

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 9th January 2014 at the Village Hall

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

MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble (7.35pm) and WSCC Peter Griffiths (7.40pm), and 10 members of the public.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

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

2. Apologies. None

3. Declaration of Interest: None

As MSD and WSC Councillors had not arrived, the meeting proceeded as follows:-

5. The minutes of the previous meeting held 10th October 2013 having been previously circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising.

<p>Planning</p>	<p><u>Old Pump House</u></p> <p>Since the last PC meeting a number of things have happened The PC has been advised by MSDC that Ms Holdingbarn's friend was to remove the mobile as a favour. He had a contract in Cornwall but expected to be able to remove the mobile home by 15th November. Nothing happened after 15th November and the PC was advised that the ground was waterlogged and the home could not be moved at that time. The PC was then advised that the services would start to be disconnected from 4th December and the mobile home moved shortly after that.</p> <p>MSDC informed the clerk on the 6th January that the mobile home was half way to the gate when they realised that the gate would need to be removed to take the mobile home out. The clerk advised MSDC that the mobile home had been reconnected and that MS Holdingbarn was still living there.</p> <p>Councillor Pam Rowland informed the meeting that MSDC and SDNPA will be holding a meeting at the site and that Ms Holdingbarn is to be given one more chance to remove the mobile home.</p> <p><u>Planning General</u></p> <p>The District Plan has been delayed and "Mid Sussex District Councillors are frustrated that the District Plan Inspector said that he is not satisfied that the Council has met the "Duty to Cooperate". This means the Council cannot proceed to the next stage until it has carried out more work with neighbouring councils." The result of this will be to withdraw and resubmit the plan, which is estimated will take between 6 – 9 months.</p> <p>Kate Watson & Pam Rowland attended a training session on the planning portal and how to get the best use of it at MSDC in November. As Fulking has operated a paperless system for over 12 months, some of the training was found to be irrelevant. As a result of the training a list of questions has been presented to Roy Little at SDNP for clarification/answers. (Clerk to chase)</p> <p>If possible breaches of planning are brought to the attention of the PC or if members of the PC notice any possible breaches, we are obliged to follow these up and they will be reported.</p>
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<p>Ladybrook Spring Update</p>	<p>A new design that meets Highways standards has been submitted and approved. Darren Rolfe, the Senior Community Solutions Officer, met with some volunteers in late November, who agreed to undertake the work to remove the existing bags and build the new walls. However, as the bottom three rows of sand bags were underwater at the time of the meeting, and with the average temperature falling now to near the minimum temperature for brick laying they asked if the brick laying could (or perhaps should) be postponed until the Spring when the water will be a little easier to control, and the temperature will be more likely to ensure that the brickwork is at its best. In the meantime it will give time to install the safety fencing around the site. It is proposed that some task days are agreed to install the concrete and steel fencing. Darren Rolfe is arranging collection of a flint block to help calculate the materials required. The new design is currently being costed out. This has been chased but no further news as yet. (Clerk)</p> <p>The taxed/licensed vehicle in front of Ladybrook Spring has been reported under Operation Crackdown abandoned vehicles.</p>
<p>Operation Watershed/ Highways</p>	<p>A grant of £13800 was received and banked by Fulking PC in November 2013. The PC has instructed Edburton Contractors to carry out the work at the North End and by The Sands on Clappers Lane.</p> <p>Simon Reed from Edburtons met with WSCC on the 18th December and they decided that a full closure of Clappers lane was not necessary for ditch clearance. Therefore the work has been programmed in to start week commencing 27th January 2014. This will be posted on the website. (Clerk)</p> <p>Four Acres Corner has been raised again as a safety issue, the work has a reference number (609019) and Councillor Peter Griffiths is looking into the matter. Once this is sorted, Rights of Way have said they will look at improving the condition of the back way.</p>
<p>Footpath 4f</p>	<p>The papers are almost ready to go to the Planning Inspectorate. The PC asked what the general feeling about the diversion was. It is felt that opinion is so split that the PC cannot give a representative view. The community would like to see the footpath put back to the original route before it goes to the Planning Inspectorate. (Clerk)</p>
<p>Winter Management</p>	<p>Most of the grit bins have been filled and the spare grit has been delivered to Perching Manor Farm – let's hope that we do not have to use it.</p> <p>The winter management plan is available on the website and the notice board. If you have any problems please let the clerk know.</p>
<p>Precept</p>	<p>A precept of £7303, the same as 2013-2014, has been applied for. This was agreed at October's meeting. This will appear slightly higher on individual's council tax bills than 2013-2014, as a grant of £60 was received last year to counteract changes in council tax benefits. (Last year the precept was made up of £7243 plus grant £60).</p>

