there had been further positive feedback and when he had returned home he had had an email from a couple that were there who were very supportive of the project and had actually made a donation of £200 to the football club.</p> <p><i>Reinstate standing orders</i></p>  |  |
| <b>11416</b> | <p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Cllr S Shing would be late</p>  |  |
| <b>11417</b> | <p><b>Declarations on Interest</b></p> <p>Cllr S Shing declared a non prejudicial interest in minute 11426<br/>Cllr D Shing declared a non prejudicial interest in minute 11426</p>  |  |
| <b>11418</b> | <p><b>To approve and sign the minutes of the full council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Murray requested that minute 11373 be changed to show that he stated he would be <i>late</i> rather than <i>absent</i>. It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 with amendment above were an accurate representation of the meeting and they were signed and dated by the Mayor. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing</b></p>   |  |
| <b>11419</b> | <p><b>Adoption of the Planning Committee meeting minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to adopt the planning committee minutes and recommendations of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing</b></p>  |  |
| <b>11420</b> | <p><b>Polegate Town Mayors report – Verbal</b></p> <p>The Mayor stated that he planned to put forward a motion to convey the status of honorary freeman to Cllr Maggie Piper who was a long serving councillor. She had been serving Polegate and the Council for just coming up for 20 years. This would be for life and in recognition of her long service to the community. He said that the proposal would be to bestow this honour and to have a little ceremony to celebrate that. Many councillors commented that they thought this was a lovely idea. Cllr Mrs Piper stated that she felt very honoured to be considered for this and that she enjoyed serving Polegate and the people in Polegate.</p> <p>The Mayor stated that he had attended the presentation of the Queens award for Children with Cancer Fund at Herstmonceux castle. He stated that he had planned to give the charity £200 from his Mayors fund as well as a contribution to them for their valuable work they do in Polegate and the surrounding areas.</p> |  |
| <b>11421</b> | <p><b>Town Clerk Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Snell added that the posters for the art competition were now out and she had visited the schools and asked the councillors to make as many children within Polegate aware. It was for under 16s only.</p> <p>A councillor asked if the non ESCC parcels of land might include Black Path, the clerk explained that in the past some small areas of land which had been developed had not been adopted by ESCC and this was causing a few issues with the grass cutting at present. The land she had referred to was in this</p>   |  |

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|              | instance in Barons Way area.<br>Cllr S Shing arrived at 7.54pm  |  |
| <b>11422</b> | <p><b>Reports from representatives of outside bodies – WDALC report</b></p> <p>The report had been circulated to all prior to the meeting and was noted by all present.</p> <p>Cllr Goodwin stated that it was a very useful preliminary meeting and that he had also been appointed to the planning section. He also mentioned the Wealden initiative of Paws Watch (where dog walkers register and report anything suspicious to the police).</p>   |  |
| <b>11423</b> | <p><b>Financial Update</b></p> <p><b>a) Approval of accounts for payment</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to approve the payment as presented to the value of £64,306.53</b></p> <p><b>b) Approval of submitted accounts including bank reconciliations</b></p> <p><b>c) Approval of Barclaycard expenditure (on delegated authority)</b></p> <p><b>VOTE taken en bloc All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing</b></p>  |  |
| <b>11424</b> | <p><b>Proposal to purchase a roller banner for use at events approximate cost £60-100.</b></p> <p>A councillor asked what this would be used for. It was explained that it would be used for events and to advertise and promote the council better.</p> <p><b>It was resolved to purchase a roller banner at an approximate cost of £60-100. Format to be similar as presented and delegated to the clerk in liaison with Cllr Dunbar. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing</b></p>   |  |
| <b>11425</b> | <p><b>Barclays Bank in Polegate Closure</b></p> <p>The closure was discussed in that it was a commercial decision by the bank (not enough footfall and a decline over a four year period) and that as such it was beyond the remit of the Town Council. (It is a private company and as such cannot be influenced by the Town Council). The council felt that most people were already aware as letters had been sent by the bank to account holders and the branch had various information available for them. Account holders could use the post office for certain transactions. The loss of the cash machine was also discussed along with a suggestion of one building to be used by all of the banks.</p> |  |
| <b>11426</b> | <p><b>Local Parking Issues (raised from letters of concern in various areas)</b></p> <p>A discussion took place on the complaints about the long standing parking issues. A councillor commented that he had been approached and put the motion forward as he had received a number of complaints and had looked at the vast files from previous years and previous council decisions in order that he was aware of what had happened before and the issues surrounding the problems. He stated that some of the complaints were about commercial vehicles using private roads, car sharing and anti social behaviour such as early hours noise</p>   |  |

