

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

**PRESENT:** Cllr Bowell,(Chairman)  
Cllrs Rogers, Muncey, Alexander, Barling, Toms, Ness-Collins, Marshall,  
Toomey, Staines, Trundle & Hopkinson  
Also in attendance:  
Tom Slaughter - PCSO  
No Press representative & 34 Members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Hoare & Lloyd, Cllr Cockman and Wardens.

**2. DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

**3. MINUTES**

Cllr Hopkinson said at the last meeting he had raised the issue of Risk assessment for the skateboard facility and it was agreed as advisable for major projects and he wished to ensure this was clearly emphasised.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowell **seconded** by Cllr Toomey that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>TH</sup> November be Agreed and signed by the Chairman. This was **Agreed**.

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

Neighbourhood Plan is an agenda item.

Solar Panels Huddlestone Farm - Visited farm last week to look at layout and gain general information. Public presentation here this afternoon. Cllr Alexander to arrange a visit for the whole planning committee.

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

There were no Wardens present but their report is attached to the F & C minutes.

Tom Slaughter gave his report which is attached to these minutes.

- Is there an increase in burglary in Bowmans Close area.

There has been a burglary, theft of motor vehicle from driveway.

- Scam emails coming from btinternet, look like sales pitch. Be aware of these.

**6. UPDATES**

**Neighbourhood Plan** – have been considering this for some time and now looking at clustering with Bramber, Ashurst and Wiston. Some reservations and questions have arisen, such as what would happen if you built in one parish only what would happen to CiL. A meeting has been arranged on 19<sup>th</sup> December with Julien Carrington and will have a working group after this and then come back to full council. For clarity CiL is

Community Infrastructure Levy, replaced Section 106 and will start sometime next year. Important to have a list of community project and there is a closer link between the projects and CiL.

**Skateboard Facility** – Working Group had met following the poll. There was a very good turnout and the vote result which was:

Total electorate who voted	1520 or 32.08%
For the motion to build a skatepark in MPF	816 or 53.7%
Against the motion	703 or 46.3%

The chairman said he sincerely hoped that Steyning will come together now, it was a democratic vote and hope everyone will get behind the plan and support the Steyning Parish Council (SPC). We owe it to people to action that decision. The Working Group recommended that we continue and proceed with our planning application to get approval. Aware that some are unhappy with site and will look at ways to meet the needs and objectives of those people, possibly by alterations to landscaping to make it fit aesthetically.

Cllr Howell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Toms that the council continues as recommended at the working group with its amended plans for the skateboard facility. This was **Agreed unanimously**.

### **Joint Parish Burial Board**

Cllr Hoare had resigned from this committee and Cllr Toms has volunteered and was agreed at F & C to join the Board. The JPBB are discussing the issue of lack of burial space and the proposal for all new plots to be purchased for a maximum of 50 years.

## **7. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

- Wish to raise the subject of usefulness of camera in High Street, do not believe it has produced any convictions.

Quality of the images at Haywards Heath is very clear. It is very effective and clear even at night and can zoom and can be operated remotely. It moves every 4 minutes, it does record. Not known about convictions but it has value as deterrent as well. We can find out some of this information.

- Want to know cost to the Parish Council of this camera.

This will be sent to you.

- The chairman's press release says the council is appalled by the misleading comments in the poll flyers from FoMPF such as the tarmacking of the path at Mill Road which has never been the intention of the Parish Council. Can the chairman explain why the original D & A statement and recent one on HDC website says there will be a tarmac path to the facility from Mill Road.

This was answered a long time ago that the Mill Road reference was meant as from the Mill Road Track. We have no intention of doing anything to Mill Road track, it is not our responsibility. There will be a new D & A with new amended plans.

The path will be from the kissing gate into the MPF at Mill Road track to the facility only and will be in grasscrete not tarmac.

- What will be done from Mill Road track along the footpath to the gate.

Nothing. We will not do anything outside of MPF.

- The chairman says he is appalled at the misleading statements in the FoMPF flyers, can he say why his personal flyer in September said the skatepark would be on a site unsuitable for pitch based sports, when there is a football pitch marked there. The PC minutes of October 2012 record Cllr Toms commenting "there was a slight rise in the ground and was this

acceptable. Mike Davies from the Strikers said this was just about OK as it was not too steep”.

I was appalled at the words used to describe the youth of Steyning and the pictures as well. There was a document put out showing a football pitch where the facility is proposed to be. We knew nothing about this pitch, it was an error. This pitch was removed. We have confirmed with those that are authorised to play that there is no requirement for it. We can accommodate them elsewhere if required. It is sloping and is not ideal for football. All the teams are comfortable with arrangements. As far as we are concerned it is not used.

- Concerned about burial board report which will upset a lot of people, are the churches that have graveyards involved being in the rotation of burial sites.

Not sure, JPBB represents the joint parishes and the churches. They are looking for additional land. If a family wish to retain a plot it will be renewed but only for 50 years. Everyone would be contacted.

- I think people should contact Strikers Chairman to find out what their requirements are and how well the Parish Council has supported them. No Strikers teams have played on this pitch this season. The facts can come from Chairman of Strikers.
- Concern over noise from the skatepark. Told that skateboarding makes same sound as tennis ball being hit but do not think this is right. Also on skateboard day, I was concerned by noise which was quite a disturbance and I wonder what PC will do to stop this. I have children who need to sleep at night and I would like to enjoy my garden.

We are not professionals in this field, so have sought professional advice. Two sound surveys done, spoken to landscapers about the bunding and have been advised by them that bunding to the left looking from the Cricket Club and the right is not necessary but should keep it at the front. We will look at it and take experience from other sites, from suppliers, and HDC.

