

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.35 pm on 14th January 2016 at the Village Hall, Fulking

Present: Chairman Ms Kate Watson, Vice Chairman Mr Michael Trist, Councillors Ms Linda Dyos, Mr Mark Hind, and Mr Miles Firth. MSDC Councillors Colin Trumble and John Wilkinson, Richard Speller from WSCC Highways, Clerk to the Council Derek Blackhall, and 18 members of the public.

Apologies: MSDC Councillor Anthony Watt Williams, WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths.

Declaration of Interest: None

The Chairman welcomed everyone and requested a change to the published agenda order so that the signing of cheques and bank reconciliation is moved to the end of the meeting; this was agreed.

The meeting then proceeded as follows:-

The minutes of the previous meeting held 8th October 2015 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

Planning

Conifers

This was the application for change of use to the land to the East of Market Garden - to private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 2 pitches. The applicant is currently living on site and an enforcement order has been issued. Appeals have been made against both the planning decision (refusal) and the enforcement order and the appeal hearing took place on 12th January 2016. It could take 3 months for a decision.

Market Garden

Permanent approval for this site has been given by Mid Sussex District council. The Parish Council is to meet them on 18th January to discuss informally as this came as a big surprise.

Highways

As the rainy season is fast approaching residents were asked to keep their eyes open for **and report** blocked gullies/potholes etc.

Gullies/Drains

As usual, any problems/blockages must be reported to <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports> or **01243 642105**. Please pass info to the PC for its records.

The Parish Council must be informed of highways/flooding issues for them to follow up; please send incident numbers to the Parish Clerk. Richard Speller has an interest here.

Footpath 4f

The Parish Council has informed WSCC that it does not object to the application to make the diversion permanent. In future the path will be properly way-marked and maintained.

Parking problems in The Street.

Very bad last year, gridlock on The Street in the Village Hall and Stammers Hill areas; some road rage and also an ambulance got stuck. There was some domestic element in the Village Hall area due to the amount of building works being undertaken by village residents. During the day many tradesmen had their own van's parked in spaces vacated by residents thereby severely restricting places to pass. The problems in the Stammers Hill area were principally caused by the number of visitors to the Shepherd & Dog.

A range of options were discussed:

Do nothing

No parking signs

Double yellow lines

White advisory lines (No legal enforcement but parked vehicles could be reported to the Police Operation Crackdown)

No waiting cones possibly linked by red/white tape (The landlord of the Shepherd & Dog agreed to administer)

Laminated signs on trees

Traffic lights (unlikely to achieve cost/benefit approval)

One way traffic by creating a road along the Bridle path behind the Shepherd & Dog. "New Road"

Creating permanent parking spaces on the grass verges beyond the Ladybrook Spring (Potentially could be funded by S106 monies)

Advising drivers to turn around.

It was accepted that there was a need to do something. Restricting parking on the bends in the Stammers Hill area to create passing places for vehicles was generally supported. As The Double yellow lines option could take several years to implement, even if supported by WSCC, it was agreed that the White advisory lines and No waiting cones should be progressed. In addition the creation of permanent parking spaces on the grass verges beyond the Ladybrook Spring should also be investigated further. The Traffic Lights and "New Road" options were discounted.

Action: **Mark Hind and Richard Speller** to propose the location of White Advisory Lines on The Street and Investigate the feasibility of S106 funding with Councillor Peter Griffiths. To report back at the next meeting.

Asset Register

The Parish Council would like to add Lady Brook Spring to the asset register. **Clerk**

Costing was around £2,400. Uncertainty as to who owns the land/stream etc. A Land Registry search has not revealed anything.

District Reports from MSDC Councillors

The South Downs National Park's plan is expected to go before the planning inspectorate in 2017. There are no housing plans affecting Fulking, and no allocations of gypsy or traveller sites in West Sussex.

The SDNP is involved in the devolution debate.

The last date for MSDC plan comments is 15th January-there is one additional site at Pease Pottage and some extra housing required.

The MSDC leader presented the devolution plan to ministers today; there may be a second bid if Brighton & Hove join.

The WSCC budget for next year increases by 4%. This is 2% less in grants and 2% extra for social care. The MSDC increase is 1.99%

Report from WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths

The Clerk read out three items on behalf of The County Councillor

- There is a new member for Finance and the core grant panel has been delayed.
- The bank in Clappers Lane is an MSDC issue.
- Following the recent A23 fatal crash, the Director of Highways has said the road needs special tarmac to offset the surface water.

Financial matters

The following cheques have been processed since the last PC meeting

22/10/15	E on direct debit	012901574940A	37.81
12/12/15	Miles & son	100652	180.00
2/12/15	WSCC	100654	80.00
2/12/15	SSALC	100655	72.00
2/12/15	C Goodridge	100656	18.00
9/1/16	D I Blackhall	100660	741.28
18/12/15	Emergency cheque to Kate Watson	100658	0.00
9/1/16	HMRC	100659	180.38
	CANCELLED	100657	0.00

The **2016/17 precept** was approved-it will be submitted to MSDC and put on the village website – it is for £8369, an increase of 10.8%. Clerk

Village Hall

It was agreed to investigate the advantages of listing the chapel/village hall (partly to preserve the street scene). This is quite a long and complicated procedure – all Parish Councillors to look at before the next meeting where it can be discussed again. ALL

North Town Field Repairs

The slide has now been repaired. The precept has been increased by £500 for tree work. There was an offer of some free tree work [from Jamie Thompson] NTF trustees to separate 'one off' periodic repairs from routine annual maintenance of the trees, and provide accurate estimates of costs NTF trustees to communicate with the village social committee regarding provision of 'one off' funding as the body that was set up to be the NTF fundraiser Follow up the possibility of a Darren Rolfe community project once the Trustees have clarified exactly what needs doing and likely cost.

Three Counties Training Programme 2016

It was agreed the Clerk could attend the 2 Clerk's Away Days, and that Rodmell Parish Council is happy to share the costs.

Pensions Update

There are new statutory duties to be adhered to; the Clerk awaits further national guidance.

Procurement of Audit for smaller authorities

It was agreed to opt in to the new NALC procedure; there will be a small fee but it is much more cost effective than trying to go it alone locally.

Transparency funding application update.

The claim **for funding for a new computer** has been seen by SSALC and forwarded to NALC.

Other matters.

The Village Hall is unavailable on 5th May, and it was agreed to move the APM to 12th May.

A Churchwarden has an artefact and a handwritten note 'Reverend Tuffnell, Edburton' anyone who has any background information to contact the Chairmen or Clerk please.

Paul Hird is standing down as Preston Nomads Chairman on 20th January and sends his best wishes for the village.

Comments from the floor

Closure signs on the Downs to be taken up with WSCC. **Miles**

Cattle on the Downs-this issue seems to be drifting and will be taken up with the National Trust. **Clerk**

Dates of next meetings-in 2016

14th, July 14th, October 13th, APM Date **May 12th** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.08pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Minute 40 1/02/2016