



DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Monday 23rd September 2024

<p>Present: Cllr Deborah Harwood (DH); Cllr Tony Marshall (TM); Cllr Sam Cox (SC); Cllr Karen Nash (KN); Cllr Peter Gattrell (PG) Cllr Jeremy Hunt (JH WSCC); Cllr Henry Potter (HP CDC) 2 members of the public also attended.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 1 – Apologies for Absence – JR</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 2 – Chairman Update – DH reported that she had a meeting with Daniel Garlick, Director of Goodwood Motor Sports to discuss the issues with traffic during the Festival of Speed. This is the biggest Goodwood event and creates a huge amount of traffic. Going forward they are going to increase the signage, install a camera at the bottom of Town Lane and employ more experienced traffic controllers.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 3 – Declaration of Interests/ Dispensation Requests - There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting – to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024. It was Resolved that that the minutes were correct, all councillors agreed, DH signed the minutes.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 5 – County Councillor Report – Mr Jeremy Hunt, Chichester North Division WSCC JH reported that the council are trying to finalise the budget for next year, but they do not yet know how much funding they will be receiving from the government. Based on a recent submission to the Government, Unison predict that there would be a shortfall of £4.3 billion for local government across the country. JH is concerned that the new government might take the easy route to find more money for local government and lift the referendum limit on council tax. The actual referendum sits at 2% but there has been an increase in the referendum over the past couple of years from 2% to 3% and added 2% for adult social care, but there is no news on what the new government will do. Despite early rumours, JH said that the latest suggestion he had read was that the Chancellor will leave the single person benefit on council tax in place but stressed that this is all rumour at the moment. There was a discussion on whether there is any intention to bring council employees working from home back to the office. JH said that this was the executive team’s responsibility. There was also a discussion about the empty council buildings with the council currently considering various ideas, however, any plans need to provide a maximum return for the residents of the county. There is a long term policy to repurpose or sell surplus buildings. The recent report from OFSTED on our Childrens service in regard to transitioning young people in care to independent living was rated as substantially improved,</p> <p>The current household support fund finishes at the end of September, it is understood that the new government will continue with this scheme but they are still awaiting confirmation of how much they will receive from the government (<i>Update: Now confirmed for a further 6 months</i>). There is a lot of information online which outlines what help is available, you don’t have to be receiving other benefits to receive help. Contact the WSCC Community hub for help and further information.</p>	

Charlton 20mph scheme is more or less agreed, JH will chase up the queries on signage.

Following references previously expressed by a local resident regarding the safety of the Singleton Oil Well site, JH also reported that the fire service have an emergency plan in place and that they visit the site regularly. All other safety issues are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The site is classed as a lower tier Coma site (control of major accident hazards site).

Agenda Item 6 - District Councillor Report – Mr Henry Potter, Goodwood Ward

The recent announcement by the new government of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework has been analysed by our Planning Officers and is not good reading. Plans for increased provision of new housing will mean a headache for most Planning Authorities in the south east of England. Government do not Plan for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Figures for Chichester District are suggested at more than 1,000 a year but this will be adjusted to account for the lack of development within the SDNP. One algorithm suggested is to take the total number of existing dwellings in a Planning Area and multiply this by 0.08% to give a annual housing target. Whatever next? And, there is no consideration given to additional infrastructure provision to support this extra housing.

There is also provision to allow development on 'poor production' farmland and classed as 'grey' belt land. This together with the continued use of land taken out of agricultural use to offset Nitrate and Carbon from developments elsewhere which impact on the sensitive waters of our rivers and coastal waters, I see as an increasing threat to our already fragile food security. Only recently at the August 7th Planning Committee it was agreed that the Council would enter an agreement with the landowner of farmland at Chilgrove and the SDNPA to secure the provision of credit selling Nitrates mitigation schemes. This is also happening on farmland at East Dean. The involvement of the SDNPA is that they will assume the monitoring and enforce the replacement of failed trees which are planted at a specific number per hectare. This must continue for between 85 and 125 years. Interesting?

At the Cabinet meeting on 3rd September members agreed to adopt the A27 Bypass Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document. This document was produced after a six-week consultation when numerous respondents commented on proposals and is intended to continue addressing the ongoing issue of congestion on this Strategic Road. In a nutshell, the Council, through levying certain developments which impact the A27, have amassed substantial sums of money much of which has been spent on the Portfield junction realignment but there remains a shortfall of a minimum £13.56 million in order to deliver the package of works for the Bognor Road, Whyke, Stockbridge and the Fishbourne roundabouts. Total costs are "estimated" to be £43.4 million!! There is no likelihood of any funding from National Highways particularly now, as the new Government has no money!! This A27 Bypass mitigation SPD will be submitted alongside the previously submitted Revised Local Plan and will take effect on 2nd October '24.

Grant funding for Pallant House Gallery and the Festival Theatre is to continue for a further year, PHG will receive £130,000 and CFT £187,000 under the existing funding agreement. Tangmere Parish Council will receive £312,253 from Sect. 106 Community facilities monies derived from developments in their Parish and this will be spent on improvements to the Car Park surrounding the Community Centre.