4. Kate handed over to MSD Councilor Colin Trumble and WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths to give reports (See Appendix 1)

7. Standing orders

It is proposed that the standing orders be changed as follows:-

Section 2b

"In the year which is not an election year, the Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held on the 1st Thursday in May. The Annual Meeting of the Council will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting."

Section 2 d

"In addition to the Annual Meeting of the Council, at least four other Ordinary Parish Meetings shall be held in each year on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October at 7.30pm."

Proposed Kate Watson seconded Michael Trist and passed unanimously.

Clerk to amend standing orders accordingly

8. North Town Field

The fencing in NTF is complete and paid for in full. The Social Committee generously paid £600, The PC paid £250 and loaned the NTF Trustees £170. The loan has now been repaid thanks to the generosity of everybody who supported the tombola at the Christmas party.

After a short discussion about the amount of money the clerk can spend in an emergency under financial regs it was **AGREED** to leave it at £200. NTF fencing was a one off exception.

SDNP will be supplying baby saplings for planting along the fence area which should arrive from Monday 13th January. Barry Leppard is liaising with John Hazard re planting.

Came and Company, the PC insurers, have reiterated the importance of the weekly playground inspection stating that it must be in writing, with the date, time and name of the person carrying out the inspection.

The grass cutting quotes for NTF will be discussed at the next PC meeting. (Clerk)

9. Rights of Way

In October 1 new rights of way marker was put in place and 5 way markers were repaired. No further details were given. The next inspection is due to be carried out in July 2014.

Clearing [trees and side vegetation](#) is the responsibility of the landowner

10. Defib Machines

The PC has decided against insuring them as Tricia advised that HART would replace them if stolen or damaged. The cost of insuring them would be in the region of an additional £25 each.

Defib refresher training will be held on Saturday 25th January at 9.30am in the Village Hall

11. Aerials

The PC was asked to investigate a possible breach of planning with regards to an aerial. After much correspondence, the PC/MSDC are still unsure as to whether or not a breach of planning has taken place. If you are planning on replacing your aerial for a larger one, please check with MSDC first.

12. Financial matters

The following cheques have been paid out since the last PC meeting.
100607 Streetlights £87.30
100608 K Watson (Travel) £11.70
100609 Mark Stepney (grass cutting) £240
100610 Mark Stepney (fencing including loan to NTFT £170) £420. NB the loan has been repaid in full.
100611 A Dickson £851.50
Cheque stubs were cross checked with the cheque list and both signed.
The quarterly bank reconciliation was checked and signed.
Income & Expenditure to date was checked.

13. Speakers for APM

The PC asked for suggestions for speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting - please contact the clerk if you have any suggestions.
Woodland Trust and RAF low flying helicopters were mentioned (Clerk)

14. Comments from the floor

The PC thanked The Social Committee for its fund raising efforts and The Village Hall Group for its continued work to improve the hall.
Hassocks lift shaft will be completed by the end of February.
Operation Watershed does not include the tarmac'd drain in Clappers Lane it is concerned with ditch clearance.
Rather than send the PP out as an attachment to the round robin, a link to the website would be more useful as the website already includes a link to the current PP – this would encourage people to look at the website as it is full of useful and interesting information. (Clerk)
Fulking Annual fair will be held on Sunday 27th July 2014 - all offers of help gratefully received.

15. Dates of next meetings

10th April, 10th July , 9th October 2014 and 8th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
Annual meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting 1st May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.50pm
Minute 21 15/1/2014

Signed.....

Date.....