etc. He said that previous consultations had shown that only a small number of people wanted parking permits and the rest were reasonably content with the parking arrangements. Even parking permits were not clear on costs as in some areas they were high and in others very low. A councillor stated that he felt it was important to find out what the current residents were thinking and then to look at what could be done if anything. He stated that as part of the motion there was a draft questionnaire that he had written. He said that the price of the parking permits would not be on the questionnaire as the prices varied so much from area to area. A councillor suggested that the questionnaire included what road the resident lived in, in order that the working group could determine issues in certain areas. A councillor asked if the parking had been decriminalised in Polegate. It was confirmed that it had not been. Councillors discussed parking wardens. A councillor offered her help as she had had experience of some useful ideas which had been implemented in London and Lewes. She stated that double yellow lines were not always the answer. She spoke about various staggered plugs within the local area, which discouraged commuter parking but allowed the residents to come to shop. She stated that parking must be policed though, for this to work well. Dropped kerbs were briefly discussed and parking on front gardens and the surface water issues this raises. A councillor stated that the High Street should be treated differently. A councillor asked to have a look at some of the ESCC reports on parking as well to see if there were any issues that they had looked at as well, which the working group could look at. He also raised the question of costs and how some of this would be funded. The county councillor stated that ESCC wanted all of its districts and boroughs to be decriminalised, but this was opposed by Wealden District Council. Double yellow lines were all put in recently for safety reasons and not to deter commuter parking. He stated that when he had asked residents in a number of roads around the railway station many wanted parking permits but they did not want to pay for these. He stated that the only way really to solve some of the problems was to get Wealden District Council to decriminalise parking in Wealden.

**It was resolved to set up a working group to look at all the issues and to design a questionnaire based on the proposed questionnaire attached; To formulate ideas and options that could be taken forward over the coming years to remedy or mitigate some of the parking issues. To consult with residents to seek comments with regards to exploring the possible solutions by distribution of a survey questionnaire. (The contents to be determined by the working group). Involvement in ongoing dialogue at councillor surgeries and facilitating opportunity for public comment at council meetings. Gathering data from the questionnaires and other feedback leading to the formulation of options to remedy parking issues. Once recommendations had been formed this would be brought back to full council for consideration. The lead councillor to be Cllr Falkner and the rest of the working group to be made up of Cllr Mrs W Alexander, a PCSO (if available), Ms A Snell, S Shing, D Dunbar, Mrs C Berry VOTE 12 for 0 against Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, D**

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|              | <b>Murray, Ms A Snell, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, R Shing, S Dobson, D Dunbar S Shing &amp; D Shing abstained</b>   |  |
| <b>11427</b> | <p><b>Proposal to write (collectively as clerks) to Wealden District Council regarding consultation timing and the wording, asking to make it easier to read, understand and respond and to extend the timescales to make it possible to make a response.</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved that Polegate Town Council agree for the Wealden Clerks to send a letter to Wealden regarding the consultation timing and the wording, asking to make it easier to read, understand and respond and to extend the timescales to make it possible to make a response. VOTE 9 in favour 5 abstentions Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, S Dobson, D Dunbar.</b></p> <p><b>D Shing, S Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell, D Murray abstained</b></p>                              |  |
| <b>11428</b> | <p><b>Consultation on licensing authority review – corporate response</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to delegate the completion of the review to the clerk in liaison with the Mayor. VOTE 9 in favour 5 abstentions Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, S Dobson. D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell, D Murray abstained</b></p>  |  |
| <b>11429</b> | <p><b>NALC survey – delegate to the clerk to respond in liaison with the Mayor.</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to delegate the completion of the review to the clerk in liaison with the Mayor. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell, D Murray</b></p>  |  |
| <b>11430</b> | <p><b>Permission to install a litter bin (sponsored by McDonalds, close to Ladbrokes) to be emptied by the litter picker and to delegate to the clerk to apply for the appropriate licence.</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to delegate to the clerk to purchase the litter bin and instruct the litter picker to empty the bin and recoup the costs from McDonalds sponsorship and for the clerk to apply for the appropriate licences. VOTE All in favour Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, Mrs W Alexander, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, S Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell, D Murray</b></p>  |  |
| <b>11431</b> | <p><b>To grant approval for the acceptance of a donation of 5000 purple crocuses from the Sovereign Rotary Club, to be placed either side of the flower bed at the crossroads. Planting may have some cost implications and a licence from ESCC will need to be applied for. A councillor commented on the potential costs of £390 for the planting. The clerk stated that she thought this was a high cost and would be looking at alternatives to reduce this.</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to accept the gift of 5000 crocuses to plant at the crossroads. To delegate to the clerk to arrange the appropriate licence and approve the costs of planting the bulbs (keeping the costs as low as possible).VOTE 13 for 1 against Cllrs D Watts, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, E Board, B Goodwin, M Falkner, S</b></p> |  |

