

**STEYNING FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
7.30 PM MONDAY 8th December 2014
IN THE STEYNING CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs Bowell, Lloyd, Alexander, Toomey, Toms, Barling Ness-Collins, Marshall, Muggridge, Muncey, Staines, Hopkinson and Willett.

Members of the public: 23, including PC Martin Harris and Community Warden Paul Conroy.

Clerk: Rebecca Luckin

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

1. Q –With reference to the answer to Q 1 at the last council meeting, Cllr Lloyd, ‘to counter dissembling distortions of the truth’, it could be libellous? This is what you said, it’s in the minutes. You have suggested that FoMPF are not telling the truth.
A – The truth is in the minutes, any copies of the minutes. There have been many misleading statements around the town. Whatever the Parish Council puts out is the truth.
A - Cllr Willett – it reads that it is difficult in general, it is a statement in general.
2. Q – Regarding the Parish Council leaflet, it is very good and informative. Who applied for VG93?
A – It was not the Parish Council. It was from a six individuals.
3. Q – One of the reasons that you cannot go forward (on the skate park facility) is because of the noise. Regarding VG65, there has been a tennis club court extension and cricket club, were none of those activities controversial? People ‘nitpick’ the law when it is to their benefit. No one has unfettered access to the tennis or skate park. It has been a one sided story, the group have decided that it is not going to happen, but other groups are overlooked.
A – The Parish Council had to withdraw the application, on the advice of HDC, due to the issue of ‘harm through noise’. We’ve have actions taken against us, we’ve taken advice regarding the fencing of the MPF, but unfettered access is not allowed. We have three sporting clubs that use fences and rope, could we do the same with a skate park? It appears not. The threat of litigation hanging over us could be considerable. This Parish Council is coming to the end of its term, we could not encumber any future parish council, hence the statement that we have made.
4. Q – one point, when you say it was a group that applied for Village Green status, surely the Parish Council had some influence over the decision? Did you

recommend that to go forward? There are no minutes to back up what you are saying? Most towns would die for Village Green status, why was there an objection?

A – No. We’ve been through the minutes. The application went through at speed. Councillors attended a meeting at WSCC and objected. That has been recorded by WSCC. Objection was due to the fact that we were wishing to build a skate park.

A - Cllr Barling – applications for VG status are examined by WSCC Officers, the conditions were met in that it was **used as by right**, Cllr Devlin spoke at the meeting, colleagues took the advice that all conditions had been met and there was no other outcome.

A – Cllr Toomey - I was astonished regarding the HDC decision not to allow the application, due to noise at night. VG status means that people cannot be removed from the VG and that access cannot be fettered. We also have had a very well-produced leaflet from FoMPF, they applied for VG status in order to block the application. I hope that answers your questions.

The meeting was convened at 19.47pm

MINUTES

1. **APOLOGIES** were received and accepted from Cllr Cockman (HDC), Cllr Rogers, Cllr Trundle and Cllr Hopkinson (late).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – there were none.
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
 - 3.1 The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th November 2014 were circulated prior to the meeting.
Cllr Bowell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Alexander that the minutes be accepted as a true record. **Agreed.**
 - 3.2 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th November 2014 were circulated prior to the meeting. Following circulation to Councillors, Cllr Muncey had requested an amendment. Cllr Bowell asked for the minutes to be approved at the Full Council meeting of 12th January, in order that Councillors had time to consider the amendment.
4. **MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS** – the Clerk confirmed that there were no matters arising or actions to report from the last meeting.
5. **POLICE / NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME REPORT / LAT REPORT**
 - 5.1 The Wardens report was circulated prior to the meeting and read to those present:
Anti Social Behaviour
November has seen an increase of cold callers in the area, we have been working alongside the local neighbourhood policing team and have on a number of occasions stopped individuals and asked to see identification. The majority of these are genuine for example some individuals working on behalf of the British Heart foundation.

Potential rogue traders are of more concern. These individuals are normally part of a group who are using high pressure sales techniques, on elderly and vulnerable people.

We had one call from a carer, for a resident in shooting field who advised us that just minutes after a salesman left the door; someone was calling the house phone trying to harass the individual into making a decision. We suspect the group were calling from nearby on a mobile. We attended with PCSO slaughter but were unable to find the group on this occasion. We do have an accurate description and intelligence has been submitted through the police system.

We would like to encourage any residents that have concerns over rogue traders or cold callers to call either ourselves or the police on 101.

We received a call from a resident regarding a group of youths congregating in the nearby twitten between Breech Close and Coxham Lane. It is reported they have also been congregating near the garages, causing general noise nuisance, littering and using the area for smoking (Cigarettes).

We carried out a week's worth of patrols at the times we were given by the resident, but did not come across this group. The resident has been advised to call us if any further problems arise and we will look to respond and engage with this group.

We have continued with an increase of our regular patrols of the memorial playing field. We have been concentrating in particular on the fenced play park area, in light of previous reports of drugs bags or "baggies" being found. We have not encountered any anti-social behaviour or drug use of any kind and have not had any further reports made to us.

Community

We continue to run the new Dingemans & Friends social club and have an up and coming race night this month. We are also providing transport for many of the members to Ashington for a Christmas meal on the 29th of November.

We have now completed our NVQ Level 2 in mental health awareness.

Cllr Bowell expressed concern that an elderly resident had been visited by four representatives of a double glazing company. The wardens will follow up.

- 5.2 The Police report was circulated prior to the meeting and read to those present: 'Cold Callers

There has been an increase in the amount of reports made regarding cold calling in Steyning. I would like to remind all residents to make sure they're displaying a 'no cold caller' sticker on the front of their property. Please check your spy hole before answering the front door and keep the key chain securely fastened when opening the door to strangers. Please report any bogus tradesman or cowboy builders to Trading Standards on 08454 040506.

Op Edisto & Counter Terrorist Chemical Legislation

I have visited Lloyds TSB, Barclays, HSBC and all local Post Offices regarding Operation Edisto (courier Fraud). Notices and leaflets have been left to warn customers not to give private and confidential information over the phone to fraudsters pretending to be police officers from the MET. Police officers will never ask for this bank account information over the phone.

Local hardware shops have been made aware of changes in legislation regarding the selling of explosive chemicals. These measures have been taken in order to minimise the risk of selling chemicals to terrorist organisations and places responsibility of shop owners to remain vigilant.

Car Badges & Vehicle Accessories

During December, three vehicles have had their car badges stolen overnight. Vehicles targeted include a Jaguar XF, Mini Cooper and an Aston Martin Vantage. I have linked in with the local Schools PC in order to raise awareness of the crimes. Please park all vehicles in a well-lit area, make sure your vehicle has an alarm fitted and always report suspicious behaviour on the Police non-emergency number 101.

Big Winter Warm Up

On Wednesday 03/12/14, as part of Impact Initiatives I attended Dingemans Court alongside representatives from West Sussex PAT, Groundwork South, HDC Community Safety Department, Horsham Well Being Team, Community Link Alarm, Steyning Library and Steyning Health Service. The session was aimed at local residents to show them how to keep safe, well and warm this winter.

Neighbourhood Watch

On Saturday 22/11/14, I held a meeting at the Steyning Centre for NHW Street Coordinators. During the meeting several ideas were raised and alongside NHW members I will be looking at ways of increasing coverage in Steyning, Bramber & Upper Beeding. During the presentation I was fortunate enough to have guest speaker Peter Wood, he was able to give an informative insight into Cyber Security and ways of protecting yourself online.'

Cllr Howell advised that he was aware of an attack by a dog on an alpaca, he expressed concern that it could have been a child. PC Martin Harris advised that he was currently investigating the incident and would update Councillors at the next meeting.

5.3 There was no LAT report for this month.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Cllr Muggridge provided an update on progress. In excess of 60 residents had joined Focus Groups or offered to help in other ways. Six Focus groups were now established and have met to receive Terms of Reference and discuss questions to be included on the public consultation survey. In order to minimise costs, surveys will be hand-delivered and drop boxes provided. An online version of the survey will be available. A return date of 31st January has been fixed. A drop in session will be organised for 10th and 24th January 10 – 12.00, to answer questions and provide assistance. The next steps are to identify national and local stakeholders and to finalise the survey. The next meeting of the Steering Group will take place on 10th December.

- 7. COMMITTEE MINUTES, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** – Councillors received Committee Minutes and expenditure reports for the previous period and considered other matters in relation to Committees.
- 7.1 Planning** – the Minutes of 18th November and 2nd December 2014 were circulated. A summary of applications was provided by Cllrs Alexander and Bowell. Cllr Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the minutes of 18th November 2014 be accepted. **Agreed.**
Cllr Toomey **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Toms that the minutes of 2nd December 2014 be accepted. **Agreed.**
- 7.2 Finance and Community** – Minutes of 2nd December 2014. Cllr Lloyd summarised the meeting, with reference to grants requests, budgets, contracts, and risk assessments. The minutes had not been finalised and will be agreed at the next Full Council meeting.
- 7.3 Steyning Centre Management Group** – 25th November 2014. Cllr Toms summarised the meeting and minutes with reference to ongoing maintenance issues and a proposed programme of maintenance. Grants will be sought wherever possible, mindful that the building must be safe and attractive to users. Cllr Toms **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Staines that the minutes and financial reports be accepted. **Agreed.**
- 7.4 Playing Fields** – Minutes of 18th November 2014. Cllr Ness-Collins summarised the meeting with reference to the Community Orchard project and allotment hedge and gate inspections and repairs. The allotments Association will be asked if they would paint the gates. Cllr Muncey expressed concern that entrances are muddy, and requested that bark chippings could be provided to improve the surface in the short term.
Cllr Ness-Collins **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Marshall that the minutes and financial reports be accepted. **Agreed.**
- 8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Cllr Bowell confirmed that Cllr Cockman was unwell and that Cllr Rogers was on annual leave, therefore no reports were available from District Councillors.
- 8.1** Cllr Barling (WSCC) provided a report: Regarding A27 improvements, funds to improve the area around Arundel and junction improvements at Worthing and Lancing will have a positive impact on the A283. A scheme should shortly emerge. Cllr Barling expressed confidence that WSCC will be able to hold the Council Tax at a 0% increase for 2015 / 16.
Regarding reports of child sexual exploitation in other counties, WSCC Safeguarding Board have been asked to review all processes and oversight of all relevant agencies. WSCC will provide support for the proposal.
The CLC still has grant funds available for capital items. The Friends of Steyning Primary School and The Vintage Years Club have already benefitted. The next meeting will be held in Ashurst Village Hall.
The balancing pond in Mouse Lane is being assessed by consultants prior to an Operation Watershed application.
WSCC are having an extraordinary general meeting regarding a second runway at LGW. The next meeting of WSCC Councillors will be held 12 December, at Horsham and can be watched via webcast.
Cllr Barling stated that he was vigorously opposed to car parking charges in

Steining and will be campaigning strongly with HDC.

9. SPEAKER FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

- 9.1 Councillors considered Norman Dingemans, Deputy Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority had offered to provide a talk on the work that is undertaken by the SDNPA.
- 9.2 Councillors also considered Mr Peter Wood, CEO First Base technologies, who had attended a recent Neighbourhood Watch advice event regarding online safety.

Cllr Howell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Toomey that SDNPA speak at the Annual Parish meeting and that Peter Wood be invited to a daytime event in order to reach the maximum number of older persons. **Agreed.**

10. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE / LEAFLET TO THE PUBLIC

- 10.1 Following the Extraordinary Meeting of 19th November and subsequent leaflet, Councillors confirmed that delivery had been made to all households, apart from those in outlying areas.

11. INFORMATION

- 11.1 The Clerk reported that a Fire drill had been undertaken and that staff and pupils of the play school had vacated the building in 2.5 minutes. The next drill will take place at the end of the Spring Term.
- 11.2 Henfield Parish Council has advised neighbouring councils that their Neighbourhood Plan is at the pre-submission stage. A period of public consultation will run until 23rd January.

12. CORRESPONDENCE – none for this meeting.

13. MEETING DATES

- 13.1 **Date of next Full Council Meeting - 7.30pm 12th January 2015.**

The meeting closed at 20.45pm.

Signed: Date: 12th January 2015
Chairman