



West Grinstead Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Partridge Green Village Hall

Wednesday 20th July 2011

at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. D. Green (Chairman), Mr. A. Childs (Vice Chairman), Mr. R. Hill, Mr. A. Russ, Mr. D. Pearless, Mr. J. De Little, Mr. P. Kanabus, Mrs C. Watts, Mrs H. Bullingham and Mrs G. Nash.

County Councillor: Mr. L. Barnard.

District Councillor: Mr J. Chowen.

Visitors: Mr T. Warder (AIRS), Mr A. Smith (HDC), Mr S. Fullwood & Mr D. Cornelius (Saxon Weald).

Three members of the public.

Clerk: Mrs H. Dayneswood

PC_122/11 Apologies: Cllrs. Mr. G. Taylor, Mr. N. Berry (representing Transport Working Group at an HDC meeting), Mrs O. Izzard. District Councillor Mr A. Dunlop. Also Mr. R. English (Transport Working Group Chairman).

PC_123/11 Declarations of Interest: None

PC_124/11 Chairman's Announcements: None

PC_125/11 Minutes of the last meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Kanabus, seconded Cllr. Hill) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2011 be approved as a true record.

PC_126/11 Affordable Housing

Update on Peacocks

Mr Fullwood and Mr Cornelius provided an update on plans for the Peacocks site. The Parish Council were very encouraged to learn that Saxon Weald has amended its plans and are now planning to build 6 retirement flats (1 and 2 bed) and three family houses on the site. The current building will be demolished, the new building work started in about April 2012 and the new accommodation ready in about April 2013.

Mr Fullwood emphasised that Saxon Weald's top priority is the well-being of the current residents. He asked the PC to pass on any concerns of residents if they are anxious about anything. He also offered to attend a further PC meeting with early plans of the new development. Cllr Green said that the PC would welcome that and he thanked Saxon Weald for listening to the concerns of the community and amending the accommodation mix on the site.

Housing Needs Survey

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Kanabus, seconded Cllr. Green) to undertake a housing needs survey for the parish. This would be conducted by Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) and paid for by HDC.

A 6 side questionnaire would be sent to every household in the parish, together with a covering letter from the PC. The main aim is to identify the level of need for affordable housing in the area. AIRS will prepare and post the questionnaires, analyse the returns and report back to the PC. The data will also be passed to HDC.

Mr Warder to pass information about the Housing Needs Survey to the WG newsletter and 13-8 magazine. *The Clerk to advise of copy dates.*

Cllr Green thanked all the visitors for taking the time to attend the meeting.

PC_127/11 Matters Arising:

- a) Mark Bishop has taken over from Tim Boxall as the WSCC Highways Supervisor for the parish.
- b) The problem of rampant ragwort was discussed. It is toxic to horses and can cause rashes in humans. It is important to control ragwort before it seeds; by topping it before it seeds, spraying or pulling it out. See the DEFRA web site for further details. *The Clerk to pass information to the WG web site, WG newsletter and 13-8 magazine.*

PC_128/11 Police Report:

Neither PC Martin Harris nor PCSO Tom Guiney was able to attend the meeting. The Clerk gave a summary from the circulated Neighbourhood Panel Report from Tom Guiney.

PC_129/11 District Council Report:

- a) Cllr Chown reported on his visit to the proposed crematorium site in West Grinstead hamlet. Although several people have raised serious concerns about the road and traffic implications, WSCC Highways seem to be fairly happy with the proposal.
- b) In his new role with responsibility for leisure facilities, he encouraged everyone to make use of the excellent leisure and recreation facilities in the district.

PC_130/11 Discussion re: Planning Applications by Old Barn Nurseries, Dial Post

Cllr Childs expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the way the recent planning application DC/11/0872 for Old Barn Nurseries was dealt with by HDC's Development South Committee. There had been a spate of applications from Wyevale at Old Barn but the existing problems of flooding, traffic movements and S106 breaches had not been dealt with. There had been a significant intensification of use of the site since Wyevale took over about 18 months ago.

DC/11/0872 was granted by HDC on 19th July but it was delegated back to Cllrs Chown and Dunlop to sort out the drainage issues.

Cllr Childs passed a letter dated 20th July 2011 to Cllr Green and asked for it to be read out and included in the minutes.

"Dear Mr Chairman,

After careful thought I find I must resign from the Parish Council.

Due to the inept way HDC conduct their planning committee meetings, where they have already decided the outcome before anyone has a chance to speak in case there is an appeal, yesterday at the planning meeting of the Old Barn Application, it was made clear before we had a chance to speak that it would be passed in case there was an appeal, this does not help people like George Johnson and myself, we also got very little help from our district councillors. I feel the Parish Council is wasting its time commenting on planning applications when we are not being listened to. I would like to thank the Parish Council for all their help over the years I have been on the Council - I have enjoyed my time very much.

I would like this letter to be put in the minutes so that the people in Dial Post know the reason for my resignation.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Childs."

Cllr Green expressed his huge regret that Cllr Childs felt he must resign. Cllr Green expressed his heartfelt thanks for everything Cllr Childs had done for the Parish Council and the community.

Cllr Childs left the meeting.

[Note: The vacancy on the Parish Council created by Cllr Childs resignation can only be filled by an eligible Dial Post resident.]

PC_131/11 West Sussex County Council Report:

Cllr Barnard reported on the following items.

- a) West Sussex receives a very low grant from Government compared to many other counties. The Government will shortly be finalising their plans for future budgets and schemes.
- b) There are three new cabinet members on the SSRP (Sussex Safer Roads Partnership). Speeding drivers are to be offered training courses rather than points on their licence in the future. The income from the courses will help pay for the safety cameras.
- c) Clustering, hubs and localism. He offered to ask Mr Duncan Barratt (WSCC) to come to speak to the PC if they would like him to.

PC_132/11 Correspondence:

- a) Woodland Trust: Looking for councils willing to work in partnership with them to create new woodland. Council needs to provide the land to plant up as a new wood.
- b) WSCC: WSCC outsourcing support services (email circulated).
- c) SLCC Chief Executive: Proposal for a new sector wide body to replace all existing organisations: NALC, SALC and SLCC.
- d) Digital UK: Digital Television Switchover Community Outreach Pack (6 further copies requested).

- e) Senior Persons' Council: Request to come and speak with some of the older people in the parish. Small groups followed by one-to-one interviews where requested. *Noted.*
- f) SLCC: Excerpts from the Sussex Branch (Horsham District) recent minutes.

PC_133/11 Committee Reports:

- PLANNING:** For the full report, please refer to the Planning Committee minutes.
- OPEN SPACES:** For the full report, please refer to the Open Spaces Committee minutes.
- FINANCE:** For the full report, please refer to the Finance Committee minutes.

PC_134/11 Working/Advisory Group Reports: No reports.

PC_135/11 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- a) Allotments Association: The official opening to be held on Saturday 23rd July (weather permitting).
- b) Sports & Social Club (SSC): The meeting between the KGV sports clubs and the PC has been scheduled for Friday 22nd July.

PC_136/11 Public Open Forum: No items

PC_137/11 WGPC Accounts for July 2011:

[Please refer to the Finance Minutes for details.]

Other items listed since the Finance meeting:

Mrs O. Izzard	Reimbursement for Mrs Brown's retirement gift	46.47
Mrs Brown	Re-issue cheque for March salary (original gone missing)	50.00

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

PC_138/11 Approval of Quotations (urgent): none

King George V Playing Field Trust Summary

PC_139/11 Declarations of Interest & Notification of Changes to Interests:

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

PC_140/11 Matters Arising: none

PC_141/11 Approval of KGV Accounts for July 2011 (*Circulated with PC accounts*)

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

PC_142/11 Other KGV Matters to Report Back to the Parish Council Meeting: none

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

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