

WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th February 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 and A. Underwood
L. Bannister (Clerk)

Others Present: HDC Cllrs. B. Staines and D. Coldwell
WSCC Cllr. D. Barling
4 x members of the public: P. Batchelor, M. Meir, P. Mitchell and P. Blount

18. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Williams and Prangnell.

19. Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 12th January 2016

These were agreed and duly signed.

20. Action updates from previous Minutes

Hardstanding at bus stop

WSCC will try and include this in their works program for 2016-17, but they cannot guarantee it will be done as they are not yet sure of their budget.

Neighbourhood Watch signs

The Clerk has been trying to order these but cannot get in touch with the supplier. WSCC are unable to advise of an alternative, and the Clerk cannot find any online. **ACTION** – Clerk to ask Police

Cllr. Staines arriving

Paperless planning

This is due to start in April.

Fence at Hollinger

The Highways department has advised that now the 28 days has lapsed from their first letter, they will be sending another letter with a shorter timescale for them to act. Cllr. Staines suggested taking pictures of the fence and again after it is removed and publicise this on the WPC website.

Following an issue raised by Mr Linfield at the last meeting, Cllr. Austin has researched whether or not closed Steering Group meetings are allowed, and NALC's guidelines have made clear that 'working groups' are able to be closed to the public.

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

None.

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

Mr Mitchell said that there is an abandoned car on the hardstanding on the layby on the A281 that is restricting use of the layby. Mr Mitchell will report this to the Police. **ACTION** – Clerk will also notify the Police

Cllr. Coldwell arriving

23. Blackstone Rise garages – parking suggestion

HDC has selected an architect to draw up some proposals, but they are waiting to receive these. In the meantime, their engineers have produced a plan as an alternative or possibly a complementary solution to the loss of car parking. This needs to be considered by the Highways department, which has not yet been done. They want the views of WPC. The plan is two laybys on Blackstone Lane with parking for eight cars.

It was agreed to thank HDC for their proposal. It has been considered with interest and WPC feel it would be better attached to the forthcoming plan for the site.

24. Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr. Austin)

The draft Plan is complete and ready for consultation. This now needs to be printed. Design, Copy, Print have quoted £9 per copy. It was agreed:-

- To order 10 copies of the Plan, including one for each member of WPC.
- The Plan should include a front cover saying 'Property of Woodmancote Parish Council, do not remove'.
- Members of the public can order a copy of the Plan for £10 plus postage.
- A leaflet will be posted to all residents of Woodmancote. It will cost between £49-£56 to get these printed.
- The date for consultation will be 22nd February 2016. This will run for six weeks.
- The Clerk will notify all stakeholders of consultation.
- Signs to go on the roadside will be printed. These will be placed on the A281, B2116 and outside the Parish Hall. Cllr. Grimes will organise these.

After the consultation period has ended, all comments will need to be responded to and the Plan amended if necessary.

Twineham and Shermanbury have had a referendum and both had positive turn out and votes.

Grants

WPC had a grant of £8,000 from Locality/Groundwork. £4,962 of this has been spent on the latest AirS invoice. It was agreed to request that the final amount is spent on the final AirS bill and the mailshot expenses. It was also agreed to apply for the final grant from HDC when the pre submission Plan is sent to them.

25. Reports from other Authorities:

25.1. Horsham District Council

Cllr. Staines reported that the decision on council tax is coming up soon.

Cllr Coldwell reported that:-

- Council tax will go up by 1.2% for the HDC element.
- The Planning department is now fully staffed.
- There are now 28 parishes out of 32 doing Neighbourhood Plans.
- HDC did a survey before Christmas to find out what was felt about the District Councillors. Some parishes responded to say that they felt they were getting insufficient information. Cllr. Coldwell emphasised that they can help with issues and deal with them pretty quickly. Cllr. Broucke said that the only issue Woodmancote has is that they need to work closely with Henfield, who have different Councillors.

25.2. West Sussex County Council

Cllr. Barling reported as follows:-

Council tax

WSCC have no alternative but to increase their element of tax by 3.9%. This is due to extra spending on adult social care, services relating to child exploitation and prevent strategies, and the Government has reduced their grant to make all County Councils self funding by 2020. There is a funding gap of £44m this year, which has been managed with the tax increase. They believe they have managed to make savings without affecting front line services. However, Government has now agreed to give WSCC another £6m, and their inclination is to put some of this into the Highways budget.

This hasn't been put up for at least 5 years. It means an increase of 80p per house for an average Band D property. Business rates are currently settled nationally, but will be owned by the county/district councils by 2020.

Olus/Firslands

The Fire Service has been visiting to get the wood pile down and get a water source. They are now satisfied.

Broadband

Blackstone is eligible for funding for the next phase of the roll out and will be included in the scheme. The program is to be completed by the end of 2017. WSCC will work with BT on this. Cllr. Barling is unsure at the moment if this will only include Blackstone or go farther.

Cllr. Austin noted that the HDPF shows that there is an increase in the elderly population, which will have a big effect in the coming years.

26. Planning

26.1. EN/15/0152 Bo Peeps Barn

A comment was sent to HDC following the enforcement notice that was sent around. There has been no feedback on this. There has been significant work done at the site since the last meeting.

There is a pot hole on Wineham Lane. Cllr. Barling will take this up.

26.2. DC/15/2539 Heatenthorn Farm Cottage – Prior approval application permitted

This was an application for a change of use of a redundant farm building into residential. This was initially refused, but has now been permitted.

Cllrs. Coldwell and Staines leaving meeting

27. Planning updates

27.1. Firsland Park Industrial Estate

WSCC have sent a report to say that the stockpile heights have now been substantially cleared and now accord with the planning permission and are contained within the smaller site. Their annual site throughput exceeded that allowed under the previous permission by 500 tonnes, but they are not going to pursue that as they now have permission for a 75,000 tonne throughput. A water tank has now been installed and the Fire Service is now satisfied. They understand works have been undertaken at the entrance, but haven't yet confirmed this. From their perspective the site is now in compliance with their planning permission. They acknowledged that local communities still have concerns about the increased HGVs along the B2116, and this is being considered by Highway Officers and the County Local Committee.

Nikki Ernest has let us know about a planning application that has been made to Mid Sussex DC to install a water tank. The application number is DM/16/0269. There are no documents saved online for this application. The concern of WPC is if this is extending the site/making the yard bigger. If it is outside of the gate, there is a concern that it would extend the yard. Cllr. Underwood will speak to the owner and find a map of where the water tank will be.

28. Rampion Wind Farm

Horn Lane has been done. The plastic sheeting and newt netting has been blown away and looks messy. The gates have been left open and this is an eyesore in view of the SDNP. **ACTION** – Comment to Eon to ask for a monthly update and complain about the state of site

Mr Mitchell added that after the work there was mud spread on road and no sweepers came to clear this.

Eon has sent an update to say that the first bit of work being undertaken in stage 3 will be on Horn Lane (which was closed at the end of January for 4-5 days). They don't anticipate anything else taking place in the area for a while as the ground is very wet. They're trying to get the road crossings done at the moment as it's less weather dependant.

29. Pensions – Discretions Policy

This has been updated as advised by WSCC. They suggested including more detail in the flexible retirement section. It was agreed that this was adopted.

30. Footpath – Furners Lane to Blackstone

Cllr. Barling confirmed that Operation Watershed is being reinstated.

Cllr. Williams has been asked if WPC would write to a resident who has been riding her horse along the footpath from Furners Lane to Blackstone. It was decided to instead try and get the fence put back up.

Cllr. Williams has also received a picture from a resident showing the lane flooded.

WSCC have sent an email to say that in their opinion the Operation Watershed works were successful because the houses have not yet flooded.

31. Annual Parish Meeting

This will be on the 12th April. It will be advertised in the BN5 and Agendas will be printed. The timings will stay the same as last year. The Police have been invited to this, but they have not responded. **ACTION** – Clerk to contact them again

32. Finance/Payment

32.1. Payments:-

- a. WSCC – Invoice for Clerk's salary for December – £304.17
 - b. Parish Hall 2015 - £215
 - c. Parish Hall 2014 - £164
 - d. Mailshot expenses for 208 addresses
- 2nd class stamps: £112.32
A5 envelopes: £12.48
Labels: £5.49
TOTAL: £130.29

These payments were all agreed and cheques were duly signed.

32.2. Bank statement, reconciled accounts and cashbook

These were agreed and signed by Cllr. Underwood.

33. Correspondence / meetings

33.1. Adopt a Street/Clean for the Queen

This is a campaign in the run up to The Queen's birthday to inspire a million people to litter-pick. If WPC want to arrange a Parish clean-up day, HDC may be able to provide some equipment.

Cllr. Broucke will get a quote to clear the pavements just with a shovel and broom to perhaps pay it out of the remaining Operation Watershed (Blackstone Lane) money.

33.2. Operation Watershed – Furners Lane

See item 30 above.

33.3. Places of safety

AirS have been working with UK Power Networks to compile a list of places of safety plus nursing homes in each Parish so that they can give priority treatment to these venues in the event of a power failure. UK Power Networks are assessing the scale of this task and would like us to let them know Woodmancote's place of safety and nursing homes. **ACTION** – Clerk to let AirS know about Terrys Cross

Cllr. Barling added that the County Council's resilience is also being tested and they have new Emergencies Officer who is putting plans in place for various emergencies.

33.4. HM Queen's 90th birthday

Parishes are being invited to light beacons on 21st April.

33.5. GACC

WPC have been invited to become a member of GACC.

33.6. Friends of Henfield Medical Practice Trust

They have sent a thank you note for the donation of £50 made to them.

34. Holiday dates for Clerk

It was agreed the Clerk can take annual leave on Thursday 24th March and 4-8 April (Monday to Friday).

35. Other business

The Firsland corner sign has been knocked over. **ACTION** – Clerk to report this

There was a road traffic accident on the B2116 today and Firsland corner a few weeks ago.

The Clerk will arrange for some new information to go on the notice boards for 2016.

36. Date of next meeting

This will be Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.00 pm