

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 9th April 2013 in the Woodmancote Parish Hall

Present: Colin Broucke (Chairman), Jennifer Forsyth, Jose Ochoa, Pam Williams, Maggie Parnell, Marcus Grimes and David Austin (Councillors), Michael Tuckwell (Parish Clerk), Derek Deedman (West Sussex County Councillor), PCSO James Josling (Sussex Police) and 7 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence were received from WPC Cllr. Angela Underwood.

1. **The Minutes** of the previous AGM were summarised by the Clerk and approved by the Chairman.

2. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman reported as follows:-

“ This time last year we were enjoying the sunshine and coming to terms with the talk of a hose pipe ban. This quickly changed and the rains started, giving us the wettest summer for a long time, causing flooding at the south end of Blackstone Lane and then, later, a major problem on Wheatsheaf Road. I am pleased to report that after much badgering both have been dealt with.

We now have a nearly full team of council members, all from different walks of life, with one thing in common.....the well-being of Woodmancote and keeping it an enjoyable place to live and work.

This past year we have had 20 differing Planning Applications to deal with, ranging from New Gates to Wild Theme Parties to a large Recycling Business, all of which have been openly discussed at our monthly meetings and reported back to Horsham District Council.

In Woodmancote we are very lucky to have the playing field (the home of Sussex Youth Cricket) which has this year acquired new purpose built Scoreboards and a Groundsman's building. The grounds are well supported by the Cricket, Stoolball and Junior Football sections. The play is being used and we hope you all continue to enjoy the facilities. There are plans to improve the drainage of the ground this autumn if funds can be found.

The Web Site is running well – thanks to Marcus. Please take a look.

I would like to thank all the members of the Council and Michael our Clerk for all their help this past year and hope we can keep Woodmancote moving forward.”

3. Playing Field.

The Chairman confirmed that, subject to the satisfactory negotiation of a new lease, WPC understood the urgent need to improve the drainage of Blackstone Playing Field and to extend the cricket playing surface. WPC were therefore pleased to support the application of the Sussex Cricket in the Community Trust to undertake such a scheme, on behalf of the local community.

The Council considers that the Playing Field is of great value as a recreational amenity and was most pleased when the Trust built a new children's play area two years ago.

The Council is pleased that the charity is prepared to improve the playing surface so that the many cancelled fixtures in all three sports played there can be greatly reduced.

The Playing Field is the only one of its kind in the Parish and the Council is pleased that the Trust maintains it in such good order generally. The Field will be able to be used more frequently if the drainage system is put in place., benefitting greatly the football club in the winter months and the cricket and stoolball clubs during the summer.

The Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 12 February 2013 that this project will significantly improve this important facility and provide sporting and recreational benefits to the local community, through increased participation and usage.

The scheme fits well within the Parish Council's overall plan for the area.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors.

Horsham District Council.

In the absence of the HDC Councillors, the Clerk read the following Report to the meeting:

- i. As councillors may have read or heard, the cabinet member for Finance, resources and efficiency has had to leave his post as a result of his resignation from the Conservative party. Gordon Lindsay has taken over the finance function with the resources and efficiency portfolios passing to Ray Dawe, the leader.
- ii. Strategic Planning. Council continues to work on the numbers of houses required and now is also working on where they will go. In the meantime the South East plan, which set the numbers previously, has been abolished and

so the pressure is on HDC to come up with a plan soon, subject to the usual consultations.

- iii. As part of the strategic plan process, HDC is encouraging Parish Councils to develop their own Neighbourhood plans – there are financial incentives for doing this and financial and other assistance is available to parishes.
- iv. Next year is the centenary of the start of WW1 and HDC is planning on some commemorative activities. The Cabinet member wonders if parishes would be interested in joining in. Also if you have a war memorial, please let me know.

West Sussex County Council

- i At the Chanctonbury County Local Committee (CLC) meeting on 6 March five rather than just three Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) schemes were agreed as the top priority for 2013/14. This was on the advice of the Deputy Leader of the Council (who is a member of the Chanctonbury CLC). There is one TRO scheme for the Bramber Caste area included in the top five – the reduction of the 40 mph speed limit along the A2037, Henfield Road in Upper Beeding to 30 mph. The County Council has now confirmed this change. The Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport has said that officers are now working on ways to reduce the time taken to approve a TRO that would involve greater consultation to try to reduce the wait between a member proposing it, a CLC approving it and it becoming legally enforceable to six months or a year.
- ii The County Council has agreed to allocate a bigger budget to CLCs to support local community projects in 2013/14. Each CLC previously had £4,000 per member available to distribute as part of the Community Initiative Fund scheme (CIF). This is now being increased to £6,000 per member and means that the Chanctonbury CLC will have a budget of £24,000 available in 2013/14. Also, in future, in addition to bids being made by community groups, County Councilors will be allowed to identify local projects they feel would benefit from CIF and to submit an application for a grant. Finally, the County Council on 22 March agreed that no CIF grants could be made to precept making bodies such as parish councils.
- iii The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources has announced that in 2013/14 £300,000 will be available in a fund to support Social Enterprises and the Members Big Society Fund that allows councilors to bid on behalf of community projects.
- iv A £1.25m fund has been made available by the County Council to encourage local communities to act against future flooding threats. The Council wants to encourage communities to help themselves against flooding and the £1.25m will be available for towns and parishes to apply for schemes to do just that.
- vi The Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport has approved the Asset Management Roads Maintenance Budget for 2013/14. Schemes included from this area include: - carriageway resurfacing on the Steyning Bypass from the Horsham Road junction to Reads Walk, and carriageway surface dressing

on The Street, Bramber and High Street Upper Beeding, the Henfield Road (A2037) in Small Dole, Peppers Lane to Steyning Road and Steyning Road (B2135), north side of village to Wappingthorn Farm, Clays Hill to Bramber Road and High Street, Steyning, Edburton Road to Fulking village and Pepperscoombe Lane, Upper Beeding.

vii In response to a query, Councilor Deedman advised that the creation of a footpath across the Small Dole soil dump site had been approved and work would commence this Spring/Summer.

Viii Councilor Deedman concluded his Report by advising that, sadly, this would be his last meeting with Woodmancote Parish since he would be retiring in May. He said that he had enjoyed working with the Parish Council very much. The Chairman thanked him for all his help and hard work over the years and said that he would be greatly missed. All present joined with the Chairman in giving Councilor Deedman a warm, appreciative round of applause.

5. Police Report. PCSO Josling said that he was pleased to report that during the last year there had only been 15 reported crimes in Woodmancote – 4 of which were on the Industrial Estate. The main problem area was fuel thefts from farm fuel storage tanks and transport vehicles. There had been two burglaries but generally PC Josling felt that burglaries were being kept under control largely due to the excellent work of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

6. Question Time.

The Chairman gave a brief resume/update of the proposals for the new Mayfield development which, in his opinion, was something which will probably take several years of planning and discussion before it will become a reality – “we, as a council, will keep a keen eye on it”.

The Meeting closed at 9.15p.m. and was followed by tea and biscuits. The WPC Chairman thanked all that attended for their interest.