



West Grinstead Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Partridge Green Village Hall

Wednesday 18th January 2012

at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr D. Green (Chairman), Mr R. Hill, Mr D. Pearless, Mrs G. Nash, Mr G. Taylor, Mr N. Berry, Mrs H. Bullingham, Mr P. Kanabus, Mrs C. Watts and Mrs O. Izzard.

County Councillor: Mr L. Barnard.

District Councillor: Mr J. Chowen.

Mr J. Cuthbertson (Dark Star Brewery).

Four members of the public.

Clerk: Mrs H. Dayneswood

PC_1/2012 Apologies: Cllrs: Mr J. De Little, Mr A. Russ (Vice Chairman). District Councillor: Mr A. Dunlop.

PC_2/2012 Declarations of Interest: None

PC_3/2012 Chairman's Announcements: None

PC_4/2012 Minutes of the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Bullingham, seconded Cllr. Taylor) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th Nov 2011 be approved as a true record.

PC_5/2012 Potential Projects & Outside Funding:

Mr James Cuthbertson attended the meeting to discuss how Dark Star Brewery (DSB) could support the parish. He said that they were happy to donate beer for community events (just as they had done for the Christmas Lights Switch-on) but they would like to get involved in other ways too. They wanted to make sure that their support was appropriate because from an ethical standpoint they would not want to make a link between alcohol and children. DSB run brewery tours every Saturday, for which there is no charge. He was thinking of asking people for donations to community projects.

Cllr Green said it was very kind of DSB to offer their support to the community. Various ideas were discussed re: how DSB could give support. There were a number of potential projects in KGV playing fields and also there was the option of making a donation to a Development Fund for the KGV playing fields.

Mr Cuthbertson said he would start the ball rolling on their fund-raising for the community. It was agreed that he and the PC would liaise in a while about how to progress the matter.

PC_6/2012 Dial Post Items:

Two Dial Post residents attended the meeting to discuss the following issues.

- a) Southern Water is due to upgrade the sewage treatment plant in Bentons Lane, Dial Post. Work is starting at the end of January 2012 and expected to take about 12 months. Heavy lorries will be travelling to and fro, putting more wear and tear on an already bad road surface. Request from Dial Post residents that the Parish Council ask Southern Water to pay for making good Bentons Lane after the treatment plant work is completed. Bentons Lane is owned by Knepp Estate. Members discussed the issue with the residents. Finally it was agreed that the **Clerk should write to Southern Water (SW)** to i) check that SW are planning to make good the road after the works have been completed ii) emphasise that residents should be able to have access along the road at all times iii) point out that the surface needs to be a horse-friendly anti-slip surface as the road is also a bridleway. **The Clerk to also contact Mr Jason Emrich at Knepp Estate, to check on communication with SW.**
- b) The large amount of money HDC had spent on external consultants in the past year. The residents did not see why councils had to keep on employing outside contractors at high costs rather than make decisions themselves. There was a wide-ranging discussion on this matter, with views expressed by Cllr: Barnard (CC) and Cllr: Chowen (DC) as well as parish councillors. HDC and WSCC have both had to make savings, have let a lot of

employees go and subsequently are short-staffed. Experienced staff have moved on and there is no slack for the extra work that government requires them to do – hence the need to bring in outside specialists. There seems to be a general trend in the business world to use sub-contractors for short periods in order to cover specific projects, thus avoiding the associated employment costs of hiring employees instead. The Council world has had to follow the same pattern.

PC_7/2012 Matters Arising:

The Clerk reported on some items from a recent SLCC Clerks' meeting.

- a) There is a significant amount of funding available for investment in better broadband services. If residents and businesses want to see this coming to their area, they need to register their interest with WSCC. The better Broadband will be prioritised for areas where demand has been demonstrated.
See http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/your_council/have_your_say/broadband_west_sussex_.aspx
- b) There continues to be funding for local projects available via the County Local Committee.
- c) With the new emphasis on localism, everyone needs to be aware of the need to have evidence of local demand in order to justify spending money on local projects.

PC_8/2012 Police Report:

PCSO Tom Guiney had circulated a report on Local Priorities and Outcomes.

The Clerk raised the problem of some recent incidents in the Partridge Green Village Hall car park related to drugs. These had been reported to the police. It was agreed to look into some CCTV for the car park. *The Clerk to contact Kestrel on the Star Road Trading Estate for advice.*

PC_9/2012 District Council Report:

- a) Cllr. Chowen reported that the new leader for HDC would be chosen soon, followed by the choice of the new cabinet members. He emphasised that budgets were incredibly tight. There will need to be changes in the way that the District Council works with parish councils.
- b) Cllr Hill thanked Cllr. Chowen for his visit to the Partridge Green Youth Club just before Christmas.
- c) Cllr. Taylor asked Cllr. Chowen about the recent planning application DC/11/2265, where the Parish Council (PC) had submitted a strong objection but the application had been approved under delegated powers with no communication with the PC. The PC fully accepted that their view may well be over-ruled. What was very disappointing was a) there had been no communication with the PC about whether it could/should go to HDC Committee b) the PC had had no knowledge that the HDC officer and Cllr Dunlop had a site meeting about the application until after it had been approved. Cllr Chowen agreed that there had been a breakdown in communication and it needed to be improved in the future.

