

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

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

8 members of the public. Speaker Matt Roberts

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. Chairman welcomed everybody .

2. Apologies. MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble

3. Declaration of Interest: None

4. The minutes of the previous meeting held 10th July 2014 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

5. Guest Speaker Matt Roberts from Bluebird Community Partnership

Bluebird will be happy to extend the community bus service on a Monday and Thursday to Fulking and will also see whether it is possible to take in Clappers Lane as part of the route. They will produce some posters to display around the village and also some smaller flyers which could be put through the doors. The fares will initially be £3 return but this may increase a little in the new year and residents of Fulking will need to register. The normal £10 membership fee will be waived for the first year. Bluebird will also provide information about the Henfield weekly trip to Holmbush and see if there is a day that the Henfield Bus can provide a service to Fulking/Edburton/Poynings.
If you need any further information please email Matt@bluebirdcommunitypartnership.co.uk

7. Matters Arising. Have been moved forward on the agenda as Councillor Peter Griffiths has not arrived .

Planning	<p>Old Pump House</p> <p>On the 14th August MSDC entered OPH site with two enforcement notices to remove the mobile homes. The large mobile home was removed from site but the touring caravan could not be removed due to the presence of minors. The PC had a meeting with MSDC on the 27th August to discuss the slow progress of the case. Unfortunately as with all matters involving legal processes, this is exactly the case here, although Steven King said that it is only the second time in 16 years that he has seen anything like it. The touring caravan has now been removed from site - a further enforcement order is required to remove the tents and benders. Today (9th October) Mid Sussex confirmed that they are almost ready to issue the new enforcement notice which will cover the use of the site as a campsite and also for any residential occupation. Once it comes into effect there will be a two week compliance period when the occupants will need to clear the site of any tents and structures used for residential occupation. For info, in the end, MSDC did not need to take this to committee on 18th Sept as being within SDNPA, it didn't need the approval of members. In addition to the above, due to a party being held on site, a pre-emptive noise abatement notice by Mid Sussex Environmental Protection Colleagues. The notice was breached and therefore the landowner is liable to prosecution. Evidence is being gathered, but realistically a court date is unlikely to be until the new year. Mid Sussex is still pursuing putting a charge on the land to recover costs resulting from the direct action taken. Andy Clarke has said he will inform the PC when the notice has been served.</p>
Lady Brook Spring	<p>Work started on Lady Brook Spring in August and was completed in September. A total of 20 people gave their time to the project, some on numerous occasions. This equated to 277 community hours with an age range of volunteers from six to over 80. A big thank you to everyone who gave their time to help. The wording was finally agreed as</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Lady Brook Spring recorded in 1842 and restored in 2014 by the WSCC Volunteer Development Team and Villagers from Fulking</p> <p>Research has shown the name to be Lady Brook Spring and it shall forever now be known as that. It was agreed to leave the spring as it is currently to minimise any future maintenance. WSCC and Gulu Sibanda would like to hold some kind of opening ceremony when the spring is completed. Watch this space. Clerk to get a cost for the proposed plaque</p>
<p>Highways/ Operation Watershed</p>	<p>Clappers Lane Edburtons completed the snagging on the work in Clappers Lane on the 22nd August and have been paid for this work from the Operation Watershed grant – around £12,000. The seepage from The Sands has been reported again. Nick Bennett’s (environmental health) response was that he has contacted the owners who advise that it appears that their soakaway was dislodged during the repair to the septic tank. The liquid is therefore not thought to be sewage and the owners have agreed to resolve it as soon as possible. A request for the area around the Sands to be resurfaced has been made and it is on WSCC list although no date for the work has been set.</p> <p>Four Acres Corner Work was carried out at Four Acres Corner in August to create a soak away. This was constructed – the bottom of this hole turned out to be a mixture of clay and soft sandstone, therefore some holes were punctured in the bottom in order to aid drainage. It was then lined and filled with stones. Highways have said they will continue to monitor and will carry out further works if necessary. The problem still remains of water running down the bridleway- this will be followed up.</p> <p>Gullies/drains Conway’s cleared the remaining gullies on July 18th - since then there has been no further news. Yesterday, 8th October, was a good test of how things were holding up and things are looking good so far. The PC is working extremely hard to resolve gully/ flooding issues, but it is up to the community as a whole to be proactive, so if anyone does see any problems on any of the above or in general, please report them to WSCC – please also advise the PC (including reference number) so that we can chase up. highways@westsussex.gov.uk or 01243 642105</p>
<p>Footpath 4f</p>	<p>In August, the PC queried that a WSCC sign had been moved to a position that would be correct if the proposed new footpath were to be adopted. The PC was thanked for informing WSCC of this and was advised that it would be looked into. On 24th September, the Secretary of State Inspector did refuse to confirm the diversion. Basically it was felt that the loss of amenity for walkers outweighs the increase in security for the landowners. WSCC have confirmed that they will be writing to the landowner shortly and that the correct definitive line for footpath 4f will need to be reinstated. Clerk to chase. The full report is available on request from the clerk.</p>
<p>Fire brigade response</p>	<p>In response to a question raised at the last meeting regarding access to ‘difficult to reach’ areas, we had a response from the Fire Service reassuring us that most buildings or structures are generally accessible by road or track so they should be</p>

	<p>able to get a fire engine to the scene. However they also have a number of 4x4 vehicles which are designed for off-road capability. These carry a small water tank and have a crew cab that can carry 5 firefighters. There is also space in the rear compartment to transport additional equipment if needed if a standard fire engine is unable to get there.</p> <p>They are currently reviewing the capability of these 4x4s and looking to improve their operational use and capability still further and they assured the PC that the needs of a rural community are very much in their thinking when planning future fire service provision.</p> <p>It's probably the last thing on your mind when calling the fire brigade in an emergency, but if possible, it would be helpful to mention if you feel a standard fire engine would find it difficult to access your property.</p>
Noise Nuisance	<p>Noise nuisance was discussed at the last meeting and we have been informed of a few more instances recently.</p> <p>With bonfire night coming up, please be sure to advise your neighbours if you are planning any fireworks especially if they have any pets and livestock so that arrangements can be made to ensure the animals are in a safe environment to save them unnecessary distress.</p> <p>A few recent comments have been made about noise from the Shepherd and Dog - they do hold a licence for live and recorded music (inside only) and they can apply for a temporary event notice which covers any outdoor event – maximum of 12 per year under their current licence.</p> <p>The Shepherd and Dog is one of the last facilities we have in Fulking and it would be a shame to lose it. The joint owner, David and his partner, Emily, have stated publicly (in P Post) that their 'main thing' is a good relationship with the village. In the first instance, we would advise speaking to David directly to see if some sort of an agreement can be reached before going down any official channels. As mentioned earlier the noise from the party held at Old Pump House is being dealt with by environmental health. Although noise nuisance is not a PC matter as such, we would appreciate being kept informed for our records.</p> <p>Under comments from the floor it was raised that if you complain only to the people responsible for the noise then it will not be on record. If you wish the complaint to go on record you would need to contact MSDC environmental health.</p>

6. Reports from District Councillor Peter Griffiths

Mayfields Traffic Management Plan survey and the second runway at Gatwick Airport were discussed. (See appendix 1) See appendix 2 for an update on the faster broadband project.

8. Winter Management changes to plan.

WSSC has published a large risk assessment regarding grit spreading. This will be sent to the grit bin volunteers and published on the website. Key bullet points will also be published.

Grit bins will be topped up or contents replaced as required at the start of the winter by WSSC - any further top ups will need to be managed from the spare grit stored at Perching Manor Farm.

Covers for the bulk bags stored at the farm will be supplied by WSSC.

David Ellin has agreed to clear the roads again this year if necessary, when WSSC give the go ahead.

A new notice needs to be placed in the grit bins and a volunteer agreed to laminate them for the PC , thank you.

You can update yourself on the condition of the roads before you travel by following WSSC gritter twitter <https://twitter.com/WSHighways>

Fulking's plan is posted on the website and as usual, if anyone has any comments or suggestions, please let the clerk know.

WSSC carried out a winter weather rehearsal a few weeks ago called Operation Snowflake.

9. Financial Matters

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. Budget v actual checked. The following cheques have been processed since the last PC meeting 100622 SLCC £116.00, 100623 Playsafety Ltd £96.00, 100624 Southdown Flints Ltd £1260.00, 100625 PKJ Littlejohn Ltd (external auditor) £120.00, 100626 Edburton Contractors Ltd £12031.66, 10627 Mark Stepney (grass cutting) £480.00, 100628 A Dickson £910.91
A claim for the VAT repayment of £2244.67 has been made.
The PC budget for the next financial year was discussed, and **APPROVED. This will be an overall increase in the precept of £252.**

10. Approval of Financial Regulations

In April this year, NALC (National Association of Local Councils) published a new model for Financial Regulations and we have made a few changes in line with this new model.

In summary:

A non signatory of the PC account will sign the bank statements when signing the bank reconciliation at the PC meetings.

The internal auditor must put something in writing to the PC as well as signing off the accounts for audit

Any variations to the accounts of more than 15% will include a brief explanation .

Any new signatories to the accounts will need to be credit referenced. Quite important as changes will probably happen next year due elections – more later.

Any payments made at the PC meetings need to be resolved not approved (wording!).

Direct debits for utilities will now be shown alongside cheque payments.

The amount that can be spent in emergencies etc is £250 - this can be spent with the agreement of the chair and clerk or clerk.

Other changes involve what Fulking has been doing anyway, ie payments between meetings must be reported at the next meeting.

A number of sections not applicable to Fulking have been removed.

The Financial Regulations were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED** and a copy of the new financial regulations will be placed on the website. (Clerk)

11. Red Telephone Kiosk update

There was recently some concern over the red telephone box outside Broadreeds in that it appeared that it was for sale, but was only available for purchase by the Parish Council.

This was also raised in October of 2009. Nothing has changed since the previous clerk investigated whether or not the kiosk should be purchased by the PC. For further information please see the minutes of January and April 2010 when it was agreed that nothing would be gained by the PC purchasing the kiosk. It was agreed to do nothing with regards the purchase. **The kiosk is a card only telephone and a discussion was held about whether the PC should hold a phone card for emergencies.**

12. Pigeon Post & replacement

Aidan has done a great job on the PP over the last few years. Please can the PC write to him thanking him for all of his hard work.

The PP is still going to fly in a different format, thanks to John Hazard and his team, who are also very involved in the fantastic Fulking website.

The PC has agreed to send out general round robin emails on a temporary basis. The PC would encourage everyone to visit the website for lots of interesting articles and up to date news etc.

13. NTF playground

Work is being carried out on NTF on Saturday 18th October by NTF trustees and it is hoped that by advertising this, other people will get involved and will be able to help in carrying out the work identified in the annual playground inspection.

This includes the cleaning of the benches and clearing of the moss under the swings. Also the climbing frame needs cleaning and some over-hanging branches need to be removed. (Clerk to email NTF trustees)

14. Comments from the floor

It was mentioned that there was confusion over whether or not residents should comment on the Lower Kents planning application. Steven King is querying whether the building was actually used as an office. Village Christmas Party is to be held on Friday 19th December 2014
Nick Hughes to lead on preparing a business case for the Village Hall roof.

15. Dates of next meetings

The dates of the next meetings are 8th January 2015, 9th April 2015, Elections 7th May 2015 and the proposed date for the Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting 14th May 2015. Next year is election year, so please do start thinking about putting your name forward if you would like to help to look after the best interests of our village. As it is an election year, the annual meeting which normally takes place on the first Thursday in May will be held on or within 14 days following the day on which the new councillors elected take office.

**See Appendix 1 Report from WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths
Meeting closed at 9.07**

**Signed.....
Minute 32**

Date.....

