

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2013 AT 7.30
PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllr. Bowell (Chairman)
Cllrs. Barling, Rogers, Alexander, Toomey, Hopkinson, Marshal, Trundle,
Muncey & Toms
Also in attendance:
Paul Conroy – Neighbourhood Wardens
Tom Slaughter - PCSO
Cllr. George Cockman – District Councillor
1 Press representative & 23 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Devlin, Lloyd , Ness-Collins, Staines, and Hoare.

2. DECLARATIONS

There were no a declarations of interest from Councillors.

3. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr. Alexander and seconded by Cllr. Toms that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2013 were Agreed and signed. **This was Agreed.** It was further proposed by Cllr. Alexander and seconded by Cllr Toms that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 2nd July were Agreed and signed. **This was Agreed.**

4. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS from the last meeting

None from last meeting.

5. POLICE/NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS/LAT REPORTS

Paul Conroy gave his report attached to the F & C minutes.

PCSO Tom Slaughter report was previously circulated to councillors and is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Bowell introduced Mark Eyre from the Police Estates management team who gave a brief presentation on the police station closures across West Sussex and a lot of work being done around the partnership elements. These proposal derive from Police and Crime plan, links into Sussex Operational deliver plan. It is a 5 year strategy.

It is being done because a lot of buildings are wrongly located and some very old and we need best value for money and we don't police a station but an area. For Steyning it is not intended to pull out of Steyning station without leaving something as good if not better in place. No change in staffing of officers and PCSO's but it is about working differently. Hope to ensure with new technology officers don't need to keep going back to a station but can communicate out on the streets. Making best use of resources.

Does this mean no policing outside of office hours – no, access to buildings will be maintained 7 days per week wherever the new location is. Some work has started engaging with

other partners and will not move from Steyning until another location is available. This should bring an improvement of service overall.

Cllr Rogers said there had been a lot of debate on this subject and she thought it important to have early contact with Mark here at Steyning. Mark will come back and update as the project unfolds and will engage again when there is a more detailed plan. Keen to know that the police will continue to be available and visible and aim for the service to be better.

We hear about police cuts, now it seems cutting facilities closer to home. Mindset is we are losing our police station and fear is losing police coverage. We need some comfort that when something goes wrong they will still be here as quick as before. Will not withdraw until we have something better. Vehicles and police officers will still be available. Steyning police station is a large building housing a small number of officers/staff. New ways of working and new IT on the streets officers will remain in the community and not continually going back to a hub to write reports etc. This can be done out and about.

There are concerns and relieved to see not closing without replacement.

Where will new station be?

All this will need capital investment and will this be with sale of old police station? We would look at sharing accommodation with partners whilst we await the sale of the old building. We will look for alternative first.

Could the police station not be the hub and others join there? It could but is this building viable for the long term future. If viable this could still be considered.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The meeting was suspended to allow questions from members of the public.

- Some years ago we lost magistrates court and this went to Worthing. Could this be going down the same route and could this happen to Steyning. Could the building not be shared and some of it used for something else. Need a police force here at Steyning?

Will not lose policing in Steyning or a base this will be re-provided elsewhere.

If there are opportunities for others to share the building and this is viable we will look at it.

- Welcome the initiative as this creates opportunities, but concern that the proceeds from sale be re-invested for Steyning and Upper Beeding, maybe for other aspects of crime prevention like cameras. Need to look for a variety of alternatives.

Not seeking to ring fence for the area, and would not be looking to sell a building to be able to move. The Chief Constables needs to ensure that operational policing continues across Sussex. We will make sure that you have the same officers and PCSO's and with IT the same service.

- Where will one go to speak to a person and if by phone where will that be.

Leadership will come from Howard Hodges based in Horsham. He can be contacted via the website. Neighbourhood policing inspector is available. To get hold of an officer still ring 999 or 101 for non emergency. There will still be the phone and email contact for non urgent matters.

- Will welcome updates on a regular basis as we are keen to know what is happening with policing in Steyning.
- In the Wardens report about dog fouling when will this play area be fenced.

This is a contentious issue, there has been a lot of opposition as well as a lot of support and we are still discussing this. There are as many in favour as not. We hope we will come up with the right solution and we need to look at the health and safety of young people using the area.

- Police and Wardens mention of crimes and the cameras not conclusive, is the camera on all the time.

The report said there was no evidence and did not just happen to pick up these particular instances. The camera in High Street moves every 4 minutes but has to be in the direction of the incident when crime takes place. Evidence from cameras may not be in the right place at the time.

- Disturbance last Friday in the Town was this in High Street. Yes.
- Vandalism on cars in Jarvis Lane a few weeks ago. There was an eyewitness to this, what has happened to this.

We did have reports from people in the area at the time but not of those committing the offence.

- About fencing of play area, this works well in Fletchers Croft we need to get this fenced off as this is dangerous of children's health.

I can't respond immediately on this but I will get back to you on this issue. The biggest problem is the Village Green issue and what we can or can't do.

- Peter Harris acknowledged that when you try and help someone it is not always appreciated. The Showcase event has been very successful and another due in 2014 but date not yet been fixed. This event does cause a lot of work for groups. Could this be postponed till 2015. Festival is next year as well.

We can discuss this and perhaps ask for views of other groups via the website.

The meeting was re-convened

7. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Howell gave an update on the progress with a Neighbourhood Plan. We have been asked by our MP to get more involved in planning process. Have now attended 4 presentations including SDNP with a view to forming this Neighbourhood Plan to decide what is good for Steyning and what we need to do to protect that. A cluster approach may be the way to go and have contact Upper Beeding, Bramber, Wiston and Ashurst and once we have this info we will form our first meeting and have already contacted HDC to register interest. Cllr Howell also said that Cllrs Muncey & Toms have asked to be part of the working group on this project.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8.1 **Playing Fields – there was no meeting in June 2013**

Cllr Toms reported there was no meeting last month but he would confirm the agreement made with Tennis Club in January to resurface two existing courts and hopes work will start in August.

8.2 **Planning 25th June 2013**

Cllr Alexander reported that an extraordinary meeting on 11 June was held to vote on a special resolution to give the FoMPF more time to develop their plans for skatepark at Leisure centre car park, which was agreed. This application has since been withdrawn and a new application submitted which is not yet available on HDC website.

The development of Fantasy House, in Elm Grove Lane, behind Martins newsagents, has been agreed for full planning and listed building consent. A qualified archaeologist or archaeological organisation is to observe the excavations and record and report any evidence, and the specification and timetable must be submitted and approved in advance. The developer must also submit a construction environment and operation management plan to be approved prior to starting the work. Times of working are also specified.

Cllr Alexander proposed agreement to and adoption of the minutes which were seconded by Cllr Barling and **Agreed**.

8.3 Highways & Lighting – 25th June 2013

Cllr Alexander reported that she and the clerk had a meeting with Cali Sparks from WSCC re: Winter Maintenance. We have since received the large maps and will now work on our requirements and submit them to WSCC by the end of July.

Dropped Kerbs are an ongoing issue and potentially a big project. We are investigating, through our County councillor, the possibility of using S106 transport money for the project. Cllr Alexander said she would talk to some disabled residents and others first and then to assess existing routes and suitability and find the gaps, and go from there.

Cllr Alexander has also requested that we reinstate the rotas for councillors to oversee the litter picking and sweeping undertaken by our contractor. It is once a month on a Tuesday morning as early as possible – about 8 am, so it will mean one morning a year minimum. If a councillor can't do a slot, please let The Clerk know and we will try and find a replacement or Cllr Alexander will do it if she can.

In October last year, the Highways & Lighting Committee agreed to support the HDC project to increase the number of disabled parking bays in Fletcher's Croft car park from 2 to 4; unfortunately, HDC can't fund it completely and the possibility of using Section 106 transport has been suggested (50:50 – about £500 each from HDC:WSCC), Cllr Alexander proposed that Council continue to support this scheme, because HDC are ready to start soon.

This was seconded by Cllr Toms. **This was Agreed to support.**

DB keen for a joint project WSCC and Hdc, i CAN SIGN off £500 towards it and I will do this so will match fund with HDC.

Finally, the summer planting in the High Street looks great – Cllr Alexander congratulated Steyning in Bloom and Ferring Nurseries, as well as the High Street properties for a lovely display this year.

Cllr Alexander proposed agreement to and adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Rogers. **This was Agreed.** Cllr Alexander proposed agreement to the accounts and expenditure for the period, seconded by Cllr Toomey. **This was Agreed.**

8.4 Finance & Community Committee – 2nd July 2013

Cllr Rogers reported that committee had decided not to continue to fund the Saturday 106 bus service as the numbers using the service were very low. This also depended on other partners Upper Beeding and Henfield, who had both withdrawn their funding.

Two grants were agreed, one for the Investiture of Pat Town for her BEM of £75, and one for the Steyning & Community Food Festival of £200 which will take place in September.

Cllr Rogers proposed agreement to and adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Alexander. **This was Agreed.** Cllr Rogers proposed agreement to the accounts and expenditure for the period, seconded by Cllr Alexander. **This was Agreed.**

9. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rogers said there had been reported in press about a spate of serious road accidents in recent weeks and community safety partnership are meeting West Sussex Rescue service and launching a road safety campaign in August. Need to try and understand the cause of these accidents.

Cllr Cockman in minutes of last meeting talked about Britons Croft and concern was expressed of no lifts and the social area had no toilets. As these were individual flats lifts were not viable nor was there room for them. Toilets for social area have now worked out this would have to be a disabled toilet and not really room for this either.

The Council will be invited in near future to ask HDC if there any matters they want looked at by the Scrutiny and Overview committee. This can be about anything, rail services for instance and severe weather arrangements, road safety, policing, gritting up the hills and would be good to have an overview perspective on this type of issue. It is

not there to say have a go at something lets get a scrutiny group working on that it is about these sort of functions.

They will be considered by the Scrutiny committee.

- Interested to see that the Crime and Disorder working group has newly started and if you have an umbrella view of where this is going with the closure of the Steyning Police station that would be useful and in the winter maintenance the gritting up the hills in Steyning and if this could be looked at in an overview perspective their feedback would be useful.

Cllr Rogers commented with regard to the police station and the overview, it is for the Community Safety Partnership to pick up and do this piece of work. The Crime and Disorder group are a scrutiny group of the Community Safety Partnership and in the event of the Community Safety Partnership not performing their role with regard to the police station then the scrutiny group could look at this.

- So this might be premature?

This is their terms of reference with regard to the Community Safety partnership and the partnership are working on that very subject and will be delivering that, but if it is not felt that this is working scrutiny can look at this.

Cllr Barling reported he had circulated a list of Highway projects he is currently working on but only has £15k to spend, so need to prioritise. Also circulated a note about grants available from County. The Member Big Society fund can grant up to £25k per project and can be applied for, but not for parish councils. The granted £12.5k towards Ashurst Village Hall.

Smaller fund is the CLC funding. £6k for the year, but again not parish councils. Various other funds like prevention and well being, which is open to organisations to apply for like adult social care. There is a new website westsussexhighways.org in conjunction with Balfour Beatty and is there to report things like potholes and to see what work is happening in the area.

In the recent Newsletter an article about Horton Landfill and they have planted over 2,000 trees.

Big issue is currently finance, there is no money, budget needs to be reduced by 10% in 15/16 onwards. Government's grants are reducing considerably. No money for new projects.

Since Clays hill 30 mph signs have gone there is no signage only just before roundabouts. Not a good place and a lot think Clays Hill is unrestricted. Have met with Highways Officers but signage rules say we cannot put them up within certain distances of each other. Have agreed to a sign Welcome to Steyning and Bramber and Don't Speed through Village.

The legal signs are at entrance to roundabout. Other signs would render prosecution unenforceable.

Small Dole has 2 speed indicators devices. Will check why we cannot have them.

Can't deliver on all projects so need to decide what are the major priorities. Disabled dropped kerbs, entrance to Horsham Road and Cannons Way access to Steyning and safer roads to school. Want to make these as safe as possible.

10. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE

There was nothing, for this meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Email of thanks from Steyning and District Food Festival for the grant.

Letter of congratulations to the Parish Council and Steyning Tennis Club for the building of the third tennis court to encourage younger people to take up the sport so we can have more successes like Andy Murray.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 9th September 2013 at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.