



FULKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting Meeting held in the Fulking Village Hall on 12 May 2016 At 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillor Kate Watson (Chairman), Councillor Michael Trist (Vice Chairman), Councillors Linda Dyos, and Mark Hind; Clerk to the Council Derek Blackhall; and 10 members of the Public.

Apologies: Councillor Miles Firth; MSD Councillor Anthony Watts Williams.

Annual Meeting of Council

Meeting opened at 7.30pm by Kate Watson who welcomed everybody.

1. Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman were received.

Miles Firth had agreed to become Chairman if elected in his absence and was nominated and proposed by Kate Watson and seconded by Michael Trist.

Vice Chairman Michael Trist was nominated and proposed by Linda Dyos and seconded by Mark Hind.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman accepted office and agreed to sign the declaration forms at a later date.

2. Meeting Closed at 7.33pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting opened at 7.34pm by Vice Chairman Michael Trist

Apologies:- Councillor Miles Firth (Chairman)

1. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Fulking Parish Council on 14 May 2015 having been previously circulated were **AGREED and **SIGNED**.**

2. Chairman's report-from Vice Chairmen Michael Trist

We'll start with a brief review of the last year before we hear from our County Councillor, Peter Griffiths. MT thanked Peter for all his support of the village communities, and for attending the Fulking APM.

We've had a very busy year, with Derek keeping everything in order; and also finding the time to successfully pass his CILCA examinations-he is the first Surrey & Sussex Clerk to do so under the new 2015 syllabus which now comprises 30 separate modules; and it helps enable the valuable Parish Council General Power of Competence. Under the new transparency obligations, the Parish Council was awarded a grant by NALC to enable us to buy a new computer, printer and scanner – a real unexpected bonus.

On the planning front, over the past year we have received sixteen applications, including two for tree work – eleven have been approved by Mid Sussex, One refused, and two are pending. A significant outcome was the successful resolving of the long standing Footpath 4f issue with help from WSCC. Within the last year came the conclusion for two applications which have been ongoing since 2011 and 2005 respectively, namely Old Pump House and Market Garden. The site at Old Pump House was vacated last June and the case was closed by MSDC. The Market Garden site was finally given permanent approval for a gypsy traveller site in January this year and the Conifers appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was upheld. Regarding the process for the way this last two case were handled by Mid Sussex, a further meeting between MSDC/FPC & the SDNP is currently being organised.

Regarding finances, our precept for 2016 – 2017 has increased by 10.8% to £8,369 which largely reflects the need for regular tree work and maintenance for North Town Field. There was one grant this year in respect of additional Transparency work which enabled the purchase of a Parish laptop and scanner, Windows 10 software, and Parish Clerk training.

Our internal audit of the annual accounts has just been completed – a big thank you to Nick Hughes for continuing to do this audit for us without charge – and we will be approving the accounts later in the meeting.

On to highways – we are still having problems with drainage, numerous blocked gullies in various areas of the village, despite our best efforts to get them sorted. We have had a meeting with highways in respect of the ongoing parking problems in the village; and we are still pushing hard for these issues to be resolved (three phases of proposals were outlined at the April council meeting). One success story (hopefully!): namely Four Acres Corner. A large soak away was dug just over a year ago, and so far, it seems to have been able to cope with the water – even the wet autumn and winter we had. We still have some on-going issues in Clappers Lane, but we are hoping to get this sorted next year.

Ladybrook Spring: This is now on the Asset Register.

Again, this year, we were well prepared with our winter management plan (full grit bins/arrangement with local farmer to snow plough etc etc). Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your like or dislike of snow, we didn't have to resort to any of the measures and we shall be reviewing the plan again within the next couple of months.

The annual Fulking Fair in 2015 was beset by dreadful weather; the 2016 Fair will be on 30 July at North Town Field - noon till 5pm – please come along and support it if you can.

There is a SSALC requirement to nominate 2 Councillors to represent the Parish and serve on outside bodies - Mark Hind and Miles Firth had volunteered to do so.

After five years of work, the Village Action Plan Group was dissolved and responsibility for the plan handed over to the Parish council. This plan will be assessed yearly as part of our annual review of procedures and with the PC taking ownership, it still gives the community the opportunity to amend the plan when required. Thank you to all those involved in the group for their hard work over the past years.

Just before we finish, it's been good news regarding the village hall – the Village Hall Action Group was awarded a grant of £6,600 for repairs to the roof, so we can now look forward to continuing to meet here without being exposed to the elements!!

Finally, a few thank you's – to Derek and the other councillors who continue to devote their time working on behalf of the community. Also thanks to our Councillors, Peter Griffiths, Colin Trumble, Anthony Watts Williams and John Wilkinson for their support and interest in our village. Thank you as well to John Hazard, Gerald Gazdar and Miles for their contribution to the ever improving and excellent website for us as well as Pigeon Post.

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 beautiful and peaceful as it is now.

My final thank you is a **very** special one: to Kate Watson who has stood down from the role of Chairman following several years in the post. She has spent a huge amount of time researching matters, in meetings, following up actions, etc. We are indebted to Kate for all her commitment towards the PC and the village. Here is a small token of thanks for you Kate, now that you will have more time to spend on your gardening.

3. Report by WSC Councillor Peter Griffiths

Peter spoke about the activities of WSCC and his involvement. He mentioned about grants being available, especially the latest £250,000 that has been released for Operation Watershed – available on a first come first serve basis, he encouraged us to apply early. Also, Peter talked briefly about 'community service personnel' being available, which MT commented may be a possible way to help with the village clear-up events.

4. Report from MSDC

There was no representative available to attend the meeting.

5. Date of next meeting 14th July.

6. Meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Everybody was invited to join the PC for refreshments.

SignedDate.....

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