

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council
held at the Village Hall, Fulking
on Thursday 13 May 2010 at 8.00 pm**

Present: Chairman: Mr Tony Brooks, Vice-Chairman: Mrs Pamela Rowland, Councillors: Mr Richard Corner, Mrs Jennifer Parmar and Clerk to the Council Mrs Paula Hazard.

Apologies for Absence: Mrs Jenny Vaughan

The Clerk announced that the previous Chairman, Mrs Jenny Vaughan was moving away from the area and therefore she had decided to recently resign her position as Parish Councillor and also as Chairman. Her resignation letter was read out.

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Mr Tony Brooks was nominated as Chairman by Mrs Pamela Rowland and seconded by Mr Richard Corner. The vote was unanimous and Mr Brooks was duly elected Chairman.

Mrs Pamela Rowland was nominated as Vice-Chairman by Mr Tony Brooks and seconded by Mrs Jennifer Parmar. The vote was unanimous and Mrs Rowland was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

Mrs Pamela Rowland was nominated as Chairman of the Planning Committee by Mr Tony Brooks and seconded by Mrs Jennifer Parmar. The vote was unanimous and Mrs Rowland was duly elected Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance form.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor – The Chairman announced that a vacancy for a Parish Councillor had arisen due to the resignation of Jenny Vaughan. This would be for one year as the council completed its four year term in 2011. Anyone who was interested was invited to contact any of the councillors to find out more about it. It was explained that the appointment would normally be through a process of co-option. A formal by-election would only be held if 10 or more people requested this through the Returning Officer within 14 days. The cost of a formal by-election would have to be paid out of the local precept.

County Council Update - County Councillor Peter Griffiths gave an update to the meeting on his work during the previous year and talked about progress on local issues.

Minutes -The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009, as previously circulated, were approved, accepted and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Planning – During the period May 2009 to April 2010 9 applications were received. Of these 7 were granted, 1 refused and 1 was under consideration.

Finance - The Parish precept for 2010/11 had been set at £5,983. The accounts for 2009/10 were currently being prepared. The PC thanked Nick Hughes for doing the internal audit last year. Pamela Rowland was being added as signatory as Jenny Vaughan was previously a signatory.

Highways and rights of way

Flooding – Various flooding problems in Clappers Lane had been reported which had now been rectified. The PC had suggested a more permanent solution to the continual flooding problem by the stream at the Shepherd & Dog but this had been turned down by WSCC Highways. The PC was still pressing for a better solution. The PC had reported the continual flooding problem on Poynings Road at Four Acres and WSCC Highways had carried out work there which had considerably improved the situation. A new drain had been fitted by The Dean to rectify the problem with black ice there.

Snow – The heavy snow had caused severe problems especially with Clappers Lane. The PC had put forward the suggestion to WSCC to restore the old system whereby the County Council had an agreement with local farmers to clear the snow from local lanes. This was still under discussion with WSCC. The PC was also looking into providing grit bins.

Non-slip surface at entrance to Clappers Lane – The PC's request for a non-slip surface at the entrance of Clappers Lane on to A281 was still being considered by WSCC. Peter Griffiths had been asked if he would look into this matter as a long time had passed since the PC's request.

Re-opening of bridleway 11F - The PC had tried to get bridleway 11F reopened. The matter had now been taken up as an enforcement issue with West Sussex Rights of Way.

North Town Field

Play Area - A project had been launched to provide new play equipment in the play area. Local children had suggested the type of equipment they were interested in. Although the cost of the equipment was high, fund raising had already been very successfully kicked off by Hollie Trist. The PC launched an appeal to local business and villagers. It also applied for a large grant from West Sussex, which had been successful. County Councillor Peter Griffiths presented a cheque for the grant at the meeting. Special thanks were given to Pamela Rowland who had driven and coordinated this project. It was planned that the new equipment would be installed by early summer.

Mowing – A new contractor was mowing and maintaining the North Town Field. The PC was very pleased with the results.

Play Surface – The PC had started to review different surfaces to replace the barkpit with a more permanent surface. As soon as they had found a suitable surface at a reasonable price they would then apply for a grant from Viridor.

Treework - A large amount of tree work had been carried out that had raised the branches so that the mowers could mow a larger amount of the field. The trees hanging over the street light had also been severely cut back to prevent the light coming on during the day.

Working parties from the PC, North Town Field Trust and residents had been organised during the year to control and maintain the overgrown brambles and weeds on the boundaries.

Preston Nomads – Preston Nomads had reached an agreement on buying the land and the garages. Parking spaces would be allowed for in the new plans.

National Park – An election had been held for parish members to represent the West Sussex area on the National Parks Authority. The PC had nominated Mark Lee and Rodney Jackson but by a very narrow margin they had not been elected.

Village website – The website had been working very well and thanks were given to James Lightfoot for running it.

Pigeon Post – Thanks were given to Aidan Walker for editing and Jo Hudek for the colour printing of hard copies and to Jim and Carolyn Sapstead and Bill and Joan Brightwell for funding the printing for this year.

Fly Tipping at Bostal – This was still being monitored.

Phone Box - BT had confirmed that they had no current plans to remove the phone box or disconnect its telephone service.

Village Plan - A discussion document had been published in Pigeon Post. Interest had been expressed in forming a Village Action Plan team and therefore a talk had been arranged at the APM about the Village Plan process.

Local Reports and Guest Speaker

Faustina Bayo from Action in Rural Sussex gave a talk about the Village Plan process and how to form a Village Action Plan team. She stressed the importance of it being a community led plan. She recommended that the core Village Action Plan team should have between six and eight members.

The Police Community Support Officer for Fulking, Eve Todhunter, gave a short talk about her role supporting Fulking and several other surrounding villages. She also invited local residents to get involved with the local Neighbourhood Panel run by Sussex Police.

The meeting was opened up to the floor and a reminder was given that if issues were raised at the APM then they could not be discussed until the following APM. Therefore the best forum to deal with issues was at the ordinary Parish Council meetings. The issue of enforcement action at Lower Kents was raised and the PC agreed to chase up Development Control again.

Date of the next meeting to be arranged. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm and refreshments were served afterwards.

Signed: M. Tarr

Date: 2/6/11