

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES TO BE AGREED ON 16th APRIL 2024

Date: Tuesday 19th March 2024

Present: Mr A Burbridge (AB), Mr P Drummond (PD) (Chairman), Mr A Jackson (AJ),

Mr H True (HT), Mrs S Winship (SW), Mr T Worrall (TW)

Apologies: Mr M Ogden-Meade (MOM), Mr M Watson (MW)

In Attendance: Mrs L Davies, Parish Council Clerk

County Cllr Janet Duncton

Members of Public: 2

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.45 pm and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Watson and Mr Ogden-Meade.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests:

In relation to item 12a, The Old Workhouse, AJ and the Clerk declared that that they were Village Hall Trustees.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. <u>Minutes of the Last Planning Committee Meeting:</u>

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. <u>District/County Councillor Updates:</u>

<u>County Councillor:</u> Cllr Duncton (in attendance from 7.45 pm to 7.53 pm) provided the following update:

- There was a Full Council meeting on Friday.
- Cllr Duncton assured the Council that she continued to report and chase highways officers
 about potholes and road condition, as did many of her fellow councillors. Funding was
 available but it was the officers who prepared plans and engaged contractors. She
 confirmed that most of the work was undertaken by outside contractors, undertaking a
 different role; pothole repairs, pavements, line marking etc. Balfour Beatty was generally
 responsible for repairing potholes.
- AB expressed his concern that potholes were not being addressed and that the A272 was now a dangerous road. He had personally witnessed near collisions when vehicles pulled into the opposite carriageway to avoid potholes, which was occurring daily. The road was now dangerous for cyclists. AB was concerned that the WSCC repair policy / contractual obligations were being exploited by the contractors. If the highways officers were making the decisions, they needed to visit Wisborough Green to see the road condition and get an

understanding of the village's concerns. Rather than fund new cycle lanes, they needed to concentrate on the existing infrastructure.

Cllr Duncton had no evidence that contractual obligations were being exploited. She explained that the roads were not built to withstand the quantity and weight of today's traffic. She reiterated that she was doing all she could to raise.

<u>District Councillor:</u> A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting, summarised below. Cllr Evans and Cllr Todhunter had sent their apologies as they were attending a Full Council meeting in Chichester.

Local Updates

- Lagoon 3: The applicant has appealed the court decision in January. This led to the cancellation of a February meeting between Chichester District Council (CDC), the Environment Agency (EA), Parish Councillors and District Councillors. The CDC Legal Team is to update on the next steps. There was a multi-agency meeting in February between CDC and EA. Concerns were also raised with the EA regarding the District Councillors finding out about leaks at the lagoon second hand.
- **Loxwood Flood:** Concern raised about the Guildford Road flooding. WSCC and Gillian Keegan had been contacted. The drainage system was now prioritised for a CCTV survey.
- **Hollyview Close**: Some Pond Close residents had complained about the lack of tree coverage which was promised. They would be writing to enforcement and would also try to establish ownership of the ditch on Pond Copse Lane.
- **Crouchlands Farm Planning Application:** All applications to be reconsulted on. Clarification to be sought from the planning officer who was currently on sick leave.

CDC Wide Updates

- Budget Meeting Held on Tuesday 27th February:
 - Community Focused funding investing in community centre projects including the Selsey Sea Wall, Think Family Worker in the Bournes and Supporting You Services.
 - o £586,000 invested into Council Reserves for future community projects.
 - Boosting events strategy including Markets, Cultural Events and Night Time experiences across Chichester District.
 - Protecting the environment Supporting the Chichester Harbour and Adaption Strategy and focusing on sustainable growth and biodiversity.

Meeting Your District Councillors

Cllr Evans has the following surgery dates scheduled from 12pm-2pm:

Saturday 6th April – Ifold Stores, Ifold Saturday 20th April – Stag Inn, Balls Cross Saturday 4th May – Kirdford Village Stores, Kirdford Saturday 18th May – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green

Should the dates suggested be unsuitable or there are any other reasons preventing you from seeing us we are also happy to do home visits, telephone calls or zoom calls.

