



West Grinstead Parish Council

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING

Dial Post Village Hall
Wednesday 14th September 2011
at 7.30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: - Councillors: Mr. R. Hill (Chairman), Mrs. C. Watts (Vice-Chairman), Mr. D. Green, , Mr. N. Berry, Mrs H. Bullingham, Mrs O. Izzard, Mr D. Pearless, Mrs G. Nash and Mr. A. Russ.
District Councillor: Mr J. Chowen
Mr R. Brown and Mr A. Dracott (HDC)
PC I. Vasey (Horsham Police Licensing)
19 members of the public.
Clerk: Mrs. H. Dayneswood.

General Items

OS_086/11 Apologies: Cllr: Mr. G. Taylor and District Councillor Mr A. Dunlop.

OS_087/11 Chairman's Announcements: none

OS_088/11 Minutes:

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr. Green, seconded Cllr. Bullingham) that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2011 be approved as a true record.

Parish Council Business

OS_089/11 Declarations of Interest – WGPC Business : none

OS_090/11 Review of the Recent Music Concert at West Sussex Show Ground Dial Post

Mr Brown (Head of Development & Environment at HDC) summarised the problems that had occurred over the bank holiday week-end at the site. He recognised that there had been a lot of noise disturbance and that some Dial Post residents had been badly affected. He explained that the Temporary Event Notice (TEN) submitted by the concert organisers was only a notification (it was not an application seeking approval). HDC has to consult with the police concerning a TEN. The police may object on the grounds of crime or disorder and then it would go through the HDC appeal process. However, the police did not object, so HDC had no power to stop the event.

HDC did see some potential in advance for disturbance with this event, so the Environmental Health (EH) department had discussions with the organisers and also set a maximum noise level (in line with the National Code of Practice). An Abatement Notice was issued to the organisers in advance of the event. During the day the level was set for 65 decibels (averaged over 15 minutes) and after 11pm the noise should have been inaudible from the nearest residence. HDC had two officers on standby plus an EH officer, in case of problems. Mr Brown said that HDC had systems in place but that they received no complaints from the public.

There was discussion about the lack of forward notice to the Parish Council about the event. The Clerk was alerted about the event late on the Thursday evening by Mr Childs. HDC left a message on the Parish Council answer phone on the Thursday, which the Clerk picked up when she was next in the office on the Friday. However, by that time the Clerk had already spoken to various people about the event, including HDC and Horsham Police.

There was confusion about the agreed cut-off time for the sound to be turned down at night. Apparently the TEN quoted 2am but the Abatement Notice quoted 11pm.

HDC did agree that in the event, the control of noise did not work as intended.

Mr Childs raised the issue about the HDC reception answer phone message and procedure. The reason that HDC received no calls was due to the fact that the HDC reception answer phone message made no allowance for dealing

with noise disturbance issues. The message gave a mobile number to be called only for emergencies, i.e., if there was risk to life or property.

Mr Brown said that there were several lessons to be learned from the episode. He said that HDC would take the following action:

- Give parishes and HDC members better advance notice of events.
- Have 'boots on the ground', i.e., HDC personnel at 11pm, in order to check what was happening.
- A review of the message on the HDC reception answer phone.

Mr Childs commented that the law about TENs was a nonsense and encouraged people to sign a petition for change to be sent to local MPs.

PC I. Vasey explained his part in the TEN for the concert. He said that under the 'crime and disorder' heading, the police had had no reason to object to the TEN. He had met with the organisers and HDC EH in order to try to ensure there was good planning for the event.

Neither the Parish Council nor local residents had been aware that they could have phoned the Lewes Police Call Centre (0845 60 70 999) in order to report the noise disturbance. PC Vasey confirmed this was indeed another way of reporting noise problems.

Mr Dracott (Principal EH Office at HDC) said that as the Abatement Notice had been in place, if HDC had been able to collect evidence of excessive noise during the week-end then action could have been taken at the time (with police backup).

It was mentioned that it would be useful for the Parish Council to see the notices, in order to know the time limits.

A local resident commented that the important thing now was to work out a protocol for what to do in the future, including the liaison between HDC, the police and the Parish Council. Mr Brown promised to write to the PC about future protocols and communications.

DC Chowen encouraged HDC officers and the police to communicate more with the PC and local members, not the least because there is a lot of useful local knowledge available. The emergency number procedure needs to be reviewed, information should be shared with other parishes and people need to be advised that the police as well as HDC reception can be contacted in the event of problems.

Mr Dracott reported that HDC had had a debrief meeting with the organisers and the police, in order to establish the facts of what took place. Unfortunately they had no evidence to verify the complaints that were coming in. Without solid evidence collected at the time, it is very difficult to get a successful prosecution.

Mr Brown commented that there were problems with the Code of Practice. Is the 65 decibels limit too high? He commented that the organisers should have a log available of the sound levels at the week-end – not yet seen by the police and HDC.

Cllr Hill thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said there were lessons to be learnt for the future and much work to be done.

OS_091/11 Matters Arising: none

OS_092/11 Correspondence:

- a) Copy of letter to HDC from Thakeham resident re: lack of dog bins in the West Grinstead (car park) section of the Downs Link. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have a dog bin in the car park at the old West Grinstead station. ***The Clerk to discuss the location with HDC, including emptying arrangements.*** Cllr Bullingham raised the issue of some dog walkers not clearing up after their dogs. ***She offered to check on the Fixed Penalty Notice arrangements.***
- b) HDC: Two documents re: Local Winter Management Plans. ***No further action needed at present.***
- c) HDC: Review of winter maintenance maps. Salt/grit hippo bags will only be delivered to those parish councils who request them by 30th September. ***The Clerk to confirm that current drop-off sites are fine.***
- d) HDC: Scrutiny & Overview Committee. Invitation to submit a 'work programme suggestion form' for the tackling of anti-social behaviour in the parish. It was agreed that the recent anti-social behaviour (noise disturbance) in Dial Post should be submitted on the form. ***The Clerk to action.***

- e) Invitation to WGPC for a representative to attend a multi-party meeting about the no. 86 bus route. *Cllr Hill offered to speak to a local parent (whose child uses the bus) so see if they would like to attend the meeting.*

OS_093/11 Grass Cutting 2012

It was agreed to ask the current contractors to quote for 2012. *The Clerk to action.*

OS_094/11 Allotments Lease

The lease between the Parish Council and the Jolesfield Allotments Association is in the process of being finalised.

OS_095/11 Update on Proposed New Parking Areas at Oakwood Green

Cllr Berry reported on the difficulties with using grasscrete for the proposed new parking bays at the green. The Transport Working Group will progress the proposals at their next meeting. Cllr Berry also advised that any proposed solution would need to be approved by the County local Committee (CLC). It would be helpful to ask Cllr Barnard to promote the project.

OS_096/11 Christmas Lights 2012

- a) It was agreed to ask Mr Childs if he would still be happy to help with collection of the Christmas trees from the local supplier. *The Clerk to action.*
- b) It was agreed to have a draw to select a local child to do the switching-on of the Christmas lights. *Cllr Bullingham offered to make a box* that could be placed in the Co-op store, inviting children to put their name forward.
- c) Cllr Izzard suggested that there be a competition for the best-decorated frontage in the High Street at Christmas time. There could be a small entry fee and a prize. *Cllr Izzard offered to design a leaflet* to be delivered at the end of the October.

OS_097/11 Flooding next to Jolesfield Pond

Cllr Green and the Clerk updated members on the recent site meeting with Mr M. Bishop (WSSC Highways supervisor) and DC Dunlop. Mr Bishop has submitted a jetting request for the culvert running under the B2135, plus the carriageway gully and associated chambers. He will also liaise with the WSSC legal department about possible legal action to get the owner to dredge his silted-up pond.

OS_098/11 Other Items to Report (information only): none

Meeting Of King George V Playing Field Trustees

OS_099/11 Declarations of Interest- KGV Business

Cllrs Hill and Russ each declared a personal interest in relation to membership of the Sports & Social Club.

OS_0100/11Matters Arising:

Members thanked Cllr Kanabus for organising the flailing that took place recently around the perimeter of the field. They also thanked Cllrs Russ and Hill for clearing the ragwort near the pond.

OS_0101/11Correspondence: none

OS_0102/11Progressing the 'Friends of KGV' Group

Nothing new to report.

OS_0103/11KGV Maintenance

- a) Grass cutting for KGV in 2012. There was discussion about whether the Parish Council and the sports clubs could manage the grass cutting amongst themselves in future years. Cllr Russ would like to see a grass cutting rota, to share the task between several people. A suitable second-hand small gang mower would cost about £5000. However, as the annual KGV grass cutting costs are about £2,400, it would pay for itself within about two years. There would need to be space made available in the KGV tractor shed to store the mower. *Cllrs Russ, Kanabus and Pearless to progress the option.*
- b) Replacement of two toddler cradle swings. It was decided that this was not required.
- c) Update on drainage issues in area of the KGV pond. This issue had become very complicated. The Clerk was pursuing the matter with WSSC.
- d) Update on whether local teenagers would like to be involved in working with a graffiti artist (Mr Duncan Weston) to develop more tasteful graffiti on the skateramp. Not many teenagers contacted as yet. *Cllr Hill offered to pursue this.*

OS_0104/11Update on KGV User Groups, Leases etc.

Cllr Green reported that he is due to contact the District Valuer.

OS_0105/11Other KGV Business:

- a) Cllr Russ reported that the tennis courts had been recently power-washed.
- b) It was agreed to invite the Scouts to attend a Council meeting to give a progress report about their plans for a new building. *Cllr Russ to pass contact names to the Clerk.*

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next Open Spaces meeting: **Wed 12th October** 2011, 7.30 p.m., Partridge Green Village Hall.

Signed as a true record.....Date.....