

**Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the Village Hall, Fulking**

**Present:** Chairman Ms K. Watson, Councillors Ms L. Dyos and Mrs P. Rowland, MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble, and Clerk to the Council Derek Blackhall, and 9 members of the public.

**Chairman welcomed everybody and introduced the new Clerk.**

**Apologies** Vice Chairman Mr M Trist, WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

The minutes of the previous meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

The meeting proceeded as follows:-

**Matters Arising.**

<p><b>Planning</b></p>	<p><b><u>Old Pump House</u></b></p> <p>More people have moved on site again – MSDC officers have been made aware of this.          Officer from environmental health has said that as Mrs. Holdingbarn has admitted responsibility for the noise caused by the party last summer, she will not be taken to court. Should any noise start up again in the future they will take her to court.          Andy Clarke, planning officer, planning investigation and enforcement, has said that MSDC is looking for a long term solution to the site and officers from MSDC and SDNP met in February to consider the options - a plan is currently being drawn up.</p> <p><b><u>Conifers</u></b></p> <p>This was the application for change of use to the land to the East of Market Garden- to private gypsy and traveller caravan site consisting of 2 pitches          This went to committee on 26<sup>th</sup> February and the application was refused for the following reasons:          The proposal would be obtrusive, damaging and harmful to the visual quality of the designated National Park, in conflict with Policy H14 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan, paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the aims of the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan and Circular 2010 in respect of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape. The site is also not well located in relation to local services and facilities. In weighing up the issues, when taken together, including the Local Planning Authority's inability to demonstrate a 5 year supply of deliverable sites, it is considered that the adverse impacts of the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposals.</p> <p>MSDC officers are aware that the applicant has moved on to site and has put down some hard standing – a letter has been written to the applicant advising that this is unauthorised.          A report is currently being prepared for the planning committee to get authorisation for enforcement action to remedy the breach of planning. The applicants agent has been asked to inform MSDC of any particular circumstances they wish to be included in this report (i.e. children attending local schools etc). Once the report is submitted and formal authority has been given by SDNPA to undertake enforcement action, an enforcement notice will be served.</p> <p><b><u>The Dales</u></b></p> <p>Another revised application has been submitted and a planning meeting held last night.</p>
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<p><b>Lady Brook Spring Update</b></p>	<p>Work is finally almost complete. On 26<sup>th</sup> January Darren Rolfe (WSCC) led a team of volunteers (including some people from the community) and cleared the area ready for landscaping and planting.</p> <p>A community meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, led by Michael, to discuss ideas for planting.</p> <p>It was agreed to keep to a simple scheme of native hedging with some wild flowers and bulbs - minimum maintenance was one aim. A request was made to the social committee for funding and a budget of £150 was agreed. Big thanks to the Social Committee for this. Native hedging plants have been bought and Tony Brooks, Bob Rowland, Michael Trist, Nick Hughes and Barry Leppard have planted them out. Michael is in the process of finishing off. In the autumn, spring bulbs will be planted. This has been a real community project, so a huge thank you to everyone who has taken part, especially those who have been involved every step along the way.</p>
<p><b>Highways</b></p>	<p><b>Clappers Lane</b></p> <p>As there appeared to have been absolutely no progress on this following the meeting at the end of last year, another meeting was held with Richard Speller on 11<sup>th</sup> March, where the outstanding works were revisited, (details as itemised in the minutes of the meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>).</p> <p>The Parish Council has been invited to bid again for Operation Watershed funding to resolve the area around The Sands but as some information is still pending, the grant will need to be applied for from the new year's budget.</p> <p><b>Four Acres Corner</b></p> <p>Major works have taken place here. A large soakaway has been created – depth four metres. Unfortunately, the ground here is clay, so the soakaway will probably not be as efficient as hoped. The suggestion was made to run a pipe down the bridleway but the overall head of the operation dismissed the idea. The pipe under the road here has had the end stopper removed, so any excess water will run through this and be discharged down the bridleway, so the soakaway will appear to be working. However, it doesn't help the deteriorating condition of the bridleway. General situation to be monitored.</p> <p><b>Gullies/Drains</b></p> <p>As usual, any problems should be reported to <a href="http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports">http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports</a> or <b>01243 642105</b>. Please pass info to the PC for its records.</p>
<p><b>Footpath 4f</b></p>	<p>After refusal of the diversion by the inspectorate, WSCC Rights of Way dept has written to the landowner in early November, December, January and April requesting that the correct route close to the western side of the house be reinstated.</p> <p>As soon as it is done, the rights of way officer will inspect the reinstated path and will arrange for the way-marking to be adjusted so that the correct route is made clear.</p> <p>WSCC was advised last week that the shrub has now been removed and a new gate installed to replace the stile. However, a block of wood has been placed behind the gate to prevent it being opened.</p>

<b>Winter Management</b>	The parish was well prepared again for winter with full grit bins and a new grit bin in place just north of Knowle House, but as the winter was pretty mild, the measures in place were not needed.
<b>New Clerk</b>	As mentioned at the start of the meeting, the Parish Council is very happy to welcome Derek Blackhall on board as new Clerk to the council. He will continue to use Andrea's old email address for continuity.

**Timetable for elections**

The current Parish Council is at the end of its term and the nomination period for new councillors closed today. A round robin was sent to the community encouraging people to stand and this was put on to the website and on the notice board. The information is not yet available as to how many people are standing, but if an election is needed, details will be circulated.

**Revised Code of Conduct**

As two councillors had not read the revised code of conduct, it was agreed to carry forward this agenda item to the July agenda.

**t Plan consultatior**

At a meeting last month, Mid Sussex Councillors approved the revised draft Plan for public consultation in May ahead of submission to Government in July. There is a pre submission draft on MSDC website - it has the same philosophy as 2013 version – basically sustainable growth that supports the economy and jobs, provides sufficient housing and protects the environment of Mid Sussex

**Report from MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble**

The District Plan has been approved by Council, and under a duty to co-operate it must go back to Planning Inspectorate.  
 Several Neighbourhood plans are now approved-but require the District Plan to be in place for full verification-this will take another year to complete the process.  
 There are 10,600 to 11,050 houses in the MSD Plan-the Planning Inspectorate apply a 10% uplift; and new build is largely in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath as areas such as SDNP and forests are protected.  
 Mayfield is probably not required post District and Parish plans; but a second runway at Gatwick creating 40,000 jobs would alter everything. Neither MSDC nor WSCC support another runway-but there is some talk of an oilfield.  
 Cranfield-notice of one week required to go-this has not appeared. An enforcement notice is in progress, requiring 28 day compliance, but they appear to have appealed and this stops enforcement action. There also appear to be European Court of Human Rights issues.  
 In respect of the Pumphouse, the owner was fined and there are other MSDC/SDNP actions in hand which cannot be discussed at this time

**Parish Clerk CILCA training**

This is the Certificate in Local Council Administration. SALC is running the next course in June, at a cost of £320. In addition to this the CILCA registration fee of £250 will be payable after attending the course. There may be a possibility of another Parish council contributing to this. Clerk to pursue this. This expenditure is authorised.

**Dark Skies project**

A request has been received from SDNPA to support the project to get International Dark Sky Reserve status for parts of the national park.

As the national park contains some of the darkest places in the south east, SDNPA wishes to protect these. SDNPA would like the council to acknowledge the issues and impact of lighting and consider simple measures to reduce the impact.

There is more information on SDNP website – search dark skies – and there is a link there if anyone wishes to take the dark skies pledge.

It was agreed to support the project and to ask for this to be given greater prominence in the village action plan – next meeting of the village action plan group due summer 2015.

## Speakers for APM

RAF Helicopters were again approached to come and talk at the APM, but unfortunately they said it was too far to travel. However, Dan Oakley from South Downs National Park Authority will be coming to talk about the Dark Skies project. Clerk to confirm with him that he needs to bring his own equipment.

## Comments from the floor

Before comments from the floor, a couple of things:

Regarding the Shepherd and Dog licensing application –those people who wrote in to licensing should have received an email (followed by an information pack) advising that this application will be heard in front of a licensing subcommittee. This will be held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1000 in the Council Chamber at MSDC Council Offices, Haywards Heath.

Secondly, a reminder to be aware of the countryside code, especially keeping dogs under close control at all times. It is a legal requirement to keep dogs on a short lead between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July on open access land to protect ground nesting birds and all year round on open access land if farm animals are present. The regular Farmwatch bulletins contain instances of dogs worrying sheep, which at this time of year is critical due to lambing. Sadly, the last bulletin received reported a farmer having to shoot a dog which was amongst his sheep – something farmers are entitled to do. So, please do be aware of this and pass this information on.

Next, on a lighter note, the summer fair will be on 26th July – volunteers always needed and please do come along to support. It was agreed to provide refreshments up to the value of £50.

And finally, the Chairman announced *'this is the last ordinary meeting with the current council. Looking back over the matters arising, it appears that four years down the line, some issues just don't want to go away. I can promise you that we have tried our utmost to resolve these – it really isn't for want of trying that they're still here! I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank the other councillors for all their hard work over this period, giving their time and effort to try and improve things for our community, whilst trying to protect its unique character'*.

A member of the public thanked the Chair and Councillors for all of their efforts.

Four Acres-will fill up in due course and will need to be emptied every 3 months. R Speller to be chased.

Fulking is known to be a hard working Council.

Drones are now appearing over the village and should not be-especially if cameras fitted-agreed to highlight via the website/pigeon post.

Also issues with motor biking on bridal paths and the Downs -agreed to highlight via the website/pigeon post.

## Dates of next meetings

Elections 7<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Annual meeting of the Council and Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Meeting closed at 8.38pm**

**Signed.....**  
**Minute 36 9/7/2015**

**Date.....**