Contact details:

Cllr. Gareth Evans, email: gbevans@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07958 918056 Cllr. Charles Todhunter, email ctodhunter@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07500 577 777

6. <u>Public Questions:</u>

There were no questions.

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7. Report on on-going matters:

a. Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

The Clerk provided the following update:

- The Local Plan housing allocation process and numbers were being reviewed. The Chairman asked AJ to review and provide comments as soon as possible.
- A private meeting was held with Savills, the planning consultant acting on behalf of Elivia Homes (formerly Millwood Designer Homes) on 27th February 2024. Meeting minutes had been circulated to councillors but due to commercial sensitivity, they were to currently remain confidential to the Parish Council.
- Henry Adams LLP were promoting a development site in Kirdford Road and had requested a meeting. Members agreed that this should be arranged; dates to be circulated.
- Contact had been received from a Loxwood resident who was promoting self and custom builds. It was agreed that he could attend a Planning Committee meeting to provide details.

b. Stable Field Open Space:

A further draft had been received and circulated to all. The annual maintenance allowance now included tree maintenance and administration charges. In answer to the Chairman's question, the landowner confirmed that tree maintenance had been undertaken in recent years. It was agreed that all Parish Council requirements had been met and the Parish Council's objection could be withdrawn. Members approved the document and agreed that it could be signed. The Clerk to inform the Planning Officer.

The meeting was suspended to allow for the signing of the agreement by both parties. PD and SW signed on behalf of the Council, witnessed by the Clerk. The one-pound payment was made.

8.09 pm – the members of public left the meeting room.

The meeting was re-opened.

c. West road – access and parking:

Residents of the road first attended a meeting in June 2023 to express concern at the parking and traffic speed along the road. At subsequent meetings it was agreed to trial access restrictions to be managed by the residents. A full briefing report had been circulated; the trial had been successful. A possible permanent solution, suggested by the residents, was displayed which the Clerk highlighted could be extended to prevent access at this point for unauthorised encampments. Members discussed in detail and agreed that, with the Green's openness, preventing unauthorised access was not a primary consideration. Concern was expressed that gates gave the impression of a private gated community and that there was no opportunity to review location if, over time, motorists became complacent.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that:

- Oak planters to be used at the current trial location. PD/Clerk to look at suitable planters.
- Planters to be 900 mm, or so, high so as to not pose a trip hazard.
- Residents to fund, plant and maintain.
- Existing signs to be used.
- Demarcation with granite sets was acceptable.

d. Village Broadband (Project Gigabit):

TW had received correspondence from the WSCC Coordinator. BDUK (Building Digital UK) had announced that CityFibre has been appointed as the supplier to deliver Project Gigabit for West & East Sussex. The project had now moved forward but the locations and funding were yet to be confirmed. TW had been maintaining communication to put Wisborough Green on their radar.

e. Clerk's Update:

- <u>Council Membership:</u> CDC had now advised that no election had been called and the Council could co-opt. Advertisements had been displayed. Members to make personal approaches.
- <u>Transfer of the Public Toilets:</u> The CDC Legal and Estates team had been asked to complete the transfer. CDC would also pay £2,200 towards the facilities as a one-off payment to help with non-cleaning costs for the first year.
- Pavilion Lease: The Council's solicitor had prepared a draft lease, reviewed by AJ, MW, HT and the Clerk last autumn. It appeared over complicated, and these comments had been fed back to the solicitor; having chased, the Clerk was informed that the solicitor had now left the company. The Clerk had spoken to the new solicitor who agreed that it should be simplified. To be circulated to AJ, MW and HT on receipt.
- <u>Tree Preservation Orders:</u> Details were being prepared and an application submitted in a few weeks.
- <u>School Road Watershed Application:</u> MW and the Clerk met the Highways Officer on 8th March. Explanation was given to the proposed scheme to install two new road gullies to feed into the ditch. Plans were being drawn up, quotations obtained, and the application submitted.
- Reviewed Byelaws Application: Work in progress.
- Village Neighbourhood Watch: The village coordinator had decided to stand down, primarily because she was struggling with the technology. The Clerk had contacted an area coordinator to establish the role to advertise the position. It was acknowledged that the role had changed with wider use of social media and discreet WhatsApp groups etc.
- Feedback from Community Infrastructure Levy Workshop:
 - Presentation circulated.
 - The Government was proposing to change the system and there was some concern
 - Pavilion has been identified as CDC Strategic project so CDC would be providing some funding.
 - Confirmed for improvements rather than maintenance.
 - Check before using to finance a project.
 - Interesting exercise to look at CDC CIL expenditure in relation to areas collected.
 Clerk to forward details to HT.
- Feedback from West Sussex Nature Recovery Strategy Briefing:
 - Presentations slides received. Forwarded to the Chair of the Parishes Wildlife Group.
 - Legal requirement in The Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies)
 (Procedure) Regulations 2023.
 - England wide but undertaken at county level.
 - Collaboratively produced involving all key stakeholders, mapping exercise.
 - o Will help to direct future effort and funding.
 - o Public Consultation in early 2025.
 - Clerk to review and complete survey.
- <u>Community Litter Pick</u> Saturday 6th April at 2 pm. Councillor attendance was encouraged.

- Any Other Matters to Report:

Annual Parish Meeting – dated changed to Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7 pm.
 Notices would be displayed and published in the Ad Vincula. The Archivist from the WSCC Records Office would make a presentation. Councillor attendance was encouraged. PD to arrange the refreshments; set up from 6.30 pm.

8. New Items for Discussion:

a. Risk Assessments:

The Risk Assessments were reviewed and the document, as tabled, **formally approved**; to be reviewed again next year.

Members had undertaken maintenance inspections and identified actions were provided in a summary chart. The chart was reviewed and agreed actions recorded by the Clerk. Members agreed that the maintenance work should be undertaken and delegated the decision for repair and expenditure to the Clerk in discussion with the Chairman, and in line with the Financial Regulations. The Clerk to obtain a quotation for road repairs on the west road.

Having undertaken an inspection, the Chairman highlighted that the Pavilion building needed attention. In view of the planning and potential funding delay, he questioned whether major repair, updating, refurbishment and extension should be undertaken. **Members agreed that this should be included for discussion at the next meeting**. AB advised that the Trustees were having similar thoughts.

b. Village Green Repairs:

AB gave explanation to the repairs required to support the new drainage system and to prepare the surface for the summer months; the work would be undertaken in early April, weather and ground conditions permitting. Following an inspection of the Green, the following was proposed, however as this would not take place for another few weeks, the requirement could change. This was the maximum expenditure, which represented an overall 5.3% increase on last year:

Parish Council Repairs:

Verti-drain the whole Green	£733 plus VAT
Fertilise the whole Green with slow release - 24 bags	£817 plus VAT
Overseed the whole Green – 16 bags	£1,596 plus VAT
Selective weed control on the whole Green	£535 plus VAT
	£3,681 plus VAT

The weed control was not undertaken last year due to the dry weather so would be required this year.

The budget provision of £3,850 was noted and the expenditure approved. AB to provide details/timing for the Clerk to submit the order.

The Football Club would fund the top-dressing of the football pitch with sand, but depending on available funds, would either be 60 tonnes at a guide price of £2,760 or 40 tonnes at £,1940 plus VAT.

This action was authorised. AB to check invoicing arrangements.

c. Use of the Green:

The Horticultural Society had requested use of the north side of the Village Hall for a plant sale on Saturday 18th May, from 11.30 am until 1 pm. Locating here allowed the Village Hall car park to be used. **Members were pleased to support the event. Clerk to issue Agreement form.**

d. D Day Commemorations:

It was agreed that a commemorative flag should be purchased and flown form 9 am on 6th June for one week. The expenditure of £28.80 was approved.

e. Youth Surface Storage Box:

The box has been purchased to store balls and equipment for use on the new surface but required adapting to make safe for general use. The Clerk has been observing after school and weekend use of the surface and believed that providing balls was unnecessary. She therefore proposed that it be located at the back of the Pavilion to store 'no parking' cones. **Members agreed to this alternative use.**

f. Village Hall Car Park Shed:

As it appeared that the Scout Group did not have need for the old shed, it was proposed that it be retained for Parish Council storage; the current rented shed in Wyatt Close was no longer waterproof. Moving into the corner would potentially provide a couple of parking spaces. **Members approved this action.** A quotation to re-site and re-roof to be obtained.

g. Playground Inspections:

The Clerk was now undertaking the weekly playground inspection and wished to attend an inspection course. She believed that an online visual inspection course was currently suitable. Members approved the expenditure of around £25 but agreed that if this did not meet insurance requirements, expenditure of approximately £250 was approved.

h. WSCC Bus Shelter Scheme:

After some consideration to bus frequency and structures in the Conservation Area, it was agreed not to pursue a shelter for the Kirdford Road bus stop.

i. CDC Consultation on Climate Champions Network:

Details had been circulated. The response was delegated to the Chairman and Clerk.

j. <u>Seaford College's Community Action Day:</u>

Information about the action day on Thursday 27th June 2023 had been received. The school was looking for projects that could be undertaken by students and staff members. As no suitable Parish Council projects could be identified, it was agreed that litter picking of St Richard's Hospital grounds should be suggested.

9. Correspondence:

A list detailing the correspondence and updates received since the last meeting was circulated and displayed. Members were reminded to request any information of interest if it had not been circulated.

Correspondence – Details of emails and letters received

Horsham District Council – Regulation 19 consultation reminder.

CDC – Hyde's presentation at the All Parishes Meeting on 19th February.

CDC – Chichester City Regeneration Strategy presentation at the All Parishes Meeting.

CDC – Presentation on unauthorised incursions at the All Parishes Meeting.

Community Speed Watch – notification of a new authorised site by the playground.

SW highlighted 3 new sites in Kirdford Road had been approved: two in the 40 mph speed limit and one by the playground. She had contacted a resident who had previously expressed an interest and who was contacting other residents about joining the CSW group.

GACC Infor – Newsletter 139 – DCO Update. Circulated.

Action in rural Sussex - relaunching its rural enabling service, building on many years of successful Rural Housing Enabling to help increase provision across Sussex.

Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin.

CDC - The B2133 at Newpound was due to be litter picked on 21/03/24, resource and weather permitting. To litter pick these roads required full traffic management which was resource intensive and came at a cost so CDC needed to be able to justify the allocation to the most heavily littered roads. CDC monitored the A272 at the beginning of January and it did not warrant a litter pick at the time. CDC continually monitored these roads throughout the year.

With regards to 'Do Not Litter' signage, the signs were all out across the district. However, this was shortly to be reviewed and CDC would look for a site on these roads.

WSALC – notification of NALC Legal Update on procurement from 1st Jan 2024 and other points of clarification – noted by the Clerk.

Open Spaces Society – February update.

Resident – highlighting condition of road surface in Newpound Lane and response from WSCC. Clerk contacted Cllr Duncton to get holes marked in the interim before repair.

WSCC – notification of further Ash felling on the A272 between Wakestone Lane to Croucham Lane, Kirdford between 21st and 28th March. Multi-way traffic control.

GACC – Gatwick DCO Newsletter No 1 – circulated.

CDALC – Draft minutes of the meeting on 27th February 2024 – circulated.

Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin.

WSCC Press release - Senior leaders held a summit to discuss water issues including flooding, water quality, sewage outflows, and scarcity at a strategic intervention level.

BT – notification that from 31 March 2024 the price of £36.66 plus VAT will increase by £3.47 per month,inflation linked and in line with terms and conditions.

GACC – Gatwick DCO Newsletter No 2 – circulated. **PD confirmed that he had registered the Parish Council as an interested Party for the examination.**

Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin.

Katy Bourne, your Police & Crime Commissioner: notification of new weekly e-newsletter.

South Downs National Park Authority – March Newsletter – Responsible dog ownership, improving disability access, new culture, arts and education hub has been approved, wildlife corridors/trees, walkers' stories.

Euroforest - WSCC contractor undertaking Ash Dieback work. Details of programme and work.

WSCC – explanation to high volume of highways work – circulated.

Songhurst Meadow Residents' Association – want to find out the association obligations under the transfer of land from Runnymede to WGPC as they are struggling to get the information from Runnymede. **Members agreed that the TP1 registry entry should be sent.**

WG School PTA – signed agreement, insurance and risk assessment for Easter hunt.

10. Finance:

a. <u>Bank Reconciliation</u>: HT confirmed that he had checked and agreed the bank reconciliation for the Barclays Community Account for the month ending 29th February 2024.

b. Accounts for Payment:

The Clerk displayed the Payment List for March 2024 that was approved. To be paid on 19th March online unless stated otherwise.

Online payments for the Barclays Community Account

Payee	Amount £	Description
Hampshire Flags 27.02.24	74.92	Ukraine sewn flag
Vodafone Ltd 08.03.24	36.03	Monthly Village Hall Broadband
West Sussex County Council	2,152.11	Clerk's salary and oncosts for February
Wetton Cleaning Services Ltd	792.95	Public toilet cleaning contract for February
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	448.98	Playground spares and fitting (balance)
Arun District Council	178.50	Newsletter and dog fouling flyer printing
Surrey Hills Solicitor	264.00	General legal advice including advice regarding formation of a Community Land Trust / Interest Company
Chichester District Council	2,428.54	Annual litter and dog bin emptying
ProcessMatters2 (David Chaffe)	240.00	Annual Data Protection Officer role and Council training
Sussex Land Services	288.00	Allotment hedge cutting
Mr P Stickland	900.00	Ditch clearance opposite the Cricketers Arms
Mr P Killingbeck	20.00	Carbine hook and shackle for flagpole
Mr I Davies	346.20	Village maintenance – village hall clearance, post installation, bench cleaning
Mrs L Davies	26.20	Mileage to printers, paper and lever arch file
	£ 8,196.43	

Payments from the Barclays Community Account

Date	Amount £	Payee	Description
21.02.24	8.44	IONOS	Auto Card – Monthly website extended support
26.02.24	9.99	HP Instant Ink	Auto Card – Monthly ink replacement service
05.03.24	3.60	IONOS	Auto Card – Monthly email fee
06.03.24	282.65	NEST	Direct Debit - Clerk's pension for February
	£304.68		

Bank Transfers

Date	Amount £	From	То
19.03.24	10,000.00	Barclays Business Reserve Account	Barclays Community Account
	£10,000.00		

c. Monthly Financial Statement:

The statement was circulated in advance of the meeting and displayed. The Clerk gave explanation to several budget headings and highlighted a formatting error in column 3. She was currently trying to ensure that all payments were made before the year-end. Year-end reports would be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

d. <u>Insurance Update:</u> The Clerk confirmed that she has contacted the insurance company to include the public toilets from 1st April 2024. She enquired into the drainage system and advised that it was not covered for damage, it was only drainage to a building. AB advised that damage was unlikely to occur. **The Chairman asked the Clerk to enquire if insurance was available to cover unauthorised encampments.**

e. Notification of S137:

The allowance from 1st April 2024 was set at £10.81 per elector.

f. Donation Requests:

A list of requests received throughout the year, along with details of last year's payments, was considered. **Members resolved to make the following donations:**

Local Government Act Section 137

Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice - £50

Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance - £125

4Sight Vision - £70

St Catherine's Hospice - £70

The Royal British Legion - £100 - donation for wreaths paid in November

St Peter's PCC - clock and churchyard maintenance - £1,500 (Clock - Parish Councils Act 1957, s2; Churchyard Maintenance LGA 1972 s214))

Wisborough Green Minibus - £350 (Local Government and Ratings Act 1997, s2)

11. Planning

a. <u>New Planning Applications:</u> The following planning applications were reviewed. Application details had been circulated in advance of the meeting and were also displayed:

