

WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 12th January 2016 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
Tel: 07921 822869
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Present: WPC Cllrs. C. Broucke (Chairman), M. Grimes, D. Austin, P. Williams and J. Prangnell
L. Bannister (Clerk)

Others Present: HDC Cllr. B. Staines
WSCC Cllr. D. Barling
1 x member of the public Mr H Linfield

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Underwood and HDC Cllr. Coldwell.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 8th December 2015

These were approved subject to correcting a small typo on the last page.

3. Action updates from previous Minutes

There is no new update from the vicar about when the Parish Hall will be surveyed.

The fence at Hollinger has still not been removed. **ACTION** – Clerk to continue to speak to Highways about this.

Pensions Discretions Policy

WSCC have reviewed the pension Discretions Policy, and approved it subject to a few minor suggestions. This will be ready to be approved at the next meeting.

Cllrs Barling and Staines arriving

Shipping container in Blackstone Rise

The Planning department has now confirmed that as they are confident that this is within the residential curtilage and being used with the residential use of land, it does not require planning permission.

Openreach & broadband in Blackstone

They have been in contact to say they can design a solution. WPC just need to complete a form and send it back to them. However, this is likely to cost up to £25,000 just to provide a green box, and maybe more if

other work is required. They would fund some of this, but the remainder would need to be funded by the community. Cllr. Barling thinks there is a strong chance that Blackstone will be getting a green box anyway, but cannot confirm 100%. Cllr. Barling will check this.

Blackstone Lane flooding

Highways have scheduled to jet the gully on 2nd February.

Mr Linfield asked if we can provide the date of HDC's SHELAA that WPC's draft Neighbourhood Plan refers to. He believed it was dated 2014. Cllr. Staines confirmed that now the HDPF has been adopted, an updated version is available (which will be the version referred to in the WPC draft Plan). Mr Linfield believed that the reason that sites will not be included in the draft Plan is because the Steering Group was working from the older version of the SHELAA. Cllr. Austin said that this is incorrect – the newest version had been used.

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

None.

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

Mr Linfield submitted a site after the call for sites initiative was advertised. Since then he has been exposed to lots of scrutiny and examinations, including a public presentation. He believes the whole process hasn't been fit for purpose and has received very little information throughout.

Mr Linfield also queried why there has not been a Steering Group meeting before every Council meeting, and why closed meetings have been taking place. Cllr. Broucke advised that they were closed meetings so that information could be discussed that was not yet ready to be given to the public. Meetings were only held when there was something to discuss.

Cllr. Broucke explained that WPC's professional advisors and HDC advised that if any of the sites put forward were included in the Plan, then the Plan wouldn't pass examination by the Inspector. Even if the initial decision by WPC was not to include any sites, the call for sites process still needed to be gone through or the final Plan would not be valid. Cllr. Broucke also explained that the reason WPC wanted to complete a Plan in the first place was to protect Woodmancote from large scale development, and to allow a little control over the development that needed to take place to allow Woodmancote to move forward.

Cllr. Austin explained that if the call for sites process was not done, the Plan would be invalid. HDC could not advise WPC sooner because their own Plan (HDPF) was only adopted a little while before Christmas.

6. Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr. Austin)

Cllrs. Austin and Broucke and the Clerk met and made the amendments to the draft Plan as was agreed at the last Steering Group meeting. This has now been sent to Jon Dowty and rCOH and Faustina Bayo at AirS, who will read the amendments and get back to us. rCOH's only comment so far is that the foreword may be a bit long.

7. Reports from other Authorities:

7.1. Horsham District Council

Cllr. Staines reported that:-

HDC is now picking up again after Christmas.

Cllr. Staines thinks it is likely HDC will put their precept up.

A resolution has been passed to rebuild the Broadbridge Heath sports centre.

The Planning department appears to be getting more organised.

As far as Cllr. Staines is aware, there is no news on the Blackstone Rise garages.

HDC are looking at replacing refuse trucks. Cllr. Pragnell reported that his recycling was not collected, and when this was reported, a refuse lorry was sent around two weeks later and the recycling was put in the truck with the general household waste. Cllr. Barling said that this should not have happened – recycling waste is needed.

7.2. West Sussex County Council

The Operation Watershed fund is coming back.

For the first time in six years the rates are going to be put up. There has been a loss of Government grant, which will reduce to zero over the next four years. They've had to put extra money into child exploitation, funding for elderly people and terrorism. Elderly people account for around 56% of their outgoings. They have been downsizing for a long time, but they now know that there is a gap where by 2019 they have to downsize by £150m. They think the rates for an average Band D property will go up by around 88p per week. They have a growth plan for each District, which will help with the funding.

There has been bad flooding in Arundel which has badly damaged some 18th century houses.

Cllr. Austin reported that there is a flooding problem in Woodmancote when the river backs up.

Mr Linfield leaving meeting

Although WSCC is not responsible for flood defences, it does have good facilities to help when flooding has taken place.

Cllr. Staines reported that the Planning department are not allowed to refuse an application if there is a risk of flooding to the development (unless the development would make the problem worse).

Cllr. Barling is not aware of any plans to resurface Wineham Lane.

The money being spent on the elderly all goes to the private sector, WSCC does not own any of its own facilities.

Cllr. Staines leaving meeting

8. Planning

No new planning applications had been received.

9. Planning updates

The following applications have been permitted:-

DC/15/0531 – Hascombe Farm

DC/15/2581 – Alastor Barn

Bo Peeps in Henfield have had an application refused, and this appears to have now been appealed. Cllr. Grimes has had a notice about this put through his door, and will send the information to everyone.

10. Firsland Industrial Park/Winterpick Business Park

A neighbouring Parish has complained to WSCC about these sites. **ACTION** – Clerk to respond to these saying that as a Council WPC support most of these views, and send the email to Cllr. Barling

11. Payphone

The payphone on the A281 has been vandalised. This has been reported to BT, who say they are going to deal with it.

12. Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has submitted a proposal to abolish the Adur Internal Drainage District. They are going to provide us with Parish level maps to display so that landowners can locate their interests.

Cllr. Barling does not know why HDC have agreed to take this responsibility back. WSCC will be the policing authority on this, as the drainage authorities.

13. Operation Watershed – Furners Lane

An email has been received from a resident, complaining that the lane has flooded, and has sent a picture of this. She has also sent this picture and complaint to WSCC, who have said that they will chase Balfour Beatty to contact WPC as soon as possible. The last WSCC heard from Balfour Beatty about it was that they were going to arrange to meet WPC on site with their levels to prove that their work is viable.

Cllr. Barling is aware of this, and will speak to Kevin McNay to ask him to view the area. Cllr. Barling will notify WSCC that the lane is now flooded.

Cllr. Williams reported that vegetation and a fence has been removed, which was supposed to be replaced.

Correspondence should be sent to Peter Smith and Kevin McNay.

Cllr. Barling leaving meeting

14. Finance/Payment

14.1 Reconciled accounts and cashbook

The bank statements were not received in time to prepare this so they will be sent around by email to all members.

14.2. Budget & precept

The budget has now been finalised. It was agreed that the precept for the financial year 2016-17 will be £8,100.

14.3. Payments:-

- a. WSCC – Invoice for Clerk’s salary for December – £304.17
- b. AirS – Invoice for neighbourhood planning services - £6,163.49
- c. Base Point Data – Invoice for speed data collection - £238.80
- d. HDC – Invoice for uncontested election - £95

These were all agreed and the cheques duly signed.

15. Correspondence / meetings

15.1. Environment Agency – River Adur

See item 12 above.

15.2. Boundary Commission – Electoral Review

Draft recommendations have been made to amend the electoral arrangements for West Sussex. Comments can be made on this (deadline 8th February).

15.3. Age UK

Age UK have written to request funding of £200. It was not agreed to pay this donation. Instead, a donation could be given to a more local organisation, e.g. The Haven in Henfield.

15.4. Health Centre LINK

They have sent a Christmas card to thank WPC for the donation.

15.5. Playing Field Association meeting 11th January

Cllrs. Broucke and Williams attended this meeting. The drainage work is all complete and signed off. This is now one of the best grounds in the area. They have had a request for Henfield Senior Football to play there while the Henfield Common pitch is being drained next autumn. This was declined as they don't think they can accommodate them. They have also had a request from Henfield Junior Cricket for the same reason. They will try and accommodate them for their training. They are going to publicise the site to make the public aware of the quality of this facility. They will be holding an AGM in March.

15.6. Local tree development meeting

Cllr. Austin is going to attend this meeting on 13th January.

16. Other business

There was a death outside Barrow Hill before Christmas caused by a road traffic accident.

Cllrs. Austin and Williams have taken spare keys for the notice boards.

WSCC are giving out snow shovels. It was agreed that the Clerk will request these to be held by Cllrs. Austin and Broucke.

17. Date of next meeting

This will be on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm