

WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th December 2014 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
Email: woodmancoteparishcouncil@gmail.com

Present: WPC Cllrs. C. Broucke (Chairman), M. Grimes, D. Austin, P. Williams, and J. Ochoa
L. Bannister (Clerk)

Others Present: HDC Cllr. D. Coldwell
WSCC Cllr. D. Barling

1. Apologies

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

2. Minutes of the last Meeting held of the 11th November 2014

Minutes were agreed, and duly signed, subject to the following amendments:-

- Page 5, para 4 – amend ‘Blackstone Lane’ to ‘Bramlands Lane’
- Page 6, item 14 – amend ‘spaces’ to ‘vacancies’

3. Action updates from previous Minutes

All updates are dealt with in later items.

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)

There were no members of the public present, so no questions were raised.

6. Reports from other authorities

6.1. Horsham District Council

Cllr. Coldwell reported that:-

Adopt a Street

HDC has announced the ‘Adopt a Street’ programme some time back but the scheme will not be officially launched until the spring. The idea is that individuals, or groups of individuals, will adopt their street and will do what they can to keep that street looking good. HDC will provide the litter picking equipment, bin bags and hi-viz tabards and importantly some basic training. This will allow volunteers working by at the

kerbsides to be covered by HDC insurance policies – but the training must be undertaken first. This initiative is complimentary to the environmental cleansing grant paid to some parishes.

Roads Sweeping

There have been some complaints re road sweeping and the problems caused by a) parked cars and b) leaves blocking drains. Cllr. Coldwell has had some discussions with HDC officers about this, and whilst no conclusions have been reached so far, they are looking at having the sweepers come round at a more suitable time so that more kerbs can be reached. Another possibility is for notices to be posted so that streets might be clear. Clearly an on-going problem and perhaps the litter pickers employed could provide some assistance here.

Preferred Strategy

The inspector has completed his examination of the documents submitted and the process went through without significant problems. Naturally many speakers thought there were too many houses in the plan (about 650) and the developers thought the opposite! It is thought that the inspector might require the numbers to be revised upwards and we should know where we stand early in the new year.

Rural Car Parks

HDC has been looking at parking in the market villages with a view towards having a season ticket system for the longer term parkers. This is already done at some parks with a ticket costing in some cases £21 per year. There is no intention to charge shoppers and short term parking will be free – nothing decided yet but certainly the first two hours, possibly, three will be free. Cllr. Coldwell emphasizes that they are in the early stage of discussions and that no decision will be made without the parishes concerned being consulted. Upper Beeding and Bramber car parks are not being considered.

The grant from HDC to parish councils has been cut by 30% this year. Woodmancote Parish Council are due £105 next year.

Cllr. Coldwell did not attend the development meeting where Mayfields was discussed, and any notes made at the meeting will not be made available to the public.

6.2. West Sussex County Council

Cllr. Barling reporting that the big topic is the A27 – WSCC have got funding for £350m to carry out upgrades which will include junctions around Chichester, Lancing, Arundel and Worthing. This plan will go out for consultation. Unless funding is withdrawn this will be going ahead. The Highways Agency will be dealing with this.

WSCC have started detailing council tax. It looks like it will be frozen as in previous years. But, huge savings are needed - £124m (£35m in next coming year alone). They are redesigning service so there aren't any front line cuts. Their spending power is about £600m. This will help towards cutting national deficit.

Cllr. Coldwell has also heard that HDC won't be increasing council tax.

There was fire at Newhaven at an industrial site which deals with similar materials to Olus at Firlands. Cllr. Barling explaining how this was dealt with (extra support was brought in from surrounding counties).

There are 48 fire vehicles – at any given time 24 of these are crewed. The number of accidents has dropped dramatically so less emergency vehicles are currently required. This will go up to 30 vehicles. Manpower will be reduced in the Fire Service by 12.

Regarding children’s sexual exploitation – WSCC has ordered a review of procedures in light of Rochdale. Cllr. Barling stressing that this isn’t because this is happening at WSCC, but there will be a very big review to be sure nothing has been missed.

Cllr. Barling has been told again that a planning application is expected by 31st December regarding Olus at Firlands.

7. Planning

7.1. DC/14/2449 – Blackstone Gate, Henfield Road

It was decided that Woodmancote Parish Council will object to this application as follows:-

‘Woodmancote Parish Council strongly object to this application as we see it as a sporadic building in the countryside which is totally out of character for the area, and this could set an unjustified precedent in the parish where there are many large gardens.’

ACTION – Clerk to report this to HDC

7.2 DC/14/2289 – Terrys Cross Farm

This was an application that didn’t require Woodmancote Parish Council to be notified. However, the comment was made to the planning department at HDC that the height of the building was felt to be too high, and that 6 metres would have been more suitable. This comment has been kept on file at HDC.

8. Planning updates

8.1. Firlands Industrial Park

There has been a complaint from a neighbouring parish about the floodlighting. **ACTION** – Clerk to make WSCC aware of this complaint.

Cllr. Austin has also heard a complaint from a neighbour of Olus about the dust, and they are thinking about moving. Cllr. Coldwell suggesting that a sample of the dust is collected.

It was noted that a response was received from the Fire Service, regarding the recent letter sent to them.

8.2. Hascombe Farm

There is a meeting tomorrow (10th December) at 2pm at Hascombe Farm. Although Cllr. Broucke will try to attend, he thinks he will be unable to.

8.3. Swains

There is an upcoming development control meeting where the planning application for Swains will be decided. It was discussed whether someone from the council should attend to support their application, however it was decided that this is not necessary because Woodmancote Parish Council have already made clear their support to the planning department. Cllr. Coldwell will be attending this meeting.

9. Neighbourhood Plan / AirS (Cllr. Austin)

The Steering Group met on the 9th December (before the council meeting). The Plan is progressing well, and there has been a good response to the recent questionnaires sent out – there have been 49 responses already.

10. Quotations regarding Operation Watershed

There have been two quotes received for the footpath:-

- Landbuild – £2,728 plus VAT
- PHB - £1,203 plus VAT

It was decided to instruct PHB – but query the area quoted for as there are too many metres on their quote.

ACTION – Cllr. Broucke to speak to PHB, and the Clerk to confirm the instruction in writing

The two quotes received for the Furners Lane Operation Watershed application:-

- Landbuild – £12,966 plus VAT. This doesn't include licenses or anything else that may crop up
- PHB - £8,500 plus £315 and licences plus VAT
- Waiting for third quote from Ed Burton

Before this application can be made, due to the amount of the quotes received so far, the third quote needs to be received.

The two quotes received for the Blackstone Lane Operation Watershed application:-

- PHB - £2,500 plus VAT (more if needing to remove anything from site - though they intend to reinstate verges with it)
- Landbuild - £6,800 plus VAT

It was decided to make the application with the PHB quote. **ACTION** - Clerk to send application

Cllrs. Barling and Coldwell leaving meeting

11. Blackstone Rise garages – Asset of Community Value application

Clerk has now completed the application form. Although it appears that parking facilities are usually not added to the asset list, Councillors feel this application should go ahead because the garages further the social wellbeing of the community. **ACTION** – Clerk to send to HDC

12. Finance / payment

12.1 Trial balance & cashbook

This was agreed.

12.2 Budget

This was discussed and agreed. This will be used to set the precept at the next meeting.

12.3 Neighbourhood Plan reimbursable expenses for mailing - £491.85

This was agreed and a cheque duly signed.

12.4 WSCC Invoice for Clerk's salary - £304.17

This was agreed and a cheque duly signed.

12.5 Clerk's overtime for Neighbourhood Plan - £50

This was agreed and the overtime form signed.

13. Clerk – end of probationary period

It was noted that the Clerk has completed the six month probationary period. All the Councillors agreed this has gone well, and look forward to working together in the future. The bank's contact details will be changed from Cllr. Ochoa to the Clerk.

14. Correspondence / meetings

14.1 Albourne Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan

This has been received. It was decided that it is not necessary to make any comments.

14.2 A27 action

This was covered by Cllr. Barling (see above). This does not directly affect Woodmancote.

14.3 Parish Online meeting (Cllr. Austin & Clerk)

This was a successful meeting, this facility should be able to provide all the maps necessary for the Neighbourhood Plan, which will save a lot of money if they do not need to be outsourced. **ACTION** – Clerk to resend password to all councillors

14.4 Adopt a Street

This was covered by Cllr. Coldwell (see above). Cllr. Williams has adopted Blackstone Lane.

15. Other business

An email has been received from the Police explaining that we should have a PCSO present at council meetings at least a few times a year. This has not happened for some time, but Woodmancote's PCSO will be in touch soon to arrange this.

Cllr. Williams reporting that she is waiting to hear who the landowners are regarding the kissing gates.

Cllr. Grimes asking if we are doing all we can regarding the call for sites for the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Austin believes we have done everything we are required to, but will check this point with Laura Bourke at HDC. Cllr. Broucke has spoken to a local landowner, who has confirmed that they do not want to put any land forward for the call for sites. Cllr. Broucke will ask them to put this in writing.

Cllr. Broucke has been trying to track down the true ownership and responsibilities of the Parish Hall.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th January 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm