



West Grinstead Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (AGM)

Dial Post Village Hall
Wednesday 15th June 2011
at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. D. Green (Chairman), Mr. A. Childs (Vice Chairman), Mr. N. Berry, Mr. R. Hill, Mr. A. Russ, Mrs O. Izzard, Mr. D. Pearless and Mr. J. De Little.

County Councillor: Mr. L. Barnard.

District Councillors: Mr J. Chowen and Mr A. Dunlop.

Applicants of the Knepp Estate Lake Dredging project: Sir C. Burrell and Mr. J. Emrich.

Seven members of the public.

Clerk: Mrs H. Dayneswood

PC_98/11 Apologies: Cllrs. Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. P. Kanabus, Mrs C. Watts, Mrs H. Bullingham and Mrs G. Nash. Also Mr. R. English (Transport Working Group Chairman).

PC_99/11 Declarations of Interest: None

PC_100/11 Chairman's Announcements: None

PC_101/11 Minutes of the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Izzard, seconded Cllr. Russ) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2011 be approved as a true record.

PC_102/11 Matters Arising:

A reminder for parish councillors to return their completed Register of Interests Forms to the Clerk.

PC_103/11 Police Report:

A report from PC Martin Harris had been circulated to members. *The Clerk to circulate the report to the local residents' associations.* PC Harris hopes to attend the July Parish Council meeting.

PC_104/11 Knepp Estate Lake Dredging Project & Application WSCC/028/11/SP

Sir Charles Burrell and Mr Jason Emrich from the Knepp Estate gave a brief overview of the project. Many years ago, the lake was originally created as a hammer pond and comprised about 80 acres of open water. It has been shrinking over the last 100 years and they are struggling to keep it open. The weeds have built up and more plants have grown, which in turn creates more silt. The pond is dying and needs to be at least partially dug out. If this is not done it will be lost.

Some areas of the pond are environmentally sensitive and cannot be touched. The proposal is to dredge a central part of the lake. To overcome the problem of what to do with the very wet silt that is dug out, a 'borrow' pit will be dug right next to the lake. The watery silt will replace the clay-based soil coming out of the pit. It is much easier to transport the clay – it will be moved to the area next to the A24 where a bund will be created to make a screen against noise and visual impact. The borrow pit will become a reed bed, which will increase the habitat for wetland species. These activities will be costly, so the plan is to bring in inert waste to use in the construction of the bund and designed landscaped area further to the north of the pond next to the A24. The income from receiving the inert waste will pay for the dredging work. They will put in another public right of way along the spine of the landscaped area, so that the public may enjoy the views. The duration of the project is estimated as 3 to 3.5 years.

Members of the public and councillors raised various questions and issues concerning the project:

- a) The location of the access road for bringing the inert waste onto the estate – the impact of extra traffic and noise. It was suggested that other access points be considered. Cllr Barnard was asked to look into this.
- b) The effectiveness of the new bund in reducing noise from the A24 being heard on the estate. A concern was expressed that the creation of the bund may even make noise worse for people living on the east of the A24, as the noise could bounce back off the bund.
- c) The effect of the lake dredging on the river Adur and consequent flood relief.

The current deadline for submission of comments to WSCC is **23rd June 2011**. *The Clerk to request that the deadline is extended.* Some nearby residents have only just learnt about the project, want to understand the details, raise questions and have time to respond adequately.

PC_105/11 Clustering/Hub Initiatives

Cllr Barnard gave an overview about 'clustering' initiatives in relation to councils working more closely together and reaping the benefits of organising and paying for some community services as a small group or 'cluster'. Both Southwater Parish Council and Henfield are investigating the possibilities of the approach. Nothing is being forced on parish councils – it is up to the PCs to decide what they want to do. Nothing is ruled out or in. WSCC would not hand over responsibility for a service lightly – they would want to make sure that the group taking it on were capable of doing so and that it would not have to be abandoned within a short timescale. WSCC could make some funds available.

Cllr Chown said that this was a very exciting initiative. At HDC, they had been talking about the concept of hubs for a couple of years. HDC would make some resources available to communities, so that they could progress some new projects. Resources would be channelled through the 'hubs' (larger parish councils) to the parishes. There would need to be a mechanism to enable this to happen. All the groups involved would need to be willing partners. He also suggested it would be less confusing if the 'hubs' or 'clusters' were the same groupings for both HDC and WSCC related activities.

Cllr Dunlop mentioned community transport as one area where working together with other parish councils could be very beneficial. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to contact the Chairman of Henfield Parish Council to progress this idea.

Cllr Barnard advised that the starting point to progress the cluster/hub initiative was for parish councils to start developing some ideas of what they would like to do in their communities. For example, grass cutting was one activity where good prices could be obtained by linking up with other councils.

PC_106/11 Partridge Green Youth Club:

At the April Council meeting, WSCC had proposed two possible options for continued funding of the Partridge Green youth club:

- a) Option 1. The Parish Council makes a request to WSCC to retain the youth worker but the Parish Council would have to pay the costs of the youth worker. Cost to PC of this option £1300 to £1900 per annum. WSCC would invoice the PC monthly.
- b) Option 2. The Parish Council employs the youth worker directly. WSCC could still operate the payroll system, for a very small fee to the PC. The PC could agree the remuneration directly with the youth worker.

Mr Carl Burton (WSCC) had confirmed by email that WSCC would be covering all the arrangements and costs for the employment, insurance, CRB checks, safety requirements etc. and that the current worker (Carla) would be earmarked to remain working with the PG youth club and not deployed elsewhere at a later date.

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Green, seconded Cllr Berry) to accept the **Option 1 approach**, with the conditions described above. *The Clerk to advise Mr Burton and the parents of the decision.*

Cllr Hill mentioned the Talent Contest the Youth Club was arranging for the evening of Tuesday 12th July. It would be good to support the youth by attending the event. Further details to follow.

PC_107/11 Consultation on Changes to Subsidised Bus Services 17 & 86

There was a detailed discussion about the 17 and 86 bus services in relation to the needs of local residents. It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Russ, seconded Cllr Izzard) to make the following representation to WSCC:

- a) No 17 – the PC would like to see the later service (19.30) from Horsham station retained.
- b) No 86 – a bus service of some description should be retained for the children who need to travel to Warden Park School in Haywards Heath.

The Clerk to submit the comments to WSCC by 24th June 2011.

There was some discussion about transport services to hospitals. It was suggested that it would be good if the local surgeries integrated their transport services. Cllr Barnard reported that there were discussions taking place with East Sussex about providing a clearing system for the use of ambulances, hospital buses etc., which would make further transport options available to members of the public.

PC_108/11 District Council Report:

Cllr Dunlop reported that it had been a time of sorting out committees etc. at HDC. He would be working on the following groups:

- Scrutiny Committee
- Budget Review Sub-Committee
- Business Improvement Sub-Committee
- Traffic in Village Advisory Group

Cllr Green congratulated Cllr Chowen on being promoted to the HDC cabinet. Cllr Chowen reported that his main area of responsibility covered Arts, Heritage and Leisure. He said that HDC must make savings but were working hard to retain services.

PC_109/11 West Sussex County Council Report:

- a) Cllr Barnard commented that it was a shame that Peacocks was going to be closed down.
- b) Improvements to the A27, to combat air quality problems at Storrington and rat-running problems at Amberley were being considered.
- c) West Sussex has 5 members again on the Police Authority. Next year will probably see the introduction of the Police Commissioners.
- d) Members of the police force with 30 years service will now be forced to retire.
- e) Any changes to the Buck Barn junction on the A24 are very unlikely in the near future.
- f) On the Southwater to Ashington section of the A24, WSCC is investigating cost-effective schemes to improve safety.

PC_110/11 Correspondence:

- a) WSCC: Notification of temporary gap closure on the A24 at Shipley (Floodgates Farm) from 13.00 on 16th July 2011 to 0100 on 17th July 2011. For safe management of event traffic. *Noted.*
- b) WSCC: Minerals and Waste Development Framework Update. *Noted*
- c) HDC: Older Persons' Directory available on HDC web site or in hard copy. *Noted*
- d) HDC: News Release. Offer for the Senior Persons' Council to run a discussion with older people in a village/parish. Aim is to inform decision makers of the needs of older people who live in the Horsham District. *Noted*
- e) HDC: Community Support Grant Application from the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company to help fund performances in West Chiltington, Mannings Heath & Dial Post. Requesting £500 from HDC. PC comments requested by 22nd June 2011. Members are supportive of this application – *the Clerk to report back to HDC.*

PC_111/11 Committee Reports:

PLANNING: Cllr Green reported on the last meeting. (For the full report, please refer to the Planning Committee minutes.)

OPEN SPACES: Cllr Childs reported on the last meeting. (For the full report, please refer to the Open Spaces Committee minutes.)

FINANCE: Cllr Berry reported on the last meeting. (For the full report, please refer to the Finance Committee minutes.)

PC_112/11 Working/Advisory Group Reports: No reports.

PC_113/11 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- a) Allotments Association: Cllr Russ reported that the AA has a new Chairman – Mrs K. Taylor.
- b) Sports & Social Club (SSC): Cllr Russ reported that the meeting between the KGV sports clubs and the PC has been scheduled for Friday 22nd July. *Cllrs Russ and Green to organise the agenda.*
- c) Partridge Green Village Hall (PGVH) Management Committee: none.
- d) County Local Committee (CLC): none.

PC_114/11 Approval of 2010/2011 WGPC Annual Return

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Hill, seconded Cllr Berry) to approve Sections 1 and 2 of the 2010/2011 Annual Return, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for submission to the external Auditors (Mazars). *The Clerk to submit the Annual Return by 30th June 2011.*

PC_115/11 Public Open Forum: No items

PC_116/11 WGPC Accounts for June 2011:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Berry, seconded Cllr. Hill) to approve the WGPC payments as listed. [Please refer to the Finance Minutes for details.]

PC_117/11 Approval of Quotations (urgent):

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Russ, seconded Cllr. Berry) to approve Neat & Stripy Ltd to carry out weed killing on the paths at the parish burial ground next to St. Michael's, at a cost of £65 + VAT.

King George V Playing Field Trust Summary

PC_118/11 Declarations of Interest & Notification of Changes to Interests:

Cllrs. Hill & Russ declared personal interests in relation to membership of the Sports & Social Club.

PC_119/11 Matters Arising

Arrangements were made for organising the volunteers from Southern Gas, who were helping with the fete preparation and other tasks on Friday 24th June. *Cllr Russ to liaise with Cllrs Watts and Bullingham.*

PC_120/11 Approval of KGV Accounts for June 2011 (*Circulated with PC accounts*)

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr De Little, seconded Cllr Pearless) to approve the KGV payments as listed.

PC_121/11 Other KGV Matters to Report Back to the Parish Council Meeting: none

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Signed as a true record.....Date.....
Chairman West Grinstead Parish Council