



## FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

### **Draft minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting Meeting held in the Fulking Village Hall on 1st May 2014 At 7.30 pm**

**Present:-** Councillor Kate Watson (Chairman), Councillor Michael Trist (Vice Chairman), Councillors Pam Rowland and Linda Dyos and Clerk to the Council Andrea Dickson. 17 members of the Public, WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths, MSD Councillor Colin Trumble and Guest Speaker Sylvia Goddard of the Woodland Trust.

#### **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 accepted office and agreed to sign the declaration forms at a later date.

- 3. Meeting Closed at 7.35pm**

**It was agreed to change the agenda to allow prospective North Town Field Trustees to speak. The vote to be carried out after the close of the APM.**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

##### **Meeting opened at 7.40pm**

- 1. Apologies:-** Vice Chairman Michael Trist
- 2. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013** having been previously circulated were **AGREED** and **SIGNED**.
- 3. Chairman's report**

Fulking Parish Council will be 114 years old next week – this fact has been provided from East Sussex County Records register by Paul Wayne. We're not looking too rough for our age...

Relatively calm year again, in November, Andrea passed and was awarded her certificate for Working with your Council, part of the Local Councils training programme.

**Planning** over the past year we have received ten applications, including one retrospective application and three for tree work – eight have been approved by Mid Sussex and two are pending. There is currently one application which needs retrospective planning

**Finances** the precept for 2014 – 2015 has remained at £7,303. The internal audit of the annual accounts has just been completed and was approved by the Parish Council last night – a big thank you to Nick Hughes for continuing to do this audit for us without charge.

**Highways** – problems with drainage / numerous blocked gullies in various areas of the village are on-going, despite best efforts to get them sorted. A number of meetings

have taken place with highways over the past year and the PC is still pushing hard for these issues to be resolved.

Fulking has been awarded two grants as part of Operation Watershed, led by West Sussex. The first of almost £14,000 is to address the flooding problems in Clappers Lane, just north of Knole House. Work has begun here but the PC has requested a detailed breakdown of the remaining work. This has just been received and will be checked carefully to ensure it meets the requirements before work recommences. The second grant of £2,275 awarded to Fulking is to make a feature of Ladybrook Spring. The final design has been agreed and work is due to start at the end of this month. West Sussex Council is providing the workforce and the Parish Council will be having a meeting with the project lead next week to finalise details. The team will be looking for local volunteers and information about dates/times will be circulated nearer the time.

### **Visitors**

In October, MP, Nick Herbert, attended our meeting. He gave a brief talk which included planning, neighbourhood plans, housing, hospitals and fracking. This was followed by a Q & A session. Nick also said that if there are any problems which need to be looked into, he is happy to be contacted directly, although he stressed that he cannot deal with individual planning issues.

### **Winter Management**

Again, this year, we were well prepared with our winter management plan (full grit bins/arrangement with local farmer to snow plough etc). The winter management plan will be reviewed in the next couple of months any suggestions to improve it please contact the Clerk.

### **Gatwick Airport**

In December 2013, the Airports Commission included Gatwick in its shortlist of potential locations for the next runway in the UK. Gatwick Airport is currently holding a public consultation on the options for the second runway and as a result of this, the Parish Council held a public meeting last night to gather general opinion about this. The unanimous feeling was against having a second runway at Gatwick - a few of the reasons were: additional aircraft movements over the area, it would widen the divide between north and south, ie it would be better to bring economic growth to the north of London, the impact it would have on the local countryside and the implications it could have on planning - ie additional workforce would need extra housing - ie it would give more credence to developments such as Mayfield market town. The consultation period is open until 16<sup>th</sup> May- should anybody wish to comment as an individual, more information can be found on the Gatwick Airport website.

### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall Action Group continues its hard work to improve and maintain the hall. This has included work on the garden with new wooden fencing and a flower border. (Helen from Arcadia instigated this and volunteered to do the work - amongst others). When Helen shared her ideas with Rushfields Plant Centre, they very kindly donated the bench - the official opening of this will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, which is also Seedling Sunday.

### **Village Fair**

The annual Fulking Fair continues to be a great success and this year it will be taking place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July, at Downside Meadow - noon till 5pm - please come along and support it if you can. The social committee is also organising a 'Wine Call my Bluff' on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July - full details to be published shortly. The committee works extremely hard to arrange social events to raise funds as well as organising clean ups in the village, so thank you to them.

## **Community**

Again, on a community note, the light outside North Town Field has been restored by Nick Hughes and Paul Wayne and is looking great. Safety fencing has been put in place in North Town Field, funded mainly by the Social Committee with a contribution from the Parish Council and also the North Town Field Trustees with money raised from the tombola at the Christmas Fair. Saplings, donated by South Downs National Park, have been planted along this fence to provide screening and this planting was done by Barry Leppard. Thanks to all of those involved in improving these features.

## **Finally**

A few more thank yous – to Andrea for her hard work and the other councillors who continue to devote their time working on behalf of the community. Also thanks to our councillors, Peter Griffiths and Colin Trumble for their support and interest in our village, Aidan Walker for his continued involvement in Pigeon Post and also to John Hazard and Gerald Gazdar 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.

The Councillors then in turn thanked the Chairman for being such a great Chairman.

### **4. Report by WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths**

Conways are behind by approx 1500 jobs pressure is being put on the company.

The cheque for the Ladybrook Spring project has been delivered to the PC.

A briefing note about better connected will be put on the website.

Thanked the PC and public for the opportunity to attend the meetings.

### **Report by MSD Councillor Colin Trumble**

MSDC about a year behind on its District plan.

Cuckfield neighborhood plan has been noted as expemplary.

Sayers Common community shop is run by volunteers and owned by the village.

MSDC is undecided on Gatwick Airport second runway.

Congratulated the PC on being 114 years old.

Councillors Peter Griffiths and Colin Trumble left the meeting at 8.05pm

- 5.** Sylvia Goddard of the Woodland Trust gave a short talk. For further information please visit the website.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

- 6. Dates of next meetings 10<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> October.**

- 7. Meeting closed at 8.40pm**

**Kate handed over to Trish and John Hazard who handed out the voting slips then announced the results of the North Town Field Vote.**

**Nick Hughes and Paul Coleman were elected as new trustees.**

Everybody was invited to join the PC for refreshments.

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

DRAFT