- Have you considered the reason residents do not want it is because it is noisy and disturbing. This is why they are campaigning; people don't want it on their doorstep. If residents do not want a skatepark next to their homes should this not be respected by the Parish Council.

We own this site, this is the only site we own that we can put this. We did look at many other sites. There was an application to put one near the Leisure Centre, but this is not acceptable to the owners of that land.

The speaker has mentioned the noise, the noise referred to came from the mobile metal skatepark which creates a lot more noise than a concrete one. There is no direct comparison of metal over concrete. Suggest a visit to Henfield, this is in a similar situation but closer to houses, you really cannot hear the noise of the wheels.

We did position this to be in the middle of the field to be furthest away from all the houses.

The Chairman closed the questions session as it had overrun the allotted time.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Playing Fields – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

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

### **8.2 Planning 19<sup>th</sup> November & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

Cllr Alexander reported on a major application for Wappingthorne Farm for an anaerobic digester.

- *The Chairman called for quiet as there was considerable disturbance from the floor with people leaving.*

Cllr alexander continued to report that we had written two letters and are waiting to see WSCC comments on traffic and on a noise report. The Conservation Officer has not objected.

- *The Chairman called for quiet again due to disturbance from the floor.*
- *There continued to be disruption, shouting and disturbance of the meeting.*
- *The meeting was adjourned and the Chairman requested those shouting and causing the disruption to leave.*
- *The meeting was re-convened when 15 members of the public had left the meeting.*

Cllr Rogers said HDC were waiting for a noise survey on the digester. A lot of the neighbours are concerned and an officer from HDC planning will be meeting with them. Cllr Alexander **proposed** agreement to and adoption of the minutes which were **seconded** by Cllr Toomey and **Agreed**.

### **8.3 Highways & Lighting – There was no meeting in November 2013**

### **8.4 Finance & Community Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

Cllr Rogers reported that committee had given 'in principle' agreement to draft budgets for committees. Allowance in the budgets has been made for possible election costs next year and legal challenges, increases in the cost of the 3 year contracts for grass cutting and litter clearing, increase in administrative support, part-time on a fixed term contract for one year. This decision was taken reluctantly due to volume of work on clerk and deputy. We have always been an active council and the workload has increase significantly so need for further support. The fixed contract does allow some flexibility. HDC have yet to finalise the Band D property figure for next year and the Council Tax Benefit figure. The final budget to be confirmed at F & C in January and the precept agreed at Full Council in January.

Cllr Rogers also reported that committee had agreed the revised Standing Orders for the Council and **proposed** agreement to these, **seconded** by Cllr Alexander. This was **Agreed**.

Concerned to ensure that all councillors have an opportunity to understand the scale of the impact of the increases being proposed. The clerk has been through this with me and all councillors can go through this with the clerk.

The figures will be presented at F & C initially and then sent to all councillors prior to agreement at Full Council in January.

We are in austere times and all councillors need to understand the detail. Any member can come to F & C for the discussion on the final budgets.

On the same point, have concerns although I have sympathy with pressure on clerk, but with austerity in all levels of government we need to be aware of cutbacks.

The amount of work that has been put on hold this year is substantial.

Small office with very small resources of staff. Less staff than other parishes by comparison in area.

This is a one year deal and can re-visit this in a years' time.

Cllr Rogers **proposed** adoption of the minutes and accounts, **seconded** Cllr Alexander. This was **Agreed by majority with one abstention**.

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

Cllr Barling - County has to find a lot of savings, in first two years £61m and over 4 years £141m. Part of government debt reduction programme. We can do this by efficiencies and savings and putting work to outside contractors.

Intend for next two years a council tax freeze. This will make a total of 5 years. Cabinet Member for Transport has indicated intention to put money into upgrading unclassified roads.

- Will savings using contractors and outsourcing mean redundancies.

What we are doing is to try to go for job transfers to avoid, if possible, redundancies. A lot of savings will be in adult social care.

On local issues working on two flooding issues - Dog Lane and Mouse Lane. Dog Lane we have bid for a grant under Operation Watershed and fairly positive will get this. Mouse Lane now got a quote for research but there are some mixed views from residents. There are springs coming up in the road and this needs to be addressed.

Whites Bridge to Steyning from Bramber about to re-open.. Very costly to repair.

Overall cost £82k. Bramber and Upper Beeding bridge to close for about a month. Work has to be done.

CLC budget we have small grants money left. Made full grant to Steyning Festival for childrens parade. Looking for other applications.

CLC will be looking at TRO's, Penns Court and any other to pass these to Cllr Barling.

Cannons Way junction still looking to do something about road safety at this junction.

- Steyning bypass on righthand side coming from Bramber is anything being done.
- Bridge at Bramber, will there be a temporary bridge.

The footbridge will remain open but not for a bridleway.

**Cllr Rogers** reported that we would have received a report on Section 106 money from HDC. A report on this is going to council on Wednesday. Have put in the request for our portion towards the fencing in MPF but not a formal application yet.

HED have challenges in finance.

In consultation on management re-structure.

Exploring a case for re-locating of officers to share resources etc.

No planned changes to front line services.

Safer in Sussex Communities fund to bid for money to be used for community safety.

Possibility of bid for footbridge linking Roman Road and Goring Road - should try and work up a bid for lighting for this bridge. To bring to H & L for discussion.

## **10. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE**

There were no specific items for press release.

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

Late shopping night magnificent evening and CoT should be congratulated. To write to them.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30 pm.**

**Councillor wished all a very happy Christmas and prosperous new year.**

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.50 p.m.