Application Number	Application Details
WR/23/01717/FUL - Minor Dev – Dwellings- Case Officer: Freya Divey	Mr and Mrs Weekes, Lower Barn, Skiff Lane, Wisborough Green, Billingshurst, Replacement dwellinghouse (alternative scheme to class Q notice 19/00484/PA3Q and extant planning permission 20/00389/FUL). Construction of basement. O.S. Grid Ref. 503194/127555 Included for review as the access track was on the Wisborough Green/Loxwood Parish border. No Objection. In view of the Parish Council's support of dark sky policies and initiatives, automatic dusk to dawn blinds were requested on the roof lights.
WR/24/00604/EIA - Case Officer: Calum Thomas	Maureen Darrie Land To The East Of The B2133 Wisborough Green Billingshurst Request for a formal screening opinion - Proposed solar photovoltaic farm (upto 20MWac) and associated infrastructure. O.S. Grid Ref. 506187/128711 As this proposal was in the countryside, an Environment Impact Assessment was requested.

b. <u>District Council Decisions:</u>

Application Number	Application Details	CDC Decision
WR/24/00135/DOM - Case Officer: Miruna Turland	Mr & Mrs Brown 1 Carters Way Wisborough Green Billingshurst Demolition of existing attached garage and erection of a two storey side extension, single storey front extension, and external associated works (amendments to previous approved applications WR/23/01341/DOM and WR/23/02419/NMA). O.S. Grid Ref. 504625/126106	PERMIT

SDNP/22/03131/HOU Ms Sarah King WITHDRAWN Old Glasshouse, Fittleworth Road, Wisborough Green, Solar panels Case Officer: Lauren **RH14 0HB** not Cripps Non-material amendment to Addition of roof mounted considered to solar panels on approved garage outbuilding be a non-O.S. Grid Ref. 503197/122878 material amendment. Officer recommended withdrawing and submitting a variation of condition application.

c. <u>Enforcement Update:</u>

 Wilton Cottage, Kirdford Road: A copy of an email exchange with CDC Planning had been received from the property owner. It confirmed use of the gateway for the build period and the track across the field, currently used for construction vehicles, would be removed on completion.

12. Other Reports:

a. Village Hall:

The Trustees were undertaking a rent review for the Old Workhouse, the rent being increased to current market value. It was possible that the current tenant would be leaving. Despite the additional cost, the Trustees had decided to engage the Letting Agent on a fully managed service as management was involving excessive volunteer time. The Letting Agent would be provided with Wisborough Green contractors' details for property maintenance. In relation to the lease payment, 42% of income, it was agreed that this could be the Nett figure, after the deduction of management fees.

b. Allotments:

- Vacant plots were being advertised and some interest expressed.
- The rent invoices would be issued shortly.
- c. <u>Green Coordination Group Meeting:</u> The Group met on 13th March 2024 and the minutes circulated for information.
- d. <u>Chichester District Association of Local Councils:</u> SW attended the meeting on 27th February 2024. Minutes had been circulated. SW gave a summary of the main discussion.
- e. <u>Data Protection Training:</u> The Clerk thanked members for attending the training on 5th March 2024. The Chairman felt that it was beneficial and highlighted the need to keep correspondence through the Clerk. The Clerk would now work on updating policies.
- f. <u>Health & Safety:</u> TW noted on the village Facebook page that there had been a near accident involving children. A car had overtaken a car which had stopped to allow children cross; it was unknown if it had been a school parent/carer. Members were aware that school drop off/pick ups were busy and it was disappointing that some parents ignored

requests to keep the Garmans pavement clear and to drive slowly. It was agreed that SW should discuss further with the police and contact with the school re-established.

13.	Any Other Matters to Report: No further matters.
14.	<u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> Planning Committee – Tuesday 2 nd April 2024 at 8.00 pm Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 16 th April 2024 at 7.45 pm Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.00 pm – set up from 6.30 pm
The	ere being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.
Sigr	ned by the Chairman: Dated: