

**WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30p.m.**  
**(Members of the Public were invited to attend)**

**Mrs L Bannister – Clerk to the Council**  
**48 Titmus Drive Tilgate Crawley West Sussex RH10 5ER**  
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**Present:** WPC Cllrs. C. Broucke (Chairman), M. Grimes, D. Austin, A. Underwood and P. Williams  
L. Bannister (Clerk)

**Others Present:** HDC Cllr. D. Coldwell  
WSCC Cllr. D. Barling & colleague Ben Staines  
5 members of the public – C. Warren, Y. Jenkins, A. Tiplady, S. Ross-Talbot & E. Ross-Talbot

**33. Apologies**

HDC Cllr. J. Goddard  
Cllr. J. Ochoa

**34. Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The Minutes were agreed and duly signed.

**35. Action updates from previous Minutes**

WSCC has been contacted about the footpath along Bramlands Lane. This has been put on the list for works this year.

Cllr. Austin has had a visit from an EON surveyor to discuss the mains at his property. They didn't know about the gas main either. This has now been made a no dig site.

**36. Declarations of interest from members in respect of any items in the Agenda**

None.

**37. Open Forum (Council agree to adjourn proceedings for questions from the members of the public)**

A. Tiplady would like to know proposals for the Parish Hall. Cllr. Broucke confirming that nothing has been proposed, but the church and P. Bates want to know how improvements at the hall could be funded in the future.

C. Warren is a representative of the Neighbourhood Watch, who have requested the following:-

- Is it possible to get 40mph flashing signs at either end of the A281? They believe these are a deterrent to speeding.
- Neighbourhood Watch signs have disappeared from all signs into the Parish. Would the Council fund new signs? C. Warren (on initial investigation) believes these to be around £25. They would be plastic.
- They would like to have available 40mph signs to go on dustbins. Again, could the Council help to fund these?
- It was noted that the pavement on the A281 was cleared and this was very good, but there is another stretch that needs clearing.

S. Ross-Talbot and E. Ross-Talbot are affected by the Operation Watershed application at Furners Lane. They are aware that there is a deadline to get this application in and they urge that this is done by the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

A member of the public has been made aware that Peter Bates wants to demolish the Parish Hall so that it can be used for housing. The member of public is against this. Cllr. Broucke explaining that the Vicar believes funding has to be found from somewhere, and is looking at all options. Research undertaken by the Steering Group has found that parishioners want the hall to remain, but accept that some development could help to fund the maintenance.

A member of the public suggested that funding could have been obtained for the hall, but this was never applied for.

It was noted that a defibrillator was supposed to be attached at the hall but ended up going to the cricket pavilion because the people organising it could not get a response.

Cllr. Broucke responding to the comments/questions as follows:-

- Regarding clearing the pavements – the council has done what it has been able to with the grant that was available. The cost of clearing the pavement indeed exceeded the grant received.
- Speed limit on A281 – this has always been an issue, and this has been flagged in the past.
- 40mph flashing signs – this would come down to funding and site approval.

Cllr. Barling also adding that:-

- 40mph flashing signs – Cllr. Barling will make investigations with colleagues into this. There is a lot involved, including that they usually have to run on solar energy so the lighting at the site needs to be good.
- It is unlikely that the speed limit could be dropped to 30mph due to various reasons.
- Signs on dustbins – WSCC are against these, so they definitely won't fund them. So, if residents want them they will have to fund them by themselves.

- Neighbourhood Watch could contact Sue Rogers at HDC about various matters, as she has a particular interest in Neighbourhood Watch. Her email address is [sue.rogers@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:sue.rogers@horsham.gov.uk).
- Operation Watershed is definitely closing on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr. Barling will sign the application tonight, and suggests sending this as soon as possible.

Regarding funding for the hall – Cllrs. Coldwell and Barling suggested contacting various organisations for grants including AirS, CLC and Big Society. It was noted that AirS have already confirmed that they do not have any money available for grants at the moment.

### **38. Reports from other authorities**

#### **38.1. Horsham District Council**

Cllr. Coldwell reporting as follows.

At the HDC meeting on Wednesday 25th February the budget for the forthcoming year was approved through without too many objections because we have managed to produce a balanced budget without and controversial measures in it. This means there will be no rise in council tax.

Following the budget debate the Council approved Horsham's element of the council tax and the recommendation is that there will be no increase for the year 2015/6, excluding the police and parish elements, which leaves the charge unchanged for 5 years. The Police have increased their element by 1.9%.

