MEETING OF CAMPSEA ASHE PARISH COUNCIL, Tuesday 21st January 2025, 19.00 at Station House

PRESENT/ Participants: SCC Cllr Alexander Nicoll (AN), ESC Cllr Sally Noble (SN), Eddie Berger (EB), Felicity Gillott (FG), Hannah Pauly (HP), Klaus Fortmann, clerk (KF) and members of the public

24.59 Apologies; Nigel Pringle (NP), Clare Reid (CR);

24.60 Declarations of interest none

24.61 To consider requests for dispensation on agenda items - none

24.62 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 19th Nov 2024
Notes approved as an accurate record and signed by EB;

24.63 Public Participation
Members of public attending participated in discussion re 24.66,67,68,69

24.64Highways
1) Clerk reported on forthcoming meeting JPTI / ESC; Agenda has been circulated, which includes the increased use of Rock Barracks by the Ghurkha's regiment coming from Maidstone. There will also be a discussion re data monitoring from SZC possibly coming into play for JPTI purposes, as well as a new CIL funding statement, that might increase traffic mitigation funding via CIL. **KF/EB**

24.65 Planning Matters
1/ DC/24/2950/FUL – Rectory Fields; clerk reported no further meaningful contact from developers re the PC's objection of slightly revised layout.
2/ DC/24/3510/FUL – Ashe Park – no further development reported by the clerk re the application, which the PC adopting a neutral position.
3/Loudham Solar Farm- clerk reported on a new 'consultation' attempt by developer, which has been dismissed by all neighbouring PC's as being too minimal and not engaging in the actual objections raised. It seems a proper consultation event will be held soon. **NP/KF**
4/ A meeting was held (NP, KF) at Chantry close with Orwell Housing Association re access to the 'gifted' land at the back of the site. It was relayed that access was needed for the PC/WAC to maintain the plot. PC to await further proposal.

24.66 Energy Projects
1/ AN & clerk reported on forthcoming traffic issues linked to SZC and ScotPowRenew. There will be impacts around A12/Friday Street, with works possibly starting

2/ Clerk and FG attended a meeting by Suffolk Community Foundation for Wickham Market Ward PC's in early December, where PC's were invited to make a case for the inclusion (of Campsea Ashe) into the eligibility area (for grants). Clerk & FG explained a wide range of potential impacts on residents in the CA area due to the Energy projects. Its was pointed out to the Foundation (Sarah Mortimer), that the whole process of eligibilty is very confusing and non-sensical, as other organisations in the area seem to have been able to progress with grant applications, even though PC's have been told they are not in the funds eligibility area. Subsequently the WM Ward has now officially been accepted into the fund eligibility.
With various stakeholders interested in accessing the fund, this could enable several projects, with the Campsea Ashe church apparently being in the process of applying. However, no info on progress there was available.

AN expressed caution re availability for Campsea, in view of potential bidding for (Sizewell) funds via the SCF by several stakeholders for substantial amounts, as the Fund might regard that the small village might apply for too much in relation to its size. There seemed to be no knowledge by members or clerk re the progression of a funding bid by the PCC. Clerk reported he had kept all stakeholders informed of funding opportunities and the result of the SCF's decision, but had not received any comments or updates from any of the village organisations.

24.67 Play Area / Recreation ground
1/ Clerk reported of an apparent dumping of a small amount of timber, tyres and other bits in the area of the aerial slide. This was puzzling, as it was far from any vehicular access to the area. The materials have been removed from the area.

24.68 Village Hall
1) Easement –solicitor is progressing with the VH part of the proposal. Clerk hopes to have agreement in principle available by April/May 2025.
2) The VH committee is progressing with program for renovation/re-build. VH chair is organising meetings with architects to look at best options for progression.
VH committee proposed to re-organise and to be part of the PC, mainly as the financial impacts of the proposals will most likely exceed £100k and with that the issue of VAT is becoming a major part of the potential costs, for which funds have to be raised.
Whilst this will also create a major cashflow issue for the PC, having to find the money for VAT before we can reclaim it. Clerk & VH chair will meet with WM PC/VH members, who have just re-organised to that effect. AN suggested to contact the highly experienced clerk Judi Hallett.
A query was made re feasibility of so many community hubs in CA, but it was pointed out that each venue has different capacities and purpose and that a successful VH can be achieved.

24.69 Clerks Report
1) The planned Emergency Plan presentation was cancelled and will be re-scheduled.
2) The defibrillator again failed and has now gone to the distributor for repairs; no date of return yet established. Clerk put notice up on NextDoor
3) FG & HP are progressing with ideas re Biodiversity actions in Campsea Ashe and will report in more detail at a later stage.
4)The PC adopted to become signatory of the CPRE sponsored Sunshine Bill, which demands for Solar PV to become mandatory on new-build. The PC argues that such measure would reduce the need to utilise green field sites to become Solar Farms, such as the currently proposed Loudham Solar Farm. The defibrillator was finally returned and after a re-setting and some new parts returned to its cabinet.
5) Clerk reported that Heritage Group has started to look into VEDay80 celebration activities and asked for PC members to co-ordinate if they have specific ideas. WAC and SH will co-ordinate with heritage Group.
6) The PC asked for opinions by both ESC & SCC Councillors re aspects of the announced Devolution agenda of the new government. The Devolution proposal was in principle agreed (to initially proceed in the process) by SCC and is in effect a progression from what the previous government proposed and seem to have cross-party support. It will comprise a larger authority headed by a major with extensive executive powers. The reorganisation to a Unitary Authority, ie merging ESC and SCC is also being pursued. There is concern about the smaller rural areas being dis-advantaged and a fear of lessening of local influence in matters of planning. SCC Cllr AN argued it might be beneficial with regards to transport and planning, whilst he expressed concern about the proposed mayoral system, as it would give larger powers to an individual and would so depend on the calibre of that candidate.

Cllr SN felt it being a diminishing of democracy, as the coming May elections would be postponed by at least a year, as well as there being a lack of clarity how it would affect local decision making and its subsequent impacts on local democracy.

24.70 RFO Report

1/ Following the Finance Committee's meeting in November and brief discussions at the previous PC meeting the PC adopted the Budget for 2025/26. It was decided not to increase the Parish segment of the council tax in recognition of the current climate. The PC's financial situation is a bit tighter, but with the 2nd home council tac increase and the incoming funds linked to the recreation ground easement it will recover to a safer level.

2/ VAT refund for 2023/24 has been received.

3/RFO has produced following statement;

Payments received	£ 1493.30 CIL ESC re Boules & car park
	£ 14.08 Interest
	£ 887.24 VAT refund
Balance on 31/12/24	£ 5567.44 in Community Account (Current)
	£ 3765.63 in Business Savings Account
	£ 9347.15

Expenditure to be approved

E25/28 NI clerk	HMRC	£ 14.78 (paid)
E25/25 Salary Clerk	K Fortmann	£ 763.71 (incl £0.69 NI)
E25/27 Wreath	N Willis	£ 20.00
E25/26 grass cutting	East Suff Serv.	£ 537.60
	Total	£ 1305.09

Expenditure Yr to date (incl. new approved payments) £15984.87

Balance after approved & uncashed £ 8025.84

24.58 Correspondence received

- all relevant communication passed on to PC members

Date of next meeting to be held: Tuesday 18th March 2025, from 19.00 in Station House.

Bold red initialled (xx) points refer to specific actions to be undertaken

Klaus Fortmann, Clerk

5/02/2025