

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 9th July 2015 at the Village Hall, Fulking

Present: Chairman Ms K. Watson, Vice Chairman Mr M Trist, Councillors Ms L. Dyos, Mr Mark Hind, and Mr Miles Firth. MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble, Graham Wellfare from the National Trust (NT), Clerk to the Council Derek Blackhall, and 10 members of the public.

Apologies: WSCC Councillor Peter Griffiths.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and advised of a few concerns from residents regarding cattle on the Downs so there is an additional agenda item 'cattle on the downs' – Graham from the National Trust has kindly agreed to answer questions.

The following points were made:

- There are dual requirements to conserve/enhance wildlife; and also enjoyment of the National Park by the public-but it is recognised that the NT & SDNP are separate organisations
- People feel intimidated by cattle with calves
- The cattle are adding to the erosion of the paths on the hill
- When it is damp, cattle rapidly erode the paths leaving them in a poor condition-endangering walkers
- There are too many cattle; there need to be fewer, and better control via fencing
- There has been no public consultation over cattle; the NT should have consulted widely

The following responses/suggestions were:

- The NT do not own livestock
- The NT are legally obliged to maintain grassland; this includes not only sheep grazing, but must include cattle too to avoid the loss of other habitat, and in order to avoid Tor Grass; this supports conservation
- Generally cattle will not be present during the winter months; exact timing depends on the weather
- Signs on gates is a possibility, but not on stiles as there are too many
- The NT are looking towards 3 or 4 larger paddocks
- There is a gate issue under consideration by the NT
- Additional fencing only possible via a corridor-not considered a good idea by the NT
- Agreement to put signs up
- Suggested the Parish Council act between the NT and residents, and put a notice on the website
- Walkers could feed observations to the NT

- People could help the NT move cattle to understand their behaviour more.
- It is very important dog walkers keep their dogs properly controlled, as a badly behaved dog can cause a heifer to become agitated and charge down along a pathway

The meeting then proceeded as follows:-

Declaration of Interest: None

The minutes of the previous meeting held 9th April 2015 having been previously **circulated**, were taken as **read, approved** and **signed** by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:
Planning

Old Pump House

The site is now vacant and it has been cleared so the owner has complied with the enforcement notice. On this basis, the file has been closed by MSDC as there is no longer a planning breach (although there is a small amount of outstanding money due). The PC will keep an eye on what's happening here and advise MSDC of any future activity.

Conifers

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
To recap - this went to committee on 26th February and the application was refused. The applicant is currently living on site and an enforcement order has been issued. Appeals have been made against both the planning decision and the enforcement order. These two appeals will be heard at the same time, but the appeal process takes a few months so this will be on-going.

Market Garden

Temporary permission for this site expired on 2nd July. The Hearnese have instructed their agent to submit a new planning application. Enforcement action will not be taken by MSDC as long as the application is received in the near future. A comment was made from the floor that the current building has been painted bright yellow, which is a breach of one of the original planning conditions. The PC will advise MSDC enforcement of this.

Highways

Clappers Lane

According to Richard Speller, WSCC has just had a major re-organisation, hence the delays in progress. A meeting has been set up with Richard at the start of August to discuss on-going issues and also meet his new team – Richard is now area manager so will no longer be directly involved in day to day issues. Outstanding issues as minuted in January.

Four Acres Corner

So far, so good-but not a lot of rain so far.

Gullies/Drains

As usual, any problems should be reported to <http://love.westsussex.gov.uk/Reports> or **01243 642105**. Please pass info to the PC for its records.

Footpath 4f

After refusal of the diversion by the inspectorate, WSCC Rights of Way dept has been in touch with the landowner on numerous occasions since the end of last year requesting that the correct route be reinstated.

Latest update from Judith Grimwood, WSCC, is that there has recently been quite a lot of correspondence between the County Council's legal services team and the landowner - hopefully it will not be too much longer before the definitive route is properly restored.

Winter Management

If anyone has any suggestions/improvements for Fulking's winter management plan, please let Derek know – full details of the plan can be found on the website.

Council elections

As mentioned at the start of the meeting, there is a new Parish Council – as only five people stood, the election was uncontested.

Parish Clerk and new councillor courses

Derek has attended the new clerk's course. This included topics such as responsibilities, financial regulations, agenda planning, budgeting, localism act and planning – very comprehensive. Miles and Mark have also attended a new councillors' day.

Airports Commission

As you may remember, the PC held a public meeting in April last year to discuss the possibility of a new runway at Gatwick. The Airports Commission has recommended that the new runway be at Heathrow rather than Gatwick, but still acknowledges Gatwick as a strong alternative option. Probably not the end of the matter – it needs to be monitored, especially if developments such as Mayfield are not wanted by the community.

Report from MSDC Councillor Colin Trumble

MSDC crime rate is 34.52/1000-the Sussex average is 53.2/1000.

MSDC has 221 affordable homes against a target of 164; with more to come-good news.

Hillside is to go ahead without solar panels and using non-reflective materials.

Important to bring any small application issues to Colin before press expiry date, or it is too late.

Haywards Heath station development is interesting, given that MSDC rule on housing but WSCC rule on car parks.

Devolution discussions under way regarding East & West Sussex and Surrey going forward.

MOU's in place with most other districts regarding planning numbers-The Planning Inspectorate have increased Horsham's housing numbers and it is anticipated MS will similarly suffer.

Gatwick Airport second runway has not yet gone away.

It was noted in response to a query from the floor regarding Market Garden that since the District Plan is not yet approved or adopted, the gypsies issue may go the same way as the housing issue-to be checked. (Colin Trumble)

Financial matters

Following the election of the new council, Pam needs to be replaced as signatory for cheques and Miles has agreed to step in. The forms have been received from the bank and are currently being processed.

The following cheques have been processed since the last PC meeting, two of which need to be mentioned for approval – Mark Stepney, grass cutting £360 and Broker Network, NTF insurance £376.22. These were duly approved.

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| | Emergency Cheque | 100635 | 0.00 |
| April 2015 | E on direct debit | H10E942E96 | 30.49 |
| 14/5/15 | Information Commissioner | 100638 | 35.00 |
| 14/5/15 | P I Rowland | 100639 | 36.84 |
| 10/6/15 | J Hazard | 100640 | 47.99 |
| 10/6/15 | WSALC LTD | 100641 | Cancelled |
| 10/6/15 | Broker Network Ltd ** | 100642 | 376.22 |
| 10/6/15 | Mark Stepney ** | 100643 | 360.00 |
| 9/7/15 | SLCC | 100644 | 250.00 |
| 9/7/15 | SLCC Enterprises Ltd | 100645 | 69.00 |
| 9/7/15 | SSALC Ltd | 100646 | 120.00 |
| 9/7/15 | West Sussex ALC | 100647 | 78.59 |
| 9/7/15 | D I Blackhall | 100648 | 889.16 |
| | | | |
| | Total | | £2293.29 |

** - needs approval as over £250

Revised Code of Conduct

The code of conduct has been revised slightly by MSDC – the main differences are:

Responsibility has been delegated to the clerk from the Monitoring Officer.

The document flows better

It defines disclosable pecuniary interests better and how it affects councillors partaking in a meeting.

The amount of hospitality councillors can accept has risen to £50.

There are changes to the General Principles of Public Life

2-Integrity 6- Honesty.

Duly approved

To be published on the website. (Clerk)

Transparency Obligations

Small Parishes are now required to publish new data relating to the previous financial year on a website annually no later than 1 July in accordance with the DCLG instruction.

These items are as follows:

All items of expenditure above £100

End of year accounts

Annual governance statement

Internal audit report

List of councillor responsibilities

Location of public land and building assets

Minutes, agendas and papers of formal meetings.

All of the above information is available on Fulking website; and it was agreed annual notification that this has been completed is sufficient here as the requirement is mandatory and not requiring a Parish Council decision. (Clerk)

Annual Review of Standing Orders/Financial Regulations/Risk Register

Everyone had seen the documents and they were duly approved

Asset Register

Possible Addition of Ladybrook Spring-ownership to be checked (Vice Chairman)

Comments from the floor

Before comments from the floor, a few things:

Firstly regarding the Shepherd and Dog licensing application – this was heard in front of a licensing subcommittee at the end of April and the licence was granted. David and Emily have agreed to work with the PC to try and ensure smooth running/least disruption to the village.

Secondly, another reminder please to be aware of the countryside code, especially keeping dogs under close control at all times.

There was a burglary in the village a couple of weeks ago – please be vigilant, especially in the hot weather with windows/doors open.

The summer fair will be on Sunday 26th July – volunteers always needed along with prizes for tombola and please do come along to support. Also Wine call my bluff on Friday 24th
Finally, Clappers Lane will be closed on 14th July between Badger Brook and Waltons Farm to allow for drainage repairs – it is anticipated that the work will take two days. A round robin to go out about this a bit nearer the time. (Clerk) It is on the notice board and on the website

There were no further comments from the floor.

Date of next meeting

8th October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.58pm

**Signed.....K R Watson.....
Minute 37 8/10/2015**

Date.....8/10/2015.....