As members will be aware, the preferred strategy is 'on hold' for a few months in response to the inspector's findings that HDC was proposing too few homes; he suggested an annual target of 750 units would be acceptable. This month, there will be an additional council meeting, at which amended targets will be proposed for public consultation; the bulk of the additional houses will be at Southwater, Billingshurst and the former Novartis site at Horsham which is to become part of Brighton University and which will generate 300 units of student accommodation. Also, HDC are still waiting for several parishes to put their Neighbourhood Plans forward.

We had a presentation on Brighton University's plans for the Novartis site which still require funding and approval, but given the lack of tertiary education in the area this should not be a problem. The current site is very well suited to University use having already got many of the facilities required including excellent laboratory facilities. (One of the larger faculties will be chemistry). It is expected that the site will attract up to 3000 students, including many from overseas.

Cllr. Coldwell saying that regarding the Parish Hall, he is aware that AirS have a village hall section, although believes this to be pricey. If WPC are members of AirS this may allow the hall committee to access this section. Cllr. Broucke does not believe WPC are members of AirS.

#### **38.2. West Sussex County Council**

Cllr. Barling has become member of the cabinet, his portfolio being residents' services. This deals with 13 specific areas, including fire, waste minimisation, libraries, and countryside services. The spending power of the department is just under £100m.

Cllr. Barling thanked Cllr. Williams for her work on the footpath access. Cllr. Barling enjoyed volunteering to put the gates up.

Broadband is also included in Cllr. Barling's portfolio. WSCC is trying to roll out broadband cabinets to as many rural areas as possible. They have £2.5m to spend on this.

B. Staines asking if a community could come together to part fund the cabinets (like they have in other areas of the country). Cllr. Barling saying this is possible but it is very expensive – each cabinet costs around £30,000-£40,000.

A member of the public asked if it would have been better to go for 4g? Cllr. Barling can't answer the technicalities of this, but believes it would have been considered at the time of the decision.

It was noted that the HDC planning application at Firlands was refused. This was believed to be because the WSCC application was not live. Cllr. Barling confirmed that it is still not live.

### **39. Report from PCSO (Bryony Sparks)**

PCSO Sparks was unable to come to the meeting.

## **40. Planning**

### **40.1. DC/15/0327 – Blackstone Lodge, Blackstone Lane**

No objections were raised to this application. **ACTION** – Clerk to report this to HDC

### **40.2. EON application to discharge requirement – Public Rights of Way Communication Plan**

It appears EON have made applications to discharge several requirements. On this occasion, it was decided to comment as follows:-

'We would like this requirement to stay intact as we feel communication is an important part of the plan'

**ACTION** – Clerk to report this to WSCC

## **41. Planning updates**

### **41.1. Firlands Industrial Park**

It was noted that planning application number DC/14/2681 was refused, but this has reappeared again as application number DC/15/0398. However, details of this were received too late to be included on the Agenda for this meeting. It was decided that once full details have been received the councillors will communicate by email to make a decision about this.

#### **41.2. 14/02005 – Pear Tree, Blackstone Lane, Albourne**

This is a retrospective application for the siting of a mobile home for storage of feed for livestock. It was decided to comment on this as follows:-

‘Woodmancote Parish Council object to this application based on its detriment to the environment. Further, we feel we should have been notified of this application because the access to it is across the Woodmancote Parish’

**ACTION** – Clerk to report this to Mid Sussex District Council

#### **42. Neighbourhood Plan / AirS (Cllr. Austin)**

There was a Steering Group meeting prior to the Council meeting, and the progress is as follows:-

- Focus groups – the environmental report is complete, and the transport and infrastructure report is almost complete. The housing report is ongoing.
- Call for sites – questionnaires have been received from all landowners/agents, so the next step is to visit the sites. The focus group for housing will meet to discuss how to proceed regarding the amount of development required.

The meeting was well supported by residents.

#### **43. Neighbourhood Watch**

This was included as an item on the Agenda as the communication from the Neighbourhood Watch group has been lacking. There have been several events in Blackstone middle village that have not been relayed. If the Clerk wants to be included on the list of informants, the Clerk will need to request this (even though this has already been requested by Cllr. Williams).

It is understood that the following incidents have occurred (but this information has not been shared with the public):-

- There were people in the yard, the Police attended this
- A car was acting suspiciously
- There was a break in at Firlands Industrial Park

The system is supposed to be that the Police supplies information initially to the Neighbourhood Watch, or anyone who notices anything suspicious can report it to the Neighbourhood Watch, and then the designated person is supposed to inform the residents.

Cllr. Coldwell will ask Sue Rogers from HDC to come along to a Council meeting. He will also contact Greg Charmin.

There is link on the WPC website to the Neighbourhood Watch site.

Cllr. Underwood asking if Neighbourhood Watch signs could go on bins.

Signs should probably not go on council road signs.

S. Ross-Talbot volunteered to work with the Neighbourhood Watch to put together something more suitable to inform residents of all incidents.

#### **44. Kissing gates (Cllr. Williams)**

Latch gates are in (kissing gates were not possible) and landowners are happy with this. There is probably more to do via the voluntary scheme, the only issue is getting landowners to agree – although most don't mind.

The Council thanked Cllr. Williams for arranging this, and also thanking all who were involved.

#### **45. Operation Watershed**

The Council is still waiting for confirmation about whether the Blackstone Lane application has been accepted. However, it is now unsure whether the work can go ahead this time of year because of the vegetation.

The scope for the Furners Lane application has changed again. The Council will try and get the quotes for this before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March (see item 37 above for details). Cllr. Barling signed the application form and will let WSCC know that the application will be in.

#### **46. Potholes**

Cllr. Grimes asking for details of how to report potholes. The 'Love West Sussex' app was suggested. Once reported, they are supposed to be dealt with in 28 days. Cllr. Grimes has noticed a particular pothole that could be very dangerous for motorcycles. Cllr. Grimes will send details of this to WSCC and cc Cllr. Barling in.

#### **47. Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**

This will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. The BN5 magazine has details of this, and something similar will go in the parish magazine. Details will also be put on the website and notice boards.

**ACTION** - Clerk to put together flyer for noticeboards and website

Cllr. Austin will prepare a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan for the APM.

#### **48. Parish Hall**

See item 37 above for details.

#### **49. Asset of Community Value – Blackstone Rise garages**

This application was refused. The Clerk will continue to ask for updates.

## **50. Elections 2015**

The Clerk has nomination packs for anyone that wants a seat on the Council. These need to be hand delivered – the Clerk has agreed to do this.

Cllr. Austin highlighted that current Council members are unable to advertise themselves for the positions at the moment, and must be very careful to not inadvertently do this.

## **51. Finance/Payment**

### **51.1. Trial balance & cashbook**

These were agreed.

### **51.2. WSCC invoice for Clerk's salary - £304.17**

This has not yet been received and so cannot be paid.

### **51.3. PHB (Contractors) Invoice for clearing pavements on A281 - £1,444.20**

This was agreed and a cheque duly signed.

### **51.4. Neighbourhood Plan grant**

There may be another opportunity for a grant. **ACTION** – Clerk is to make the application after the end of this financial year

### **51.5. Reclaiming VAT**

It was agreed that this should be done. **ACTION** – Clerk to make the application, going as far back as possible

### **51.6. Election posters from SSALC - £6**

SSALC have prepared posters and flyers. The invoice was agreed and a cheque duly signed.

## **52. Correspondence/meetings**

### **52.1. WSCC – mobile library service**

The timetable for this will be put up in the bus shelter.

### **52.2. Email from parishioner**

This was an email from a landowner who has put a site forward for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. He attended a meeting and felt the update on the Steering Group meeting was not clear or informative, and has felt he has not been kept informed. Cllr. Broucke replied to this email apologising for the lack of information but explaining that the Steering Group meeting was open to the public.

### **52.3. Email from Steering Group member**

The email was positively commenting on how the Steering Group has been run, and well the members have worked.

#### **52.4. Posters for display on the notice board**

It was decided not to put up a poster on homelessness.

#### **52.5. Previous Clerk**

WSCC (who completed payroll for the Clerk in question) have asked WPC to pay the final amount due to them. This has been disputed for some time whether or not WPC is liable to pay this. It was decided to offer to pay WSCC half of the amount due as a 'gesture of goodwill' to draw the matter to a close.

#### **52.6. Hascombe Farm**

Hascombe Farm are ready to make another planning application, and they want to invite members to a site visit to explain what they are doing. Cllr. Coldwell has asked to be included in the site visit. **ACTION** – Clerk to email agent to say that any date for the site should be fine, but please can we have two weeks notice

#### **53. Other business**

Regarding Marthas Barn and Bo Peeps Barn, Henfield Parish Council have said they will forward the information to HDC.

There was a road traffic accident at the entrance of Woodmancote Place. It is unsure what happened, but there was debris on site.

There was also an accident on the corner of Blackstone Lane.

Thanking Cllr. Barling for sending through a High Court decision regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. This highlighted the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan in place. Cllr. Barling may have another judgement to circulate soon.

#### **54. Date of next meeting**

This will be at 7pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April following the hall meeting. This will be followed at approx. 7.45pm by the APM.

*The meeting closed at 9.15pm*