Finally, an arrangement with Portsmouth City Council to provide stray dog kennelling for a further 3 years has been agreed, I never realised that, though we have dog wardens, we don't have any kennelling facilities. Dogs are kept at the Portsmouth kennels for five days after which they are rehoused with charities who try to rehome them.

HP reported that he is pretty sure that the new government will lift the cap on the Council Tax.

Centurion Way – a project update will be circulated with the minutes and also uploaded to the parish council website. HP reported that there are still discussions taking place about finding an alternative route around the West Dean tunnel and the local landowners have offered access through their land, however the SDNP don't seem interested in these ideas. HP will be writing to new chief executive who takes up his post in November.

There was a discussion about the parish councils application for CIL money for the school parking. JH mentioned the New Homes Bonus that should be available even if a parish doesn't have any new development and VN will contact Tracy Bangert at CDC, cabinet member for communities to find out if there is money available and what the criteria is.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Open Forum

An MOP apologised for not sending the requested paperwork about the oil field and then tried to raise another issues. DH said that until the requested paperwork has been supplied there would be no further discussions on this subject. Another MOP asked if Goodwood are going to clear the river along the meadow. DH reported that VN has been in touch with Goodwood and they are going to coppice the hedges in January or February and the river will not be cleared until the hedges have been done. There is a lot of concern that the river will over spill onto the road again as happened last year, there are also springs along the edge of the road that exacerbate the problem. DH agreed to contact Goodwood again to try and resolve the issue. JH will also email Lloyd McNeil an email about this issue.

Council Matters –

Insurance - VN had circulated the quotes for the insurance and it was agreed by all councillors to renew with the existing company, Clear Councils as they were the most competitive.

Agenda Item 8 – Village Matters

Dog Poo Bin for the Playground/Bin for Charlton – It was agreed to obtain some notices for the playground and to purchase a poo bag dispenser.

School Parking – Southern Water have repaired the grass area outside the school playground and it has been taped off to protect it. The cars are now parking elsewhere, in particular on the grass area on the far end of the entrance to The Leys, owned by Hyde Housing. There was a suggestion of installing wooden posts along the edge of the Hyde land and the area that is currently taped off. Goodwood has done this outside the entrance to the motor racing track. JR had a meeting with the Headmistress of the school to make suggestions of how the parking at drop off and pick up times could be alleviated, however, the headmistress implied that it was not the school's responsibility to help solve this problem. DH will make another appointment to discuss this issue with the headmistress. If this is unsuccessful, it was agreed to ask JH to tackle the problem with the correct person at WSCC. DH will discuss the idea of installing wooden posts to protect the land in front of the school playground with JR. It was suggested that two posts with a chain and padlock across the track that leads to Hyde Housing land and the track that leads to the houses and is access for Goodwood to enter the meadow be installed. It was agreed that the homeowners be consulted.

TRO Charlton – The TRO has been agreed, the position of some of the signs and the number of signs is still to be agreed.

Update on Playground Repairs – The repairs are being started on the 30th October, in addition to what was agreed, a bar of wood across the fence needs to be replace and SC asked if the gate could be looked at as it doesn't close properly. Goodwood have donated £500 towards the roundabout. KN will contact W&D to ask if they would donate towards the repairs. PG mentioned the large tree by the bin, some branches are falling from it and it could be dangerous and it has a lot of ivy on the trunk, this tree belongs to the Church and the trees along the track that goes to the farm are also the churches responsibility. TM suggested that we should ask the church what their safety regimes are concerning trees and so that we are covered for our insurance ask to see the paperwork. DH asked

GZ to contact Wendy Goacher who is a church warden to ask for this information. SC requested a copy of the playground checklist and that a quarterly check should be carried out, along with the annual playground inspection.

Agenda Item 9 – Finance

Total in Current Account (18/09/24) – £20,823.76

Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – Playground Repairs £2,000 + £2,000 in 2024/25 budget.

General Maintenance £100.00 + £500.00 in 2024/25 budget.

School Parking – Grant awarded from Star Energy of £2,000 (not claimed yet)

Balance in Savings Account – £7,124.91

Funds Received - Balance of Precept - £13,304.00 and Henry Smith - £11,000.00 paid out immediately to Singleton Henry Smith Charity.

Annual Audit is approved. GZ mentioned that they were concerned about how much we had in our reserves. The auditors suggest that we should have three times our expenditure in our reserves. SC pointed out that our expenditure is covered by the precept and the only other un-expected expenditure could be the playground and we have separate reserves to cover that. It was agreed that having discussed this matter the council are happy with the amount of reserves.

KN Updates on Southern Water – meeting confirmed with Hannah (Lavant) and Floyd Cooper on the 15th October. The verge on Knights Hill has been repaired again. There was a discussion about the number of people that KN has on the SW working party. It was recommended that the maximum should be 4 or 5. At the moment there are 5 residents and 3 councillors, if they all want to be involved DH and SC suggested that this should be thinned out with the reassurance that any information would be fed back to the other interested parties and the parish council. It was clarified that a working party cannot make decisions, only the council can make decisions.

Meeting arranged with Andrew Griffith on 11th October, if KN is unable to attend due to work commitments DH will attend.

Housekeeping – DH asked all councillors to check and respond to their emails at least once a week.

Meeting Closed – 20.15

Confirmed that these minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed: DEBORAH HARWOOD

Name & Position: CHAIRMAN

Date: