



West Grinstead Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Partridge Green Village Hall
Wednesday 21st September 2011
at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. D. Green (Chairman), Mr. R. Hill, Mr. A. Russ, Mr. D. Pearless, Mrs C. Watts, Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. N. Berry and Mrs O. Izzard.

County Councillor: Mr. L. Barnard.

District Councillor: Mr A. Dunlop.

Mr D. Barratt (Community Development & Big Society Manager, WSCC).

Mr R. English (Chairman of the Transport Working Group)

Clerk: Mrs H. Dayneswood

PC_143/11 Apologies: Cllrs: Mrs H. Bullingham, Mr. J. De Little, Mr. P. Kanabus and Mrs G. Nash. District Councillor Mr J. Chowen.

PC_144/11 Declarations of Interest: None

PC_145/11 Chairman's Announcements: None

PC_146/11 Minutes of the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Hill, seconded Cllr. Russ) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2011 be approved as a true record.

PC_147/11 Clustering & Hubs

Mr Duncan Barratt (Community Development & Big Society Manager, WSCC) attended the meeting to discuss clustering initiatives with the Parish Council.

Mr Barratt explained that WSCC wanted to support the localism agenda, work with communities, enable more efficient services to be delivered and make the best use of funds. Various ideas for clustering of parish councils were being considered but no council would be forced into joining a cluster. The issues are complex and solutions will be difficult to work through.

There will need to be a critical mass of devolved work (and thus parish councils included in a cluster) in order to make a cluster financially viable. The specific level of the critical mass is dependent on the figures. Once several parish councils have agreed in principle to join a cluster, it will be possible to see how the finances would work out.

Mr Barratt suggested that the best starting point for WGPC would be to identify those tasks/issues where it would seem beneficial for WGPC to join together with other parish councils. From this, it would then be easier to see which other parishes it would be better for WGPC to work with. *The Clerk to formulate a list of tasks, circulate to the Parish Council and forward to Mr Barratt within 10 days.*

PC_148/11 Election of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Green, seconded Cllr. Watts) that Cllr Russ should be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. (Vacancy arose due to resignation by Cllr Childs.)

PC_149/11 Matters Arising:

The Clerk has copies of a pocket guide on 'The Code of Conduct' and a flowchart to help decision-making on declaring interests.

PC_150/11 Police Report:

Notes from recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting provided by PCSO Tom Guiney had been circulated.

PC_151/11 District Council Report:

Cllr Dunlop reported on the following items:

- a) The crematorium application in West Grinstead had been refused – the statement of need had been weak.
- b) As a result of the recent Dial Post Reggae concert, HDC had been reviewing their procedures for dealing with noise problems. Several lessons had been learned and new protocols were being devised.
- c) The ‘Traffic in Rural Villages’ Working Group had been set up. They had been working closely with WSCC, reviewing the process of establishing TROs (Traffic Regulation Orders) and also considering various traffic calming measures and associated costs.
- d) Decisions on the changes in subsidised bus services for next year had been delayed until November. A local group will be meeting in Cowfold to discuss the no 86 bus service further – Cllr Green offered to attend the meeting.
- e) Options for gypsy/traveller sites in the district have been prepared. This will need to be reviewed by WGPC in the near future.
- f) With the current planning reforms being proposed by Government and now that HDC’s Interim Planning/Housing Statement has been abandoned, there will be big changes coming in the planning arena.

Cllr Taylor raised the following issue:

The noise nuisance from the puppy breeding at a residence in Church Road, Partridge Green has been going on for a long time (over 3.5 years). Following the noise disturbance from the reggae concert in Dial Post, a public meeting was convened with HDC in just two weeks. Why have HDC taken so long to deal with the puppy breeding issue? Members discussed the difference between the two problems. The puppy breeding problem is a planning issue and objective evidence is required to demonstrate the level of noise disturbance taking place. Cllr Taylor felt that the principle was wrong and that the residents at the property in Church Road should not have been granted a pet shop licence in a residential area. Cllr Dunlop pointed out that when HDC issues such licences they are only required to consider the well-being of the animals.

PC_152/11 West Sussex County Council Report:

Cllr Barnard reported on the following items.

- a) He had been given the WSCC responsibility for the Olympics. He had visited the Amex stadium and was very impressed by it. The Olympic Torch relay would be taking a route through West Sussex.
- b) Both WSCC and HDC had received the lowest financial settlement possible from Government and would be challenging it. In the future, the actual amount would be more based on business rates, so the level of surviving businesses in the county would directly affect the finance received.
- c) Details of the new appointments of WSCC officers had been circulated to parishes. (*See details for West Grinstead under correspondence.*)
- d) The Knepp Castle Lake Dredging application to WSCC had been deferred until November. HDC were currently objecting and asking for further information.
- e) All 36 libraries were being kept open but there may be further restrictions in opening hours.

PC_153/11 Working/Advisory Group Reports:

Mr English reported on the recent work of the Transport Working Group.

- a) Mr Wykes had resigned from the group. Cllr Dunlop and Mr Montague had joined the group.
- b) The group were looking at speeding issues and trying to get a schedule arranged for deploying the SID (Speed Indicator Device).
- c) They had discussed safety issues concerning the routing of the Downs Link along Bines Road in Partridge Green. (*This problem has also been raised at the Open Spaces Committee.*)

PC_154/11 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- a) Allotments Association: Contracts with allotment holders had recently been reviewed. All allotments are currently filled.
- b) Sports & Social Club (SSC): The membership fee had been increased from £3 to £5. Improvements are being made to the inside of the pavilion. The Tennis Club had been advised that the 3rd court will need rebuilding due to subsidence. The cost will be about £30,000. [*Cllr Russ had to leave the meeting after this item.*]
- c) PGVH Management Committee: The internal decorating had been completed. Some electrical work is due to be done.