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|                     | <p><b>Dobson, D Dunbar, D Shing, S Shing, R Shing, Ms A Snell, D Murray 1 against Mrs W Alexander</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>11432</b></p> | <p><b>The council to receive the summary of the consultation as to the proposed improvements to Brightling Road Recreation Ground held on Wednesday 15th July 2015.</b></p> <p><b>a) To approve the use of the Brightling Road playing fields by the Stone Cross Royals Football Club incorporating the recommendations included in the summary of the consultation above. The approval is to include permission to mark out the Playing Fields for football as per the plans proposed, a public cricket crease and/or any other markings as requested (so long as these do not overly interfere with the football markings)</b></p> <p><b>b) That the club may site a storage container on the Brightling Road Recreation ground, including the strip of land backing onto Heron Ridge - dependant on the signing of a lease or licence.</b></p> <p><b>c) That the Football Club be granted a lease (the area of which, would be not in excess of one pitch and duration to be equal to 10 years) or licence of a part of the Site to situate their container for such time as would allow them to access such funding and benefits that could be employed to improve the Playing Fields and facilities to service them for the good of Polegate Residents and the Football Club. The lease or licence should be drawn up without undue delay by the Officers of Polegate Town Council for approval at the next available full council meeting of Polegate Town Council.</b></p> <p><b>d) Dependant on the report provided by the structural engineer on the load bearing capacity of the access bridge and the terms of the lease (point c above); to delegate to the council officers, in conjunction with the Stone Cross Royals football club, the permission to decide the siting of the storage container on the Site.</b></p> <p><b>e) That the Football Club pay a rental fee of £150? per year to (depending on the requirements outlined in (c) above) lease a pitch and/or receive a licence to site the aforementioned storage container ((b) above). Polegate Town Council permits the Football Club to allow other reputable sporting clubs to store items on the site, use of the storage container for storing their sport paraphernalia. The Football Club is entitled to receive a contribution not in excess of the following formula from each permitted club:</b></p> <p><b>[Number of permitted storage users] / ([the rental fee payable by the Football Club for siting of the container]+[insurance costs for the container borne by the club]+[costs of maintaining the container])</b><br/> <b>The Football Club is responsible for collection of the contributions.</b></p> <p><b>f) The Football Club may request additional mowing</b></p> |  |

**and/or rolling on condition that the contractors can provide such a service and that the Football Club provide funds to fully cover the cost in advance**

**g) That Polegate Town Council agree to move the existing football goals on the Playing Fields to a location that is compatible with the layout of the pitches by the Football Club. Polegate Town council will seek the most cost effective way of achieving this in conjunction with the Football Club.**

**h) That the Football Club can use the land immediately past the William Daly gates for car parking. This facility is only extended to the Football Club while the weather permits. The extent of the parking area will be roped off. The parking area is not to be used if wet and usage would lead to the churning up of the ground. Polegate Town Council reserve the right to withdraw this facility.**

**i) Polegate Town Council delegates to the Officers of the Council the task of obtaining planning permission for the change of use of the parking area to a gravel car park.**

The proposing councillor outlined the survey results (on page 5) and explained that there would be a number of amendments to the motions as presented. He explained that the motion had to be put in to be added to the agenda with a view that some could be withdrawn (but it was difficult to add a motion once the agenda had gone out) the results of the survey came after that motion had been submitted. He stated that there was a suggested order of progress if agreed. He thanked everyone who attended the public meeting, which had set out some niggling details which would need to be resolved. He stated that the updated motions were in the report. (The report was submitted as background papers.) He stated that some of the motions would no longer be required (from the information received at the public meeting) and these would be withdrawn.

The motions from the update report sheet that should be struck through. Numbering started with 1 (not 18) (Withdrawn) item b removed; c removed; d removed; e removed;

'F' 'G' 'H' all still stand as motions and 'I' needed to be amended to read "task of beginning the process of obtaining"

He stated that that would start the process of obtaining planning permission and by nature that would entail more public consultation.

He stated that the most *unpopular* response was (on page 6) against having allotments. There were concerns about access, security and other issues such as providing it with water. He confirmed that it would be a wicket, new signage could state no hard balls (so no real cricket could be played, simply for families to have an ad hoc practice on a "cricket wicket"). It was not intended for real cricket games for teams, as that was not in the spirit of mixed use of the "park" area.

He agreed that the five field markings should be done in liaison with the clerk.  
He stated that a query had been raised regarding the comment on "other markings", he said that the field was for the use of all and another club may come back to the council and ask to mark up for rounders or stoolball and this would allow that to happen. He said another club could ask the football club, while they were doing their lines to put in other markings.

He stated that "f" allowed the football club to pay for extra mowing (with the council contractors) if they wished.

He stated that "g" was a little more complicated and he now suggested that the goals should only be moved if they could be moved and set up in their new position on the same day. He stated this would need careful planning, but that he wished council to resolve to agree in principle that they would be moved. He said it was important that they remain in the field to be used by other local users as raised at the public meeting.

He stated that "h" was more complicated and there was more detail to be looked at but, in principle to allow the football club to temporarily park on that parcel of land and reserve the right to withdraw this if there were any issues. He stated it was important to think about emergency access (and not lock the gates). It was for authorised users and visitors. He stated that the football club would be responsible for making sure the ground did not get churned up and that parking should only happen on the North side of the gravel path and not near the stream. He said it may require council to purchase some roping off. This may have a small cost implication.

He stated that "i" remained and this was to delegate to the officers of the council to begin the process of obtaining planning permission for the change of use of a car parking area. He stated that it was expected that he would work with the Town Clerk to prepare plans around September for the parking. He commented that the club could start using the area as part of the phasing.

A councillor commented about golf, it was agreed that possibly signs should be erected stating no hard balls should be used on the field. A discussion took place on the need to leave the gates unlocked in order that emergency services can enter if required. It was also discussed if the parking area needed roping off. A councillor asked how much it would cost to resite the goal posts. A councillor stated that this was one of the costs that would need to be considered and assessed prior to doing this. A councillor stated that the costs would need to be assessed (for the digging out and re-siting of the goal posts) and to see who would pay for this.

(Standing orders suspended)

A member of PADMEC spoke and clarified that the emergency services already had the code to the gates.

A councillor asked if there were likely to be other facilities (such as toilets and pavilion). A councillor responded by saying there was no money for this at present and was unlikely to be available in the next three years but as council wished to see

improvements to the field over time there may be ways to fund this through Fields In Trust and other funding avenues. He stated that long term certainly this was something he would like to see and had referred to it in his report (financial sustainability on page 5). Can it be afforded and could council afford to maintain it and is it needed. He felt that it was needed, he stated that the initial options were affordable, and council could afford to maintain it. He reiterated that if council could not afford it, that it should not go ahead. He did not want to see anything fall into disrepair and the burden fall to the council. A councillor asked about the parking, whether it was laid out with gravel or something else, and if the football club would have the responsibility of opening or closing the gates. A councillor asked about others playing on the field at the same time. A councillor stated that when games and training were going on, certainly during the phasing, not all of the ground would be used. During training it was only likely to be 4 hours a week and only on one pitch (out of the five marked out). He stated though that because the field was for all use, there was no data on the peak usage of the field. Dog walkers and other mixed use would still be able to use the field along side each other and respect the others use. He said that if the goals were being used (by the football club) it was hoped that the football club may let those other users use their goals - potentially. He commented that it was about showing consideration for each other and the football club were very community minded. A councillor asked if anyone would be monitoring the traffic use when certain numbers of pitches were being used. A councillor responded by saying that not all of the pitches would be used during the phasing in period as some of the club already played at various venues. A councillor stated that the council would need to look again at the car park, the siting of the container and would need to gauge how it was going. A councillor asked about commuter parking. A councillor responded by saying the training was 5.30-6.30 pm and the gates would be locked once the training was over. The mayor stated that as the subject was very important he was happy to come out of standing orders again and allow members of the public to ask questions. He stated that he would allow 10 minutes for additional questions.

Standing orders suspended

A resident asked about the holes that would be left when the goals were removed. A councillor responded by saying that the holes would be refilled with the dirt taken out when re-siting them. Ideally on the same day as otherwise things change and they fall into disrepair. He also stated that there were other holes that needed to be filled. He stated that the goals would be moved permanently from one area to another where they could be used.

A resident spoke about ambulances' access and said that there are recommendations by ROSPA but no statutory requirements and that the ambulances were around 7 tonnes, also that ideally there was flat access for a stretcher to be carried to the ambulance. A councillor commented that it would be better if the ambulance could go onto the field. Another resident commented that the bridge was originally designed to have a dray vehicle go across it. He also said that he had been present

when there had been injuries at the skate park and the ambulances had gone across. A member of PADMEC said he was concerned about the access to the mini railway on Saturdays and the width. A councillor commented that the lines would not prevent anyone driving over them, but that it would be good to meet with the clerk and the club as well to discuss their requirements. The member of PADMEC said how pleased they were that other groups would be using the field with them and were fully supportive.

A resident asked to clarify the full proposals as there had been one set of proposals in the agenda and then a second document which has new proposals and an addendum on the internet and the motion verbally stated earlier in the meeting. He asked for clarity on what is being put to council for a decision. A councillor stated that he would ask the clerk to add the motion and state that "this was the proposal" and to state the motion clearly in the minutes. The clerk confirmed that she would do this.

A member of PADMEC asked that if there was any damage caused to the grounds whilst both PADMEC were running and the football club, who would be liable to repair the damage? A councillor stated that each club would shut the gate (there was a combination lock) and the last person to leave from each group would lock the gates. He stated that there was no real issue as both groups would be expected to be careful but as council land the council would maintain the grounds and if any damage were caused letters would be sent out to the groups. He stated it would be fairly difficult when other events were being held on the field and the council would need to look at this as things happened. He used an example, if PADMEC were there they normally had a marshall. On weekends where the usage was crossed over this would need to be monitored. He stated that if someone who was not part of the group (the club or PADMEC) parked on there, then once the gates were locked they would not have access to their car. A PADMEC member stated that the bridge to the field could be closed to stop people accessing the field by car.

#### **Standing orders reinstated**

The following motion was put to council:

To approve the use of the Brightling Road playing fields by Stone Cross Royals football club incorporating the recommendations included in the summary of the consultation from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 namely that the club phase in the usage of the playing fields. The approval is to include permission to mark out the playing fields for football as per the plan proposed and to be drawn up in conjunction with the clerk, the football club and PADMEC, a public cricket wicket and/or any other markings as requested, so long as these do not overly interfere with the football markings.

Sub items b, c, d and e were withdrawn.

The football club may request additional mowing and or rolling on condition that the contractors can provide such a service and that the football club provide funds to fully cover the cost in advance.

That Polegate Town Council agree to move the existing football

goals on the playing fields to a location that is compatible with the layout of the pitches by the football club. Within a time agreed by both parties. Polegate Town Council will seek the most cost effective way of achieving this in conjunction with the football club.

That the football club can use the land immediately past the William Daly gates for car parking. This facility is to be used by the football club and PADMEC while the weather permits. The extent of the parking area may be roped off. The parking is not to be used if the ground is unsuitable.\* Polegate Town Council reserve the right to withdrawn this facility by giving notice. Polegate Town Council delegates to the officers of the council the task of beginning the process of obtaining planning permission for the change of use of the parking area to a gravel car park.

*after the discussion minuted below the following caveat was added:* There would be continual on going monitoring of the usage in particular the first year of operation to see if there were any major issues that needed addressing and any issues would go back to full council to discuss.

The councillor stated that he would draw up plans with the clerk on what it would look like and then put the costs forward.(to council)

A councillor asked about the time scales. The councillor commented that by nature the council could not be bound for future councils and he reminded council that they were NOT agreeing a lease and there was no contractual obligation, simply allowing them to mark out the pitches and council could always stop allowing them to mark out the land.

A councillor commented that although he had no issue with the use, it opened up the field to parking and he wanted to know how the council would control that parking. He said whilst the clubs were carrying out their activities who would stop any other resident parking there if the gates were open? For example a resident may bring their dog to exercise and park their car there. A councillor commented that at the end of the club's sessions, the gates would be shut and therefore anyone using the field would need to exit before the gates were shut or they would be locked in. A councillor asked who would put up the signage to say that the gates would be closed at a particular time. The Mayor stated that that would need to be decided. A councillor commented that council needed to think about who the potential users of the field were as now the ball was rolling more users would probably wish to use the field.

The councillor also stated that on allotments would be looked at later.

A councillor commented that the football club would energise the use of the field and with regards to parking, this was needed to minimise the impact on residents. He stated that the gates would be shut but not locked and this in itself would be a barrier for people (as they would have to get out of their car to open the gates). He stated that for the few months of usage

that was envisaged, this was probably not going to cause any issues, but any that arose would need to be fully ironed out. He stated that the allotments were suggested to prevent bus access across the land but the Fields In Trust may be sufficient. A councillor commented that the car park costs would have to be funded by the council as a whole and as such the payment would be from all council tax paying residents, therefore if the car park was created and a resident asked to use it even though they were not involved with the football club or PADMEC they should really have the right to. How the Town Council would control that would be another matter, but they should be allowed to use it. A councillor stated that there are a number of Town Council facilities that are provided just for one group of people (a facility that is paid for by them but not used by them, such as the under 12 play areas). He felt that people would appreciate that it was for "events". You could open the car park up and have events there such and fayres/fetes etc. He considered that the car park was a community asset but not necessarily available to the whole community.

**It was resolved to approve the use of the Brightling Road playing fields by Stone Cross Royals football club incorporating the recommendations included in the summary of the consultation from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 namely that the club phase in the usage of the playing fields. The approval is to include permission to mark out the playing fields for football as per the plan proposed and to be drawn up in conjunction with the clerk, the football club and PADMEC, a public cricket wicket and/or any other markings as requested, so long as these do not overly interfere with the football markings.**

**Sub items b, c, d and e were withdrawn.**

**The football club may request additional mowing and/or rolling on condition that the contractors can provide such a service and that the football club provide funds to fully cover the cost in advance.**

**That Polegate Town Council agree to move the existing football goals on the playing fields to a location that is compatible with the layout of the pitches by the football club. Within a time agreed by both parties. Polegate Town Council will seek the most cost effective way of achieving this in conjunction with the football club.**

**That the football club can use the land immediately past the William Daly gates for car parking. This facility is to be used by the football club and PADMEC while the weather permits. The extent of the parking area may be roped off. The parking is not to be used if the ground is unsuitable.\* Polegate Town Council reserve the right to withdrawn this facility by giving notice.**

**Polegate Town Council delegates to the officers of the council the task of beginning the process of obtaining planning permission for the change of use of the parking area to a gravel car park.**

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
|                     | <p><b>And that there would be continual on-going monitoring of the usage, in particular during the first year of operation to see if there were any major issues that needed addressing and any issues would go back to full council to discuss. VOTE 14 for 1 abstention (Cllr D Murray)</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>11433</b></p> | <p><b>Proposed dates of the next cycle of meetings</b><br/>         No meetings in August<br/>         Full Council 28th September 2015<br/>         Full Council 26th October 2015<br/>         Additional budget meetings to be announced<br/>         Planning; Personnel; Finance November 2015<br/>         Full Council 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015<br/>         Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015</p> |  |

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm

Signed Mayor of Polegate \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\* The ground is wet and usage would lead to churning up of the ground.**