

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th JUNE 2013 AT 7.30
PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllr. Lloyd (Chairman)
Cllrs. Barling, Rogers, Toomey, Staines, Ness-Collins, Hopkinson,
Marshal, Trundle & Toms
Also in attendance:
Paul Conroy – Neighbourhood Wardens
Tom Slaughter - PCSO
Cllr. George Cockman – District Councillor
1 Press representative & 29 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Bowell, Alexander, Devlin, Muncey, and Hoare.

2. DECLARATIONS

There were no a declarations of interest from Councillors.

3. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr. Lloyd and seconded by Cllr. Ness-Collins that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2013 were Agreed and signed. **This was Agreed.** It was further proposed by Cllr. Lloyd and seconded by Cllr Ness-Collins that the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 11th June were Agreed and signed. **This was Agreed.**

4. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS from the last meeting

- 4.1** The committees, terms of reference and change of committee/council meeting dates are published on the website.
- 4.2** Lousia Hull – PCSO and Councillor Deedman have both been written to with our thanks.
- 4.3** A further meeting was held with FoMPF.
- 4.4** An article re: electric cars is on the website.
- 4.5** Budget savings to pay for by-election was discussed and agreed at the F & C committee.

5. POLICE/NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS/LAT REPORTS

See attached report.

Q: In last few days speed traps in Clays Hill could you find out statistics of how many stopped?

Q: Is the graffiti isolated or are tags recognisable?

A: Probably isolated.

Q: How were the keys stolen from the Leisure Centre?

A: Don't know.

Q: When you read out list of crimes and ask if anyone saw anything, is there any increase police visibility as a result of the crimes or is it small statistically?

A: Steyning very small area and very safe.

Q: Is it fair to say there is a drop in crime figures statistically in Horsham?

A: Safest it has been.

Paul Conroy worked closely with PCSO Tom Slaughter over graffiti and it was removed very quickly.

Complaints had been received about anti-social driving in Toomey Road and one driver given advice and would encourage residents to report these incidents when they occur. Challenged drunk and disorderly couple on MPF on night of Big Church Day Out (BCDO) and police were involved but the couple had moved on when police arrived. One call about noise from BCDO.

Junior Wardens involved in new Vintage Years Club. Alert regarding resident visited by a young male asking to measure her bedroom for the new bedroom tax and a phone scam for petrol voucher asking for credit details for £1.50.

6. **YOUTH SERVICE**

Cllr Lloyd introduced Emma Edwards who is the new Youth Worker for Upper Beeding, Bramber, Ashurst and Steyning.

Emma said she was very happy to be here employed by Horsham Matters and only in post for 2 weeks. She has met school and boarding school and parish clerks, lots of training over the next few weeks finding out about her area and putting in an action plan and working with wardens.

7. **SIB**

Cllr. Lloyd introduced Elizabeth Harden from SiB who gave a short presentation about the work of SiB.

Had a discussion at last Highways & Lighting committee meeting and agreed to send in their application for funding. SiB has made a considerable contribution to the town over the years and funding is an issue. SiB hold fund raising events to provide this planting as many people assume it is the PC that is funding all of this but they provide a grant annually. As costs have gone up, resources have gone down and it would have cost £3k for watering the pole mounted baskets so this year SiB have decided to do just tub planting. Ferring Nurseries provided best estimate and have agreed to only pole planting at each end of the Town. Additional cost is that the brackets on lampposts have started to rust. Next year celebrates 400 years of Grammar School and festival and SiB cannot do this unless they know they have the money to do this. Any shortfall should be, they believe, in part funded by the Parish Council and that the PC should commit for future years. Without extra money the SiB cannot carry on.

Q: Do SiB use the brown lidded waste bins because it could get a community bin from HDC free of charge?

A: No. At the moment SiB use their own bins at home.

Q: People should have heard of the 60 meadows that are being promoted. Abbey road a meadow site – perhaps PC and SIB could make a project of this?

A: The weather so bad and that not managed to get volunteers to help with the wild flower garden.

Q: Are wild flower gardens something SiB would get involved in?

A: Yes, but SiB needs volunteers too. 50 people apply to open their gardens in a certain area and we looked at 6 gardens.

Q: Are you part of an awards scheme.

A: Yes in the past but it costs a lot of money to enter – money the SiB do not have.

8. **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

Q: Friday night there was disruption and out of order behaviour, mainly, girls from Grammar School on MPF smoking pot, could Wardens speak to Grammar School, boarding school and speak to off licences?

A: We do speak to off licences. We do speak to boarding school regularly.

Q: Did the girls have drink on them? Or, Drugs? Know you can't search them but if drugs can you search?

A: We can confiscate alcohol if under age and have very quick contact with police where there are drugs involved.

Q: Can you search them or their bags on their person?

A: No we cannot search them. Only a police officer can do a full search. Wardens and PCSOs can detain people but not physically.

Q: After the extra ordinary meeting of the council, the council is now fully aware FoMPF do not want a deferral. Is it possible for the council to go ahead and proceed with the MPF site?

A: Only by a special resolution which would have to be supported. At meeting clerked by our Clerk it was clearly noted that the FoMPF asked for a delay and accepted it. It was the will of the council to give time for the FoMPF to prepare their plans for the Leisure Centre site. It is only a short delay. As it is clear that the FoMPF do not want a deferral we will look at this.

Q: By allowing a deferral of 4 months you are giving credence to plans for the Leisure Centre site which clearly not a good site, hidden and families with small children will not use it and older children could create a nuisance there. We want young and old to mix and enjoy the skatepark.

A: We have not taken a formal view on the Leisure Centre site and this does not add credence to this site. The council feel this was a gesture of goodwill for FoMPF to get their plans in.

Q: I was at the meeting and beg to differ that we did not ask for an extension it was offered.

A: It was clearly noted that a delay was asked for and the PC agreed to put to special meeting and the FoMPF clearly accepted the delay.

Q: If anniversary of 400 years of school could the school look at sponsoring SiB as they are part of the community. Why can't PC ask them?

A: Perhaps SiB could get in touch with school?

Q: I trust we all know that Sarah Bowers was mentioned in honours list this month. There is one blot on the landscape in the Town – the bus shelter ceiling is disgusting.

A: This is in hand and may put on Community Pay-back list of work.

Q: New councillor, very misleading election leaflet and so many phone calls, believing they have planning permission for the Leisure Centre site. This is not right. Also if you have not paid your £29 is it true that the refuse collectors will check rubbish bins to ensure there is no green waste there – is this HDC policy?

A: You should not put green waste in bins but they have not been instructed to go through the bins.

Q: I am often asked why we (the youth) are being driven out of the MPF. A Lot of support for the skate-park in MPF, this is a public site for all to include all ages, hardly any young people want to stay in Steyning because there is nothing for them. The MPF is an appropriate site.

A: You are not being driven out but alternative site has been proposed and have to give this Community Group time and assume they will go to public consultation for people to give their view. Until this is done we cannot move forward.

Q: They have not asked the school who do not want it on their site. I do not want this site because it is hidden away.

Q: We have listened to arguments for 18 months for skate-park and all the delay is not doing any good. These are delaying tactics as they do not want the MPF site. I just want the young people to get somewhere. The PC has explored other sites, have been turned down by governors and do not believe WSCC will give approval. The LC site is a car park and do not think it will change. Please do not delay anymore.

Q: The Leisure Centre site application is in – this is time wasting. Why are the PC delaying and nothing has happened?

A: The council has reserved its position and should they not get permission for the Leisure Centre site then we will proceed.

Q: Given the landowner and school have already said no what further tests are required?

A: Anyone can apply for planning permission to build anywhere and, it has to go through process. HDC decide on planning merits. The Leisure Centre site cannot be built without planning or permission from landowners. WSCC and School own the land and unless they get permissions it cannot be built.

Q: So cross with this that so few people with someone pulling strings. The majority quite happy to have MPF for skatepark.

A: The FoMPF claim majority of the town in favour of the Leisure Centre site.

Q: If permitted at Leisure Centre site who would pick up lease?

A: The council would have to see, nothing has been decided.

Q: I feel I ought to say something as I was behind asking the PC to pause and think about the animosity between the group and PC. There are a lot of issues which have escalated into litigation and are costing council money and that is going ahead.

The FoMPF listened and agreed to a pause. I was keen to see if the scheme could get permission. I am disappointed that they have now said they did not agree and ask for pause. When the Chairman returns we should think about a further meeting in PC and whether we should change this view now and go ahead with the MPF.

A: In view of the litigation this should be taken under advice.

Q: I was at the meeting and the FoMPF did ask and agree and did accept and were pleased about delay.

Q: Could anything to be done to make plans for MPF more palatable? Concrete path planned in Mill Road lane and to the skate-park.

A: This was never part of the plans and the path to the skate-park is grasscrete (actually it is a Hexapath which is similar).

Q: If FoMPF didn't want extension, why are we now reflecting on extension?

A: The council agreed the extension.

Q: I think FoMPF have underestimated the amount of work and difficulties in progressing this project, noise survey, land survey, consultation with neighbours, landowners and they need this time to look at all these things.

Q: On allotments ex councillors have multiple plots is this right?

A: The council is trying to address this but this dates from a time when we could not give them way. This does not just relate to ex-councillors. These plots cannot be taken away after so many years. The council will look at this issue but perhaps you should speak to the Allotments Association as well.

Q: I am asking you as the parish council whether this is right?

The meeting was re-convened.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Playing Fields – 28th May 2013

Cllr Ness-Collins reported that the Playing Fields committee had discussed with the Allotments Association the proposal to introduce a one way system through the Rublees Allotments to avoid congestion with vehicles. It was decided to seek the views of all allotment holders and a letter will be put out with the next invoices in September.

Cllr Ness-Collins also reported that the Council will be doing a trial monitoring session on the MPF to identify instances of dog fouling around the play area. The FoMPF have offered to help with this trial and she asked for volunteers from other councillors. The field cannot be monitored 24/7 and it is suggested that each person does a 4 hour slot and if there is fouling in that time frame it can be checked on the CCTV.

The trial will be held week beginning 1st July and will be in four hourly slots – 8.00 am, 12.00pm, 4.00pm and 8.00pm.

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

expenditure for the period. These proposals were seconded by Cllr Toms. **This was Agreed.**

9.2 Planning 21st May and 4th June 2013

Cllr Lloyd had nothing to report other than was contained in the minutes.

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

9.3 Highways & Lighting – 21st May 2013

Cllr Lloyd reported that WSCC have a new initiative called Operation Watershed where a sum of money has been set aside for communities to undertake investigation and/or maintenance to ditches, culverts or areas where significant flooding occurs. Committee agreed to get a company to quote for investigation and bring back to committee.

Cllr Lloyd proposed agreement to and adoption of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Toomey. **This was Agreed.** Cllr Lloyd proposed agreement to the accounts and expenditure for the period. These proposals were seconded by Cllr Toomey. **This was Agreed.**

9.4 Finance & Community Committee – 4th June 2013

Cllr Lloyd reported on the Big Church Day Out and that HDC had received 30 complaints (5 forwarded from the PC) and they were holding a debriefing session. Cllr Rogers said this has not occurred yet.

The committee had agreed that the recent by-election costs would be taken from the Councillor Allowances budget (parish councillors do not currently claim an allowance) and that £350 would be taken as savings from each of the committees. Any shortfall would come from reserves.

The Annual Return and Annual Governance Statement was circulated to Councillors and agreed at F & C committee for submission to the External Auditors. It was proposed that Council agree the submission of the Annual Return, seconded by Cllr Rogers. **This was Agreed.**

Cllr. Barling: Can you tell me, are staff still under pressure?

A: Yes, there is still a lot of work. There is work not being done and there is a long list of outstanding matters.

Cllr. Rogers: What happened to the extra help agreed?

A: Have held off on this as it was thought the meeting with FoMPF might decrease the information requests and emails but this has not been the case. May now have to proceed to recruit.

Cllr Lloyd reported that Committee agreed to continue to use Mulberry & Co. as the Internal Auditors for the ensuing year.

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

10. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Barling: As new chair of CLC and he hoped he would be able to serve Steyning with this hat on. There is a new initiative where we can now appoint voluntary pot hole inspectors and potholes can be reported direct to WSCC. Godstalls Lane and Newham Close TRO had little support and the overwhelming view was not to proceed. Result was it was turned down except for double yellow lines at the neck of Godstalls Lane to help the refuse truck.

Clays Hill residents are not happy that speeds have crept up again – trying to get better signage and WSCC Highway Engineers coming to look around the Town to look at this and other issues in the Town - A283 Cannons Way is one of these as is Chantry Lane.

Cllr Barling also reported that there were 659 children in the care of the WSCC and most of them in a bad place and disadvantaged and that WSCC runs 5 children's homes and has a secure unit.

Cllr. Lloyd reported that the signage as gateway to Steyning was also being looked at by the Steyning and District Partnership

Cllr Toms - How can you be trained to spot the pothole?

A: You are shown the criteria, you take a photo and report it.

Cllr. Toomey said that the new Chairman had experience of potholes and in his view they were being filled in inadequately.

Cllr. Rogers reported she was chairing a group preparing for aging population, which we have in Steyning. Clear aspiration and working with Age UK to get a village agent to reach out and provide a better old age for people, providing transport and, things to do. The Wardens do spend time with older residents but not in other parts of the district. Looking for support from parishes for this role.

There is currently no funding for this role but may be some from Age UK.

Have already Pride of Place but this will be more tangible. This is bigger than just for Steyning.

Cllr. Cockman reported that the Britons Croft application comes up tomorrow. Long list of conditions for the building. Plans look promising. Saxon Weald has responded to public opinion.

11. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE

There was nothing, for this meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None for this meeting.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 15th July 2013 at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.