

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Bowell,(Chairman)  
Cllrs Barling, Toms, Ness-Collins, Marshall, Trundle, Toomey, Hopkinson & Staines.  
James Stobart – Operation Crackdown  
Estelle Hilditch – Good Neighbours  
Also in attendance:  
Cllr Cockman  
Michael Pearce– Neighbourhood Warden  
1 Press representative & 23 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Hoare, Lloyd, Rogers, Muncey, Alexander, & Devlin, Tom Slaughter.

**2. DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

**3. MINUTES**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowell **seconded** by Cllr Ness-Collins that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September be Agreed and signed by the Chairman. This was Agreed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS from the last meeting**

There were no matters arising from the September meeting.

**5. POLICE/NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS/LAT REPORTS**

Michael Pearce gave the Wardens report which is attached to the F & C minutes.

- The groups of youths mentioned were they known to Wardens.

Yes the ones in the car park were 16-20. Abbey Road were younger, known to Wardens.

- The drinker in MPF is he local.

Yes.

- Suggest it might be useful to contact Strikers re: dog fouling campaign and come to a committee meeting.

Thank you and the Wardens will make contact.

LAT meeting discussed Castle Lane, lots of school children using lane and could Wardens do a patrol and talk to the children.

**6. OPERATION CRACKDOWN**

Cllr Bowell introduced James Stobart from Operation Crackdown who gave a short presentation.

Operation Crackdown has been around for a while and sits with the vehicles recovery department. It is now easier to input information. Since it started there have been over 90,000 reports of anti-social driving. 21,000 letters have been sent to drivers.

It is a website to report anti-social driving and it is aimed at low level anti-social driving. Once reported the information goes to the police national computer, can be rejected or further investigation will take place.

1<sup>st</sup> report will just sit and stay on computer for 12 months. 2<sup>nd</sup> report letter goes to registered keeper. 3<sup>rd</sup> offence will be investigated further, local officer visit, look at some form of education.

Not for emergency calls, still ring 999.

The form takes about 15 minutes to fill out the first one, then you will get quicker, may be 10 minutes.

More information can be found at [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

- If someone fills out a lot would they be classed as vindictive.

No, the reports are looked at by humans to take a decision on action.

This is for Sussex only at present but being looked at by other counties.

- Is registration sufficient if you cannot get all the information on the car.

Yes.

- Do public service vehicles come into this .

Yes and taxis.

## 7. **GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

Cllr Howell introduced Estelle Hilditch from Good Neighbours who gave a short presentation.

Steyning Good Neighbours is all about driving people around. We are totally voluntary, we rely on donations, no office, no expenses. Our catchment area same as Health Centre. We were founded 40 years ago. We take people to medical appointments anywhere in Sussex, wait with them and bring them home. We also try help them retain a normal social life, take to visit friends and family in hospital or lunch clubs etc. No age limit and no means test. Cost, there is no charge, only donations and we have a suggested list of donations. For example, £2.50 to run around locally in Steyning. If clients decide not to give there is no obligation. The driver keeps the donation as fuel cost.

We have two sources of income, many clients give more than suggested. Also income from drivers who donate some of their fuel money. WMT did make a donation some time ago. Volunteer organisation, we have co-ordinators who change each week, with a diary and file of all the drivers. Client telephones 816181, the co-ordinator fields the calls. The booking is taken and where it is for and date, time etc. and agrees picking up time. The co-ordinator then organises the driver.

We always need more drivers. Have about 65 at present but need more. Anyone can sign up, whether retired or working. You tell us the times you are available to help.

- What about parking charges.

We have volunteer driver labels and all hospitals will accept this.

We will put on the information on the website for any new volunteers to sign up.

## 8. **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

- I am representing governors of Steyning Primary school and we are organising a petition about introducing 20 mph speed limits on certain roads in Steyning, particularly those used

in by school children, - Shooting Field, Church Street, etc. Hope PC will support and advertise for us on website and by other means and it is open to all in Steyning to sign up to it.

- At last F & C meeting there was mention of working group meetings and no minutes were taken, would you tell me if Cllr Lloyd has ever attended any of these skateboard working group meetings.

No, not to my knowledge. I also do not understand why you would ask such a question or the purpose.

- Are minutes on line.

Yes.

- Comment for H & L committee – talking about 30 mph limits at Clays Hill, take a look signs as you approach Bramber roundabout from south, the one on the left is in an incorrect position and the one on the right hidden by a tree branch.

Will pass this on to committee chairman.

- Has Parish Council considered general 20 mph through the Town.

Yes, but it was dropped as it got little support and Chamber of Trade and traders were against it. Will pick up at H & L but this was discussed again quite recently.

- I would like to go back to the question put about Cllr Lloyd. Cllr Lloyd is a very useful councillor. This is about the fact that he lives at the end of Coxham Lane which is close to one of the possible skatepark areas which was dismissed. He is now supposed not to take part in any discussions, why should this be? The public need to know this because he is being harassed and victimised and prevented from being a useful councillor.

Agree Cllr Lloyd is a very important councillor and we could not do without him, his knowledge, expertise and the amount of time he puts in, and I am as aggrieved as you about some of these issues, but it is not appropriate to discuss here.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

## **9. SKATEBOARD FACILITY UPDATE**

The Chairman updated the council that we are submitting our plans to Horsham as we said we would do. There had been a recent working group meeting, the group went through all aspects of the councils amended plans including, removal of bunding, installing two disabled car parking spaces, toilet provision, allegation of corruption of the noise report, and management plan.

The working group were updated following a meeting with Steyning Grammar School where Cllr George Cockman was present and an independent observer from Bramber Parish Council – the school have stated categorically that they will not release any land for a potential skateboard facility and will not discuss this subject again. They went to great lengths to explain how much land they had and that it is not sufficient for the number of pupils they have and the additional students they have to take on.

DC Leisure were also present and they have a contract with the school and WSCC and they are a business and would look at it from this point of view, although some of the areas in the Leisure Centre proposal could have been addressed they will not do this without agreement from the school.

The working group agreed to continue to carry on with the resolutions made at the May Parish Council meeting 2013 which were:

1. to agree the amended plans with the adjustment of bunding as above.
2. to agree the minor amendment to introduce two disabled car parking spaces.
3. to agree moving the facility slightly west to incorporate the existing tarmac strip.

4. to delegate to the Clerk to implement this and any other minor amendments to the planning application and documentation necessary in consultation with HDC, Chairman and other relevant Councillors as necessary.

Our amended plans have therefore been sent to HDC, along with the D & A statement and Management Plan.

- Read in paper that there was going to be meeting for a Town Poll. When is this to be?

This has been cancelled by Friends of Memorial Playing Field and to our knowledge there is now no meeting.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Playing Fields – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

Cllr Ness-Collins reported that the dog fouling campaign was going well, and has been reported on by Wardens.

Cllr Ness-Collins said that committee had agreed an increase in the fee for the use of the changing rooms to £34.19 inc. of VAT from April 2014 and an increase in the allotment fees to £26.75 for a full plot and £13.50 for a half plot with immediate effect.

Cllr Ness-Collins **proposed** agreement to and adoption of the minutes and accounts, this was **seconded** by Cllr Marshall. This was **Agreed**.

### **9.2 Planning 17<sup>th</sup> September & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

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

### **9.3 Highways & Lighting – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Cllr Howell had nothing to report other than that in the minutes.

Cllr Howell **proposed** agreement to and adoption of the minutes and accounts, **seconded** by Cllr Barling. This was **Agreed**.

### **9.4 Finance & Community Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Cllr Howell reported that committee had awarded a grant to the Royal British Legion and the Allotments Association for room hire.

Cllr Howell reported that the Annual Return and Annual Governance statement had been received back from the External Auditors as reported at F & C committee and had been circulated to councillors and it also on the notice board. Cllr Howell proposed approval of the Annual Return, seconded by Cllr Ness-Collins. This was **Agreed**.

Cllr Howell said that the committee were now looking for nominations for the annual Millennium Community Award and any nominations should be sent to the Clerk by the end of this month.

Cllr Howell reported that the budget process will begin this month and a working party will be set up initially with the Chairs of committees.

Cllr Howell **proposed** adoption of the minutes and accounts, **seconded** Cllr Toms. This was **Agreed**.

## **10. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Barling WSCC reported County Council meeting this Friday. One thing on the agenda is budgets for next year and will be difficult meeting and they are working on efficiency savings. We currently have a mobile waste service, collects small items of electrical goods. The one that visits Steyning is an experiment, the funding is running out December this year. Not very successful in the Steyning area so likely to be cut and will not continue beyond the end of the year.

Grants from county are now coming through to the Steyning area and two have been awarded locally.

At last meeting told about pothole outside Catholic Church and this was repaired very quickly.

Britons Croft had a report that the gates had fallen down and took this up with Saxon Weald and works to the site are imminent.

Attended meeting at school about Youth Services, met new Headteacher, Mr. Wergan, they have said they will always try and provide a facility for Emma Edwards to work there.

- Any update on Whites Bridge.

There is a hold up waiting for sign off from Environment Agency.

Cllr Cockman HDC said he had nothing to report. Are the criteria for the Millennium Awards still the same. I wonder if there is now a case for allowing people to be nominated from trade or employees or public services rather than just from voluntary organisations.

We can look at this at F & C committee.

Provision of toilets for skateboard facility will they be a disabled facility. Yes, if possible will be a unisex facility.

#### **11. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE**

There were no specific items for press release.

#### **12. INFORMATION ITEMS – to receive information items**

Ltr from Headteacher at Steyning Grammar School stating their opposition to proposals for a skatepark application on the Leisure Centre and school site but also stating the good and positive working relationship they have with the parish council.

Email from Steyning Chamber of Trade re: Fundraising Auction this Thursday at the White Horse with proceeds to the Christmas Lights. Late Night Shopping event this year is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Ltr from Rt.Hon Don Foster MP re: the Our Place Programme as the second phase of Neighbourhood Community budget. This offers support to help drive and facilitate participation in the programme. More information can be found at

[www.mycommunityrights.org.uk](http://www.mycommunityrights.org.uk)

Ltr from Steyning Cricket club confirming that the club takes a neutral position in respect of the skateboard facility and related proposals. Any opinions or views expressed by any members of the club are individual and do not represent the club's stance in this respect.

Ltr from the ICO (Information Commissioners Officer) upholding the Council's refusal of a Freedom of Information request, the full letter can be seen on the parish council website.

Lastly, very big congratulations to Peggy Weeks, who has been informed that her husband has posthumously been awarded the Arctic Star Medal for services during the war.

#### **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.30 pm.**

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.44 p.m.