PC_155/11 Correspondence:

- a) HDC: HDC Residents’ Survey. Inside Horsham District News magazine and on HDC web site. Deadline 31st October 2011.
- b) NHS: Local NHS Hospital Trust Changes. Recruiting new members for the Trust. Link on HDC web site.
- c) HDC: “Pride of Place” report, issued by Age UK.
- d) HDC: Community Action Against Crime Innovation Fund. New grant fund to encourage creative new approaches to tackling crime. See www.homeoffice.gov.uk

- e) HDC: Horsham District 'Health & wellbeing hub' opened 14th September 2011. New one stop 'shop'. See www.horshamdistrictwellbeing.org.uk
- f) WSCC: Update on the outsourcing of services.
- g) Sussex Resilience Forum: Community Information on Risks in Sussex.
- h) CLC: Next meeting 28th Sep 2011, 7.30pm, Storrington First School. Subject: merging of East and West Sussex fire brigades.
- i) AIRS: Providing support to help others switch to digital. Free briefing sessions, free leaflets and grants.
- j) HDC: Affordable Housing Seminar – 28th September 2011, 5.30pm, HDC Council Chamber. Booking required.
- k) RHS: Britain in Bloom. Campaign to improve public spaces.
- l) WSCC: Consultation on youth services. Further cuts will have to be made. Deadline for comments 14th October 2011. (circulated)
- m) WSCC: Mr. E. Dickinson (Community Development & Big Society Team Manager). Explanation of changes at WSCC, including new officers for our parish.
Principal Officer is Dan Sanders.
Community Highways Officer is Mark Bishop.
Customer Support Officer is Lucy Mack.
Request that WGPC highlight any local highway improvement schemes we feel are a priority in our parish.
Response requested by end of September 2011. **The Clerk to action.**
- n) HDC: Community Resilience Workshop invitation. Wed 16th November, 4pm to 7pm, Beeson House, Southwater. Booking required. (circulated)

PC_156/11 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_157/11 Bank Account for PGYC (Partridge Green Youth Club) Transactions

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Taylor, seconded Cllr Izzard) to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee that the Parish Council opens a separate bank account with the Co-op bank solely to deal with PGYC transactions. Signatories to be the same as for the other bank accounts, i.e., all members of the Finance Committee.
The Clerk to action.

PC_158/11 Public Open Forum: No items

PC_159/11 WGPC Accounts for September 2011:

Sep 2011						
WGPC Income						
	none					
WGPC Expenses						
Chq No	Payee	Narrative		Gross	Vat	Net
				£	£	£
SO	HDC	Emptying dog bins	60.62		0.00	
		Less deduction - missed collection	-8.66	51.76		
DD	Tiscali/Talk Talk	Broadband monthly bill		20.42	3.40	17.02
400450	Mr J. Carpenter	Contribution to wet weather clothing		100.00		
		Staff salaries		1557.78		
		Staff expenses	52.27		0.58	51.69
	Inland Revenue	Tax and NI		354.46		
	WSCC	Clerk's pension				
		Clerk's contribution	100.83			
		WGPC contribution	280.78			
				381.61		

	HDC	May 2011 election charge (cheque not raised in August)		236.00		
	Action in Rural Sussex	Annual subscription		50.00		
	ICO	Data Controller registration fee for Clerk		35.00		
	Parish Online	Annual subscription for online mapping resource		36.00		
	HJ Burt	Annual rent for access road to Jolesfield Common		116.68		
	Mr P. Priston	Tidying up vegetation at war memorial		105.00		
	AGW Baker	Re-varnishing 3 notice boards and supply extra keys		143.40		
	Jolesfield School	Donation for schools grounds improvements		500.00		
	Mazars	External Audit fee		480.00	80.00	400.00
	Neat & Stripy	Grass cutting at St. George's (6th & 18th Aug)		192.00	32.00	160.00
	DJ Flynn	Grass cutting at DP green	154.29			
		Grass cutting at St. Michael's burial ground	64.28			
		Grass cutting at Jolesfield Common	92.57			
		<i>Invoice no 806</i>		311.14	51.86	259.28
			Total for WGPC	4,723.72	167.84	
KGV Income						
18/08/2011	Sports & Social Club	Pavilion rent - half year		284.82		
King George V Expenses						
	DJ Flynn	Grass cutting at KGV field (<i>Invoice no 805</i>)		401.14	66.86	334.28
			Total for KGV	401.14	66.86	
INTER-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS/PAYMENTS		none				

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Berry, seconded Cllr. Izzard) to approve the WGPC payments as listed.

PC_160/11 Approval of Quotations (urgent): none

King George V Playing Field Trust Summary

PC_161/11 Declarations of Interest & Notification of Changes to Interests:

Cllr. Hill declared a personal interest in relation to membership of the Sports & Social Club.

PC_162/11 Matters Arising:

Members thanked Cllr Pearless and his friend for their recent work to clear the pennywort weed from the KGV pond and also Cllrs Russ and Hill for clearing the ragwort near the pond.

PC_163/11 Approval of KGV Accounts for September 2011 (Circulated with PC accounts)

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Hill) to approve the KGV payments as listed.

PC_164/11 Other KGV Matters to Report Back to the Parish Council Meeting:

Another 'Friends of KGV' meeting had been arranged. Items to be considered include: setting up a web site, landscaping the pond surround and fund raising.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

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