

**Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at the Village Hall, Fulking**

**Present:** Chairman Ms K. Watson, Vice Chairman Mr M Trist, Councillors Ms L. Dyos and Mrs P. Rowland and Clerk to the Council Mrs Andrea Dickson.

WSCC Peter Griffiths (8.25pm), and 9 members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

**1. Chairman welcomed and wished everybody a Happy New Year.**

**2. Apologies.** MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble

**3. Declaration of Interest:** None

**4.**The minutes of the previous meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

**5.** Report from Councillor Peter Griffiths - had not arrived, the meeting proceeded as follows:-

**6. Matters Arising.**

<p><b>Planning</b></p>	<p><b>Old Pump House</b>                  The new enforcement notice was issued and served on Ms Holdingbarn and the occupiers of the site around the 13<sup>th</sup> November. (28 period before the notice came into effect during which time they were entitled to lodge an appeal. If no appeal lodged, the notice would take effect with a two week compliance period, expiring 26th December 2014).</p> <p>(Some of you may be aware that there was an explosion and fire on the site on 9<sup>th</sup> December after which the site was vacated temporarily).</p> <p>As at 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan MSDC had not been notified of any appeal against the enforcement notice and therefore if the site is still occupied (which we understand it is), the land owner will be in breach of the notice. MSDC will be visiting the site soon to confirm the breach and then will be considering the course of action to ensure compliance with the notice.</p>
<p><b>Lady Brook Spring Update</b></p>	<p>aving agreed the wording at the last PC meeting, a plaque was ordered at a cost of £ 88.26, and this was fixed in place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.</p> <p>No ground preparation or planting of the site has taken place. Darren Rolfe has booked his volunteers for the 26<sup>th</sup> Jan to undertake some tidying and clearing up of the site ready for planting in the spring. Does anybody have any ideas as to how the spring should look and how to stop vehicles from cutting in towards the spring any further? During comments from the floor it was agreed to have logs in front of the spring to act as a barrier/seating and that planting should be to the rear of the spring. A round robin will be sent to everybody who originally expressed an interest in the spring for further ideas on this. A notice will be placed on the website for volunteers to help Darren on the 26<sup>th</sup> January. (Clerk)</p>
<p><b>Highways</b></p>	<p><b>Clappers Lane</b>                  The PC was informed that it was unlikely that the lane would be resurfaced within the next two years.                  A meeting was held with Richard Speller and the following was agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pipe opposite the Sands has been jetted. Richard Speller will supply some kind of grille to help prevent build-up of debris in future although this will need to be cleared regularly (by community).</li> <li>• Corner by the pipe to be dug away to allow the water to flow down the east side of the road rather than across it.</li> <li>• Channel to be dug here and filled with stones to take the water.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North of the Sands channel to be dug and filled with stones to take the water off the road and flow into the grip by the natural waterfall.</li> <li>• Defect notice to be raised for the area by Tony Brooks - problem caused by the camber of the road.</li> <li>• Richard will try to escalate the status of the road resurfacing but don't hold your breath...</li> <li>• Puddling near the kennels is due to a blocked gulley - a job order will be raised for this</li> <li>• A large hole/ditch beside kennels/Kingfisher Lodge currently full of apparently stagnant water. It appears that the outflow from this ditch/hole has been blocked/filled in/obstructed in some way. Richard will arrange for the ditch/hole to be cleared and then investigation made as to where the water should be flowing. Once established, the PC will write to the relevant landowner/s asking for cooperation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Four Acres Corner</b> Paul Ferroni suggested that a stopper in the outlet pipe opposite Four Acres will prevent the water running down the bridleway. The clerk was informed on 12<sup>th</sup> December that the pipe has now been blocked up and that the PC will need to monitor the water down the bridleway. This was done today. Very disappointingly, Four Acres puddle is back big time and the bridleway was a fast running river!! Highways. (possibly caused by pipe being bunged). Numerous photos and videos were taken and will be forwarded to Highways). The PC will meet with highways to discuss solutions. A meeting was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to try to find a solution to this problem.</p> <p><b>Gullies/Drains</b> As usual, if you see/know of a problem please report to <a href="http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports">http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports</a> or <b>01243 642105</b>. Please pass info to the PC for its records.</p>
<b>Footpath 4f</b>	<p>After refusal of the diversion by the inspectorate, WSCC Rights of Way dept. wrote to the landowner in early November requesting that the correct definitive route close to the western side of the house be reinstated by 20 November - his agent replied to say that this would be done. A reminder requesting confirmation that the path is now open on its definitive line so that it could be re-inspected was sent in early December - but no response so far. The work that was requested was: to re-open the correct definitive path by removing the obstructing stile and laurel bush to allow an open access - minimum width 1.2metres (at X) - and to unlock the 2 obstructing gates (at Y and Z).</p> <p>WSCC has asked to be kept up to date with the current situation as the rights of way officer will not be able to visit until well into January. Once the correct route is open the waymarkers will need to be adjusted.</p> <p>WSCC has been informed that the stile and shrub are still there, but the shrub has been trimmed and is lower. There is no dog access at the stile. (At the time of the report, Gate 'Y' was closed with a sign on it saying private etc. etc., Gate 'Z' was open but this is because access for the building site for the Plumpton College building is down this part of the track from Z to Y).</p> <p>WSCC has written again to landowner 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</p> <p>With regards to the planning application consultation in November for a garage and wood store to the west of the Perching Sands House – WSCC Rights of way established that it is to be close to, but not obstructing, the path and so raised no objection, but made sure that the planning authority are aware of the existence of the path.</p>
<b>Winter Management</b>	<p>The grit has been topped up. Spare grit is at Perching Sands Farm and the new tarpaulins have been delivered and are covering this. Kate has a couple of spares.</p>

	Under comments from the floor a grit bin has been requested for outside Knole House. (Clerk)
<b>Bluebird Community bus update</b>	So far the service has had limited use, 1 passenger and 1 enquiry), up to December 8 <sup>th</sup> . It was felt that a leaflet drop would not have much benefit as a round robin was advising everyone of the service and various notices have been posted throughout the village .

### **7. Timetable for elections**

The current PC's term is coming to an end. The nomination period is scheduled to run from **30<sup>th</sup> March 2015** until **4pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015**.

Completed nomination papers must be delivered in person by the candidate or their agent, to the offices of MSDC during this time. The papers will be checked before accepting them formally. More information is available from the clerk.

If anyone is interested in having an input in what happens in our community and wants to help to protect (and improve) what Fulking already has, please do feel free to contact any of the councillors for a chat.

If nobody stands for election then control will pass back to MSDC so it is really important that people come forward if we want to have a say in what happens.

### **8. Training for new and returning councillors**

Following on from the above, SALC (Sussex Association of Local Councils) will be running a number of training sessions for new/returning councillors throughout June and July.

They will also be running training sessions on planning later in the year which could be useful.

If you are thinking of standing for election and would like to know what training support is available please contact the clerk or look on the SALC website <http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/index.asp>

### **9. Planning update**

The application for change of use to land to the East of Market Garden- to private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 2 pitches each of which to contain 1 mobile home and 1 touring caravan and 1 amenity building including hard standing and associated development.

As of the 8<sup>th</sup> January Steven King was still waiting for a response from consultations relating to current waiting lists for authorised travellers sites in East and West Sussex. He wasn't able to confirm which committee this application will be reported to at this stage. The earliest meeting would be on 29th January 2015.

This could be granted as there is long waiting list- therefore there must be a need for the sites.

(Clerk to keep chasing)

#### **The Dales**

This application is still pending - letters from the case officer Deborah Lynn on 17th November stated that she was unable to support the current application as "the main test is to ensure that the scenic beauty and landscape of the national park is conserved" and she recommended that it was withdrawn. However, she did state that if a revised scheme were to be submitted with the dwelling set back so that it sits in approximately the same position as the existing dwelling, omitting the car port roof and retaining the existing ash tree, then this would likely to be looked upon more favourably as the proposal would not appear so obtrusive in the landscape. The loss of the car port would reduce the bulk of the building and lessen the potential visual impact, particularly from views to the south. The suggestion was also made to use clay roof tiles and natural timber face.

The applicant had originally been unwilling to submit an independent landscape and visual impact assessment but has now agreed to do so. If this assessment is not received by 16<sup>th</sup> January the application will be determined on the information currently held by the planning officer.(Clerk to chase)

#### **Lower Kents**

The owner of Lower Kents applied to see if prior notification was required to change the office into a one bedroomed apartment. This application was refused. An appeal has not been lodged at the moment as Mr Cox is holding in abeyance his right to appeal the decision pending the Government's publication of its analysis of the responses to the further proposed changes to Permitted Development Rights to allow the change of use from storage use to residential. (This is a further extension of the office to residential permission). If the responses are favourable Mr Cox will probably await the legislation coming into effect and then re-apply. There would probably then be no reason to refuse the application.

(Permitted development is allowed within the national park depending on what it is – ie different rules for extensions/conversions etc)

#### **10. District Plan consultation.**

MSDC District Plan is out for consultation until the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Information was sent out about this in a round robin, posted on the website and on the noticeboard in December 2014. The PC has been copied in on comments from one resident.

The PC agreed to support the District plan as it is basically the same as the previous one. The PC agrees with the vision to protect and enhance the environment.

#### **11. Management of Rights of Way**

WSCC has changed the way that the Public Rights of Way are managed and maintained - they will now be inspected once every 15 months rather than once every 9 months. Summer clearance will still take place annually and next summer's programme is currently being reviewed. The PC has been asked to advise WSCC of any footpaths/rights of way that need attention either for the summer clearance (deadline 21<sup>st</sup> January) or generally, so if you know of any, please can you inform the clerk.

The bridleway by Hillside is very uneven and needs attention. The area downhill from Nettledown gets very overgrown and needs to be included in the summer clearance.

#### **12. Financial matters**

(Including Cheque List & Stubbs, Income & Expenditure to date, quarterly bank reconciliation and budget v's actual, Vat Claim).

A precept of £7555 has been applied for as agreed at the October meeting

The following cheques have been processed since the last PC meeting:-

100629 Streetlights £90.78, 100630 North Town Field Trust £10, 100631 The Sign Maker £88.28

100632 A Dickson £853.05 D/D Eon £29.84

The cheque stubs, bank reconciliation, cheque list and bank statements were all signed.

£3000 was transferred from Community account to the Business account.

A VAT repayment of £2244.67 has been received and banked.

#### **13. Grass Cutting**

Mark Stepney has agreed to keep the cost of mowing NTF at £60 per cut, the same as last year. As he has done a good job of look after NTF, the PC would like him to carry on and not request any further tenders.

#### **14. Clerk's pay award and resignation**

The National Joint Council for Government Services which govern the pay scale for Parish Clerks reached a pay agreement which will increase the clerk's hourly rate by 22p. This is to be applied from 1st January 2015. As part of the pay award, a one off non-consolidated award of £100 pro rata should have been paid in December 2014.( £16.21)

Andrea the current clerk has given notice in writing that she will be resigning as soon as a replacement is

found or by 31st March whichever is the sooner. The chairman expressed the PC's thanks and appreciation for all of Andrea's hard work and also its congratulations on her new post. So again, if anyone would like to get involved, please do contact Andrea for further information. The post has been advertised on the website and on SALC website.

<http://www.sussexalc.org.uk/vacancies.asp>

### 15. Speakers for APM

The PC asked for suggestions for speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting - please contact the clerk if you have any suggestions. Contact will be made with the RAF again to see if they are available this year.

( Clerk)

### 16. Comments from the floor

Just before comments from the floor

There are changes to the Pigeon Post –the current news editor has retired from this post. John Hazard is in charge of the website and if anybody interested in joining the team please contact John on [john@hazy.net](mailto:john@hazy.net)

Any information for the website should be sent to [webmaster@fulking.net](mailto:webmaster@fulking.net). Any information for the PP should be sent to [pigeon.post@fulking.net](mailto:pigeon.post@fulking.net); by the 28th of the month at the latest; Miles Firth is responsible for editing the PP.

It was raised to see if Highways could write to Mr Cox asking him to cut his hedge as it is obstructing the view round the bend in Clappers Lane (Clerk)

A reminder was given about the countryside code that dogs should be kept on leads 1<sup>st</sup> March to July to protect nesting birds and all year around if animals are grazing on the land.

A request has been made that the large white van parked at Preston Nomads be moved to a less obvious spot. Also the road surface at the entrance to Preston Nomads to be made good and that the landscaping at the corner that was in the planning application is carried out. (Clerk)

Fulking Annual fair will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015 - all offers of help gratefully received.

### 17. Dates of next meetings

9<sup>th</sup> April, Elections 7<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Annual meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Meeting closed at 8.42pm**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

**Minute 35 13/1/2015**