PC_10/2012 West Sussex County Council Report:

Cllr Barnard reported on the following items.

- a) The County Council continues to work on improving waste recycling rates. It is about 43% across the county at present. The government target is 50% of waste to be recycled.
- b) He is a member of the Police Authority. In 2012/2013 there will be a focus on 'Sustainable Sussex Police' – with carbon reduction in the plan.
- c) In November 2012, the Police & Crime Commissioner will be appointed. There are currently 10 interested people.
- d) Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) is focussing on boosting the business rural partnership.
- e) At WSCC the number of Select Committees is due to be reduced from six to four.
- f) He has been involved with the OTTO conference planning (Liberal Democrats Conference at Brighton).
- g) He visited Buchan Country Park – a wildlife park which is a very good green space.

PC_11/2012 Correspondence:

- a) HDC: Expansion of Horsham District Youth Support Team, to further its presence in rural areas. For further information contact Clare Ebelewicz at HDC. *Noted.*
- b) WSCT: Jubilee Plans. For temporary road closures for street parties, an application form can be downloaded from www.horsham.gov.uk/transport/6503.aspx *Noted*
- c) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine: Advert for Jubilee 2012 commemorative mugs with your Council's name on them. *Noted*
- d) Email 11/01/2012 from Caroline Collins about the state of play of the no. 86 bus replacement options. Sussex Coaches to provide a service. *Noted*

PC_12/2012 Committee Reports:

PLANNING: Please refer to the Planning Committee minutes.

OPEN SPACES: Please refer to the Open Spaces Committee minutes.

FINANCE: Please refer to the Finance Committee minutes.

PC_13/2012 Working/Advisory Group Reports: none

PC_14/2012 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- a) Allotments Association: Cllr Green reported that discussions were taking place to finalise the sub-lease between the PC and the Allotments Association.
- b) Sports & Social Club (SSC): No report.
- c) PGVH Management Committee: No report.
- d) PG Youth Club: Cllr Hill reported that this continues to go well.
- e) County Local Committee (CLC): No report.

PC_15/2012 Election of Another Member onto the WGPC Planning Committee

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Taylor, seconded Cllr. Hill) to approve the election of Cllr Russ to the Planning Committee.

PC_16/2012 Approval of Budget & Precept for 2012/2013

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Berry, seconded Cllr. Bullingham) to approve the budget and the zero increase in the Precept for 2012/2013. *The Clerk to submit the Precept request to HDC by 31st January.*

PC_17/2012 Public Open Forum:

The Chairman of Cowfold Parish Council asked some questions about local transport needs/problems in West Grinstead parish. Cowfold PC had recently issued a survey to their residents about transport issues (available on the Cowfold PC web site). Cllr Berry offered to raise the matter at the Transport Working Group meeting.

PC_18/2012 WGPC Accounts for January 2012:

A list of the income and expenditure for the month is available in the January Finance Minutes. Extra items added since the Finance minutes were:

| Payee | Description | Amount |
|-----------------|--|--------|
| Mrs O. Izzard | Re-imburse for gifts - winners of Christmas Lights comp. | 20.00 |
| PGVH | PO share of utilities & insurance | 273.33 |
| PGVH | Hall hire for Youth Club - 3 sessions | 54.00 |
| WSCC | Carla Irving salary - Oct/Nov/Dec | 374.22 |
| Mrs P. Foggarty | Re-imburse for PGYC tuck shop purchases | 188.04 |

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Bullingham, seconded Cllr. Izzard) to approve all the WGPC payments for the month.

PC_19/2012 Approval of Quotations (urgent): none

AGM - King George V Playing Field Trust, Partridge Green

PC_20/2012 Election of Chairman of the KGV Trust, Partridge Green for 2012

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Watts, seconded Cllr. Taylor) to appoint Cllr Green as the Chairman of the KGV Trust for 2012.

PC_21/2012 Election of Vice Chairman of the KGV Trust, Partridge Green for 2012

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Bullingham, seconded Cllr. Izzard) to appoint Cllr Russ as the Vice Chairman of the KGV Trust for 2012.

PC_22/2012 Inspection of any Deeds & Trust Instruments in the Custody of the KGV Trust, PG: *not requested*

PC_23/2012 Declarations of Interest & Notification of Changes to Interests:

Cllrs. Hill declared a personal interest in relation to membership of the Sports & Social Club. Cllr Watts declared a personal interest in relation to Pretty's Garage.

PC_24/2012 Matters Arising: none

PC_25/2012 Report – Audited Accounts 2010/2011 & Charity Commission Annual Return

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Kanabus, seconded Cllr. Bullingham) to approve the KGV audited accounts and Annual Return for 2010/2011.

PC_26/2012 Approval of KGV Accounts for January 2012

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Hill, seconded Cllr Taylor) to approve the KGV payments for the month.

PC_27/2012 Other KGV Matters to Report Back to the Parish Council Meeting: none

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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