



FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting Meeting held in the Fulking Village Hall on 14 May 2015 At 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillor Michael Trist (Vice Chairman), Councillors Linda Dyos, Mark Hind and Miles Firth; Clerk to the Council Derek Blackhall. 9 members of the Public, MSD Councillors Colin Trumble, John Wilkinson and Anthony Watts Williams; and Guest Speaker Dan Oakley of the SDNP.

Apologies: Councillor Kate Watson (Chairman)

Annual Meeting of Council

- 1. Meeting opened at 7.32pm by Michael Trist who welcomed everybody.**
- 2. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman were received.**
Chairman Kate Watson was nominated and proposed by Miles Firth and seconded by Mark Hind.
Vice Chairman Michael Trist was nominated and proposed by Linda Dyos and seconded by Mark Hind.
The Chairman and Vice Chairman accepted office and agreed to sign the declaration forms at a later date.
- 3. Meeting Closed at 7.35pm**

Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting opened at 7.36pm

Apologies:- Councillor Kate Watson (Chairman)

- 1. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council on 1 May 2014** having been previously circulated were **AGREED** and **SIGNED**.
- 2. Chairman's report**

We'll start with a brief report of what's been going on during the past year, and then hear from our speakers.

Firstly, I just thought everyone would like to know that Fulking Parish Council will be 115 years old next week. We're not looking too rough for our age...

We've had a relatively calm year again, mainly due to Andrea who has been keeping everything in order until she left; and Derek who joined us as Andrea's replacement

On the planning front, over the past year we have received fourteen applications, including one for tree work – six have been approved by Mid Sussex, one withdrawn, five refused, and two are pending. There is currently one application which needs retrospective planning.

Regarding finances, our precept for 2015 – 2016 has increased slightly by 3.5% to £7,555. There were no grants this year. Our internal audit of the annual accounts has just been completed – a big thank you to Nick Hughes for continuing to do this audit for us without charge.

On to highways – we are still having problems with drainage /numerous blocked gullies in various areas of the village, despite our best efforts to get them sorted: although work has just been completed at Four Acres. We have had a number of meetings with highways over the past year (including consultation in respect of West Sussex Fire & Rescue public meeting) and we are still pushing hard for these issues to be resolved.

Visitors-community bus: Bluebird Community Transport extended the bus service to include Fulking on Monday and Thursday; but not much take up so far.

Ladybrook Spring

A lot of good progress during the year on this community project-including a plaque installed, Five people attended an update meeting where it was agreed a nice simple planting scheme of native hedging (wild roses and various natural hedging plants) in an arc behind and to the sides of the spring, and some wild flower mix for the two sides (away from the walls so they don't get trampled). Minimum maintenance was one aim. Dwarf narcissi bulbs to be planted in the autumn.

The Social Committee agreed funding of £150.

Dark Skies

This is an important project we all approve of-and the subject of a full presentation later in the meeting.

Again, this year, we were well prepared with our winter management plan (full grit bins/a new grit bin in Clappers Lane/arrangement with local farmer to snow plough etc etc). Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your like or dislike of snow, we didn't have to resort to any of the measures and we shall be reviewing the plan again within the next couple of months.

The annual Fulking Fair continues to be a great success-winners of the Argus Community Event of the Year Award in 2014-and this year it will be taking place on Sunday 26th July, at Downside Meadow - noon till 5pm – please come along and support it if you can.

There is a SSALC requirement to nominate 2 Councillors to represent the Parish and serve on outside bodies-Mark Hind and Miles Firth volunteered to do so.

Finally a few more thank you's – to both Parish Clerks for their hard work and the other councillors who continue to devote their time working on behalf of the community-with a special thank you to Pam Rowland who stood down at the recent election-and a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillors Mark and Miles. Also thanks to our councillors, Peter Griffiths and Colin Trumble for their support and interest in our village, to John Hazard and the team, and Miles Firth, for running the ever improving and excellent website for us. And lastly thank you to all of you for attending this evening and being interested in our community. Let's try to work together over the next year to keep our lovely village as unspoilt as possible.

3. Report by MSD Councillor Colin Trumble

Colin introduced John Wilkinson and Anthony Watts Williams; two recently elected MSDC Councillors-each of whom gave a short summary of their background and both were duly welcomed to the meeting.

The District election resulted in 54 Conservative Councillors.

One of the above District Councillors is to attend our future meetings.

Michael Trist thanked Colin Trumble for his ongoing support.

4. Dark Skies

Dan Oakley, from the SDNP gave a short talk on the 'Dark Skies' project. For further information please visit the website.

- 5. Dates of next meetings 9th July and 8th October.**
- 6. Meeting closed at 8.35pm.**

**Michael handed over to Trish and John Hazard who announced the results of the North Town Field Vote.
Jen Green, Pauline Nye, and Kate Slavin were elected as new trustees.**

Everybody was invited to join the PC for refreshments.

SignedDate.....

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