

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
11th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30 PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllr Howell,(Chairman)
Cllrs Lloyd, Rogers, Muncey, Alexander, Barling, Toms, Ness-Collins,
Marshall, Toomey, & Hopkinson
Also in attendance:
Paul Conroy– Neighbourhood Warden
1 Press representative & 24 Members of the public.

The chairman invited those present to join with him in one minute silence for Remembrance Day in respect of all the armed forces personnel who have given their lives in the service of this country. In particular the Chairman asked to remember Lance Corporal James Brynin, who lost his life last month in Afghanistan and who was a pupil at Steyning Grammar School.

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Hoare, Staines, Trundle & Devlin, Cllr Cockman and PC Tom Slaughter.

2. DECLARATIONS

There was a declaration of prejudicial interest from Councillor Lloyd item 7.

3. MINUTES

It was **proposed** by Cllr Howell **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 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 October meeting.

5. POLICE/NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS/LAT REPORTS

Paul Conroy gave the Wardens report which is attached to the F & C minutes. Paul Conroy also gave the police report for Tom Slaughter which is attached to these minutes.

- Were there any issues with Bonfire night?

Organised displays fine. Not many issues this year.

- I took part in Operation Davos I was watching cameras – the clarity of camera in High Street very good especially given the bad weather.
- Congratulations to all for Dog Fouling campaign.

LAT meeting – there was no meeting in October.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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

The Chairman read a written question that has been submitted for response:

“On 13th May 2013 Cllr Rogers’ motion was passed that “the working party be reconvened to fully evaluate the true cost of the skatepark project and the ongoing fight, and to ask realistically whether it can be built”.

If the working party has met and discussed these matters will the Council now upload the minutes or other notes of its deliberations and conclusions to the Council’s website and otherwise give the public as much other information as possible about these matters”?

The Full Council working group has met as proposed by Cllr Rogers at the May 2013 Council meeting. An update following this working group was given at the last Full Council meeting in October (and is contained in the public minutes), where it was reported what had been discussed and that the working group had agreed to carry on with the resolutions made at the May 2013 meeting.

Summary notes of the working group detailing areas of discussion can be made available on request.

Working group notes will not be published on the council’s website as these are a working discussion document only and do not form policy of the council or official minutes or decisions or actions of the council.

The Chairman then invited further questions from the floor.

- Why is the Steyning Parish Council supporting the diversion of WMT funds from Health Care and Social Care in the Steyning catchment area to sports development?

As far as Steyning Parish Council is concerned any arrangement between an organisation prepared to support us, we gladly accept. The issue of why and how is for them and them alone and not for us as a recipient. I would suggest you contact WMT to see if they are prepared to discuss this with you.

- Have written to WMT last week and Mr. Whittaker has sent me an email noting my comments. SPC are actively promoting that WMT will support a sports development when the Charity Commission is very clear that their main function is to help with the social care and health care. Should you be promoting and accepting funds which the Charity Commission say should not be allowed.

Our understanding is the WMT is for the health and well-being of the area. How they do this is their decision and not SPC. SPC are looking for funds and we were grateful for the response from WMT and hope this is still available to us.

- The question was why should we be supporting funds for a skatepark. The reason for that is that the young people need good recreational facilities. We do not supply the young with adequate facilities and this would be used by many youngsters of all ages. WMT can answer for themselves.
- How many other times have the SPC asked WMT for money.

Possibly three.

- I would like to add to this, there is organised sport, there is no facility for individual children who do not want team sports. This is why I support the skatepark, they need this outlet and activity. They want to socialise on a one to one basis.
- I would just like to mention that the Steyning Primary School Ofsted inspection was satisfactory.
- There did not seem to be an answer to the aspect of health, having a skateboard park is encouraging the young to exercise and tackles obesity and is therefore very much related to the health and well- being aspect and preventing poor health.

- I am a supporter of SPC and was a previous chairman of the council. I was a founding director and trustee of WMT, but not currently. I am aware of the objectives of the charity. There is manoeuