

# Wisborough Green Annual Parish Meeting

## Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Present: Mr N Beresford, Mr A Burbridge, Mr K Charman, (Chairman), Mr P Drummond, Mr A Jackson, Mrs S Overington, Mr H True, Mr M Watson

In Attendance: Mrs L Davies, Clerk  
15 Members of Public  
Mr J Ransley, District Councillor  
Mrs J Duncton, County Councillor

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00 pm and extended a warm welcome. He explained that he would illustrate some items for the comprehensive Annual Report which had been distributed, rather than go through every item.

### **Chairman's Report – a review of the past year**

It had been yet another busy and demanding year for the Council, which had seen some changes in membership. Early last year both Cllr Mike King and Cllr Alex Stone decided to step down due to other commitments. The Chairman expressed thanks to Mike who undertook the enormous task of guiding the Parish through the Neighbourhood Plan process, leading to the successful referendum in May last year. Alex was instrumental in organising the aerial photograph to commemorate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday weekend. He also thanked Cllr Peter Drummond who had been in support as Vice-Chairman but also led on the Gatwick Airport, a big issue, set to continue.

The highlight of the year was the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and then adoption by the South Downs National Park Authority and Chichester District Council (CDC). Having this document in place would hopefully affect some degree of control over speculative development and had brought planning within the remit of the Parish.

The Parish Council's key responsibility was to maintain the centre of the village. Many of these jobs were small and insignificant, but all added up to protect and enhance a very unique and precious village. It was the intention next year to continue with more projects.

The Chairman also expressed his thanks to District Councillor, Josef Ransley, and County Councillor, Janet Duncton, who regularly attended meetings during the year and offered help and support when required. Before expressing thanks to all those on the Council, the Chairman highlighted that there was a significant anniversary occurring next month. Andrew Jackson had given 25 years of service to the village having joined the Council in May 1992. Andrew's length of experience, tremendous commitment and wisdom added a great deal to the Council and the Chairman took the opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to express sincere thanks, presenting Mr Jackson with small gift; applauded.

Finance Committee: In terms of the Council's activities over the year, the Chairman highlighted that the Parish Council had now established a Finance Committee, due to the size, complexity and ever greater challenges on the Parish Council's budget. It was early days, but was working well and a useful step forward.

Website: A new village website was now being created and would hopefully be launched soon, providing a useful reference source for village residents as well as visitors.

Land South of Meadowbank: In terms of planning, there were several larger planning applications considered by the Council. Mr Charman gave explanation to the progress of the Land South of Meadowbank application and the discussions now being held by the developer with Chichester District Council. It was pleasing to see that the reference was being made to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Stable Field: An application was reviewed relating to retirement homes and facilities on Stable Field, Kirdford Road. The Parish Council objected to the application as it was not within the settlement boundary and not a site identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. The application was subsequently refused by Chichester District Council (CDC).

Winterfold Development: With regard to the Winterfold site, a useful meeting was held with the developers, who appeared to provide quality housing and were willing to be flexible and listen to the village's wishes. The meeting was very encouraging and it was hoped that discussions would result in a quality result.

Glebe Fields: Rather surprisingly, the Parish Council received a recent approach from a developer relating to the fields. Although this site was initially considered for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan, it was not without a number of difficulties, in particular, being in sight of the church. The Parish Council had therefore advised the developer that the Neighbourhood Plan achieved the current housing target for the village and that policies with the Neighbourhood Plan and CDC Local Plan would currently not permit. However, the Chairman advised that the CDC Local Plan was under review and the implications for the village were currently unknown.

Neighbourhood Plan: As previously stated, the Neighbourhood Plan received tremendous support and went through success referendum last May, before being adopted. Having this document in place allowed the Parish Council to receive a greater proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (25%) which would allow more holistic projects to be undertaken.

Gatwick Airport: Cllr Peter Drummond had undertaken a huge amount of work to keep track on a developing situation. He was involved in the formation of the Association of Parish Councils Aviation Group (APCAG) and was on the Noise Management Board. Some progress to improve the situation had been made, but this was an issue for the village that would continue.

5-Year Objectives: Having spent a considerable amount of time developing the Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council had now reviewed ideas included in the action plan section and set objectives for the next 5 years. This would help as a guide to new projects, as well as maintenance items and help with budget preparation.

Winterfold Open Space: The land was being gifted to the village in perpetuity and would give a defined and protected edge to the village. It provided an opportunity for a further recreational facility. In discussion with the developer, a natural area, with walking circuit and potentially some trim trail equipment had been suggested.

Affordable Housing: The Parish Council was keen to ensure that affordable housing was made available to those with a local connection. As such, it looked into the formation of a Community Land Trust as the vehicle to give the Parish Council some control over affordable housing. As the sites were progressing quickly, it concluded to enter into a collaborative agreement with Greenoak Housing, a charitable housing association with the similar aims, as the Parish Council's preferred housing provider.

Road Safety: The Neighbourhood Plan consultation process identified traffic issues as the second largest concern after housing development. As such, the Parish Council was working on a number of ideas which were consulted on in February. A traffic consultant was engaged and advice sought from WSCC to ensure that the proposals met legal regulations. The consultation had now given community guidance to move forward.

Green Coordination Group: The Green was our most valuable asset and the group had met twice during the year to consider work to ensure that it was maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

Pavilion: The Sports Association was looking at plans to renew the Pavilion and was currently in active discussions with CDC. The Parish Council was supportive of the project which would benefit the village when completed.

Playground: In addition to a professional annual inspection, Cllr Howard True undertook a weekly inspection, for which the Chairman gave thanks. Fencing repairs were recently undertaken and the net fencing replaced, which was part funded by a New Homes Bonus from CDC. It was gratifying to see that the playground was extremely well used.

Public Toilets: Two years ago the Parish Council entered into a partnership agreement with CDC to retain the facilities in the village; the Parish Council was now responsible for the cleaning cost. This was a useful amenity for the village, which encouraged people to stop and support local businesses.

Village Hall: Another of our village assets, which was well used by the community. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Village Hall Management Committee for their work throughout the year, and to those involved in the refurbishment plans, which the Parish Council was supportive.

The Old Workhouse: Work to the building was undertaken over the past year and was necessary in order that it could be re-let to new tenants at an increased rent. The Parish Council was currently in the middle of confirming the building's administration with a new Lease with the Village Hall Trustees.

The Chairman then gave a summary of the income and expenditure for the year as detailed in the annual report; the Clerk would be happy to provide more detailed information, if required. In summary, it had been a very busy year which reflected the vibrancy of the village. The Parish Council was delighted to have new members to assist with the work, and

Chairman personally hoped that the Parish Council was seen as providing good value for money. He then invited any questions.

**Public Questions**

In relation to the Winterfold site, Cllr True asked if there would be any public consultation on the proposed plans for the open space. The Chairman advised that discussions with the developer were at an initial stage and a number of details still needed to be confirmed; what the developer would provide, the official transfer of the land to the Parish Council and consideration of future maintenance costs for the village. As plans developed, the parish would be kept informed, but it was hoped that the open space would provide a valuable facility for the whole village.

The Chairman then advised that he would be standing down as Chairman this May as it was time for a change, although he would remain on the Council. District Councillor, Josef Ransley, expressed thanks to Mr Charman for all his hard work and achievements, and the exemplary manner in which the Council had been led. Applauded.

The meeting was then closed at 8.20 pm and refreshments served.

Chairman : .....

Date: .....