



## FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

### **Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting Meeting held in the Fulking Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 At 7.30 pm**

**Present:-** Kate Watson (Chairman), Michael Trist (Vice Chairman), Pam Rowland, Linda Dyos, and Clerk to the Council Andrea Dickson.  
14 members of the public and Roy Little South Downs National Park Authority.

#### **Annual Meeting of Council**

- 1. Meeting opened at 7.30pm by Kate Watson who welcomed everybody.**
- 2. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman were received by Pam Rowland**  
Chairman Kate Watson was nominated and proposed by Linda Dyos and seconded by Michael Trist.  
Vice Chairman Michael Trist was nominated and proposed by Kate Watson and seconded by Linda Dyos.  
The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the Declaration of Office forms.

- 3. Meeting closed at 7.35pm**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

##### **Meeting opened at 7.35pm**

- 1. Apologies:-** Gulu Sibanda Principle Community Officer ,  
Highways, West Sussex County Council  
District & County Councillors.  
Jade Harrison Community Police.
- 2. Minutes of Annual meeting of Fulking Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012** having been previously circulated were **AGREED** and **SIGNED** .
- 3. Chairman's Report**

##### **Clerk**

The PC have had a much calmer year compared to the first year in council mainly due to our Clerk Andrea Dickson who has been keeping things in order.

##### **Planning**

In the past year Fulking Parish Council has received 11 applications one of which was subsequently withdrawn.

8 have been approved.

1 pending consideration

1 was refused, but has since gone to appeal.

The Market Garden site was called to committee by Mid Sussex and the application was approved for a period of three years.

## **Finances**

The annual precept has increased by 15% to £7303. This increase was decided as it will enable the council to maintain its reserves as there is a risk of capping in future years.

Thank you to Bob Rowland for helping out with the financial matters during Andrea's first few months.

Our internal audit of the annual accounts was completed and approved last night 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013. A big thank you to Nick Hughes for continuing to do this audit for us.

## **Highways**

The PC had six meetings in the past 10 months with WSCC Highways to discuss flooding problems. Fulking is now part of Operation Watershed WSCC scheme to deal with local flooding issues; the details of this scheme will become clear in the next few months.

We have recently heard that we have been granted funding for a community project, namely Ladybrook Spring. WSCC will provide funding and a volunteer workforce to create the feature the design of which was agreed at a public meeting last night 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013. When the details have been finalised the information will be circulated including a date and time so that any volunteers from the village can also help with the work.

## **Winter Management**

Again this year Fulking was well prepared with its winter management plan (full grit bins, arrangement with local farmer to snow plough etc). Unfortunately the last heavy snow fall caught everybody out, despite being well publicized even the gritting trucks were stuck in traffic. If anybody has any feedback or suggestions on the plan in general, please do not hesitate to contact Andrea and we will try and put them in place for the coming winter.

## **Village Hall**

As we reported at the last APM, in 2011 we were faced with the unexpected news that Parochial Church Council were considering selling the Village Hall due to lack of funds.

At a public meeting in December the Village Hall Action Group was formed. The action group has worked tirelessly over the past months improving the facility, raising funds for ongoing maintenance and upkeep and encouraging people to use the hall.

Recently a grant of £1,000 was awarded by the BT awards scheme. We also received a grant via MSDC and WSCC to replace all the windows. Thank you to all involved for all their effort.

## **Communication**

Over the past year, the PC has started using emails as a way of communicating details of PC meetings and community issues as well as posting the information on the noticeboard and website. Any feedback on this would be welcome.

### **Village Fair**

Sadly last year due to the dreadful weather, our summer fair had to be cancelled but hopefully it will be taking place this year at Downside Meadow on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 12noon -5pm. Please come along and support it if you can.

Wine call my bluff will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

The Social Committee work extremely hard to arrange social events to raise funds as well as organising clean ups in the village, so thank you to them.

### **Finally**

A few more thank yous

- to Andrea for her hard work and the other councillors who continue to devote their time for the village.
- to Aidan Walker for his continued involvement in the Pigeon Post.
- to John Hazard for running the excellent website for us.
- lastly thanks you to everyone for attending the meeting and being interested in our community. Let's try to work together over the next year to keep our lovely village as special as it is.

Michael Trist thanked Kate Watson for the great job she is doing as Chairman

## **4. No reports from County & District Councillors.**

## **5. Speaker**

Roy Little Planning Link Officer South Downs National Park Authority

- Gave a brief overview of the agency agreement with MSDC to provide the planning service on behalf of the SDNPA. SDNPA delegate the decision making to MSDC unless it feels that it is something that is significant to the national park (i.e. more than just local interest). The SDNPA have to accept that the decisions made by MSDC may not be what is expected, this is why the process is regularly reviewed. Generally the agency agreement works well.
- Recently Amberly PC invited the SDNPA to have a tour of the village. This was a walking tour looking at planning issues, schools, businesses and affordable housing. The SDNPA members found this very useful.
- A Q & A session was held about none specific planning issues.

### **What is the three day rule?**

SDNPA can issue special direction "red cards". This occurs when members vote against MSDC decision then the SDNPA has three days to revoke this. This is very rarely used now (only once in the last year compared with 6-7 times in the previous year.

### **What are the criteria used for the calling in of plans?**

It is not necessarily large, but it needs to be of major/significant impact.

**What happens if the PC/public think that a plan should be called in?**

There is no appeal process; the SDNPA will listen to what is said then discuss it, there is no guarantee that it would be called in.

**Who has the last word on whether something is significant or not?**

The Development Manager and the Director of Planning in the SDNPA. ( Roy’s line managers)

**Is the SDNPA involved in the Off Shore Wind Farm?**

David Cranmer is coordinating planning consultation responses.

**What is the position of the SDNPA on caravan and camping sites in the SDNP?**

Sites can be set up for up to 28 days per year for a max of 5 caravans and no planning permission is required. The Caravan & Camping Club has an exemption under the 1960’s Caravan Act. If enough objections are received by the Local Authority they may apply an “Article 4” to the land - reasons from past cases would need to be identified.

Natural England should ask the planning authority if they have any concerns about the location of proposed sites.

To clarify, the SDNPA can only enforce planning legislation.

Under the 1960 Caravan Act the landowner must satisfy the Caravan & Camping Club that it meets the requirements.

The PC suggested that individuals write to The Caravan & Camping Club expressing concerns regarding the site in Fulking mentioned before the 28 day deadline ( 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013). Please copy in the PC.

**Does the SDNPA have a Local Plan?**

It does not have one at present. It is currently creating one and should be completed by 2016.

**Are you involved in enforcement?**

Any enforcement should be dealt with under the delegated powers i.e. MSDC .

- 6. Dates of next Ordinary Parish Council meetings – July 11<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup> 2014

Meeting closed at 8.43pm

Everybody was invited to join the PC for refreshments.

Signed..... Date.....

Minute 15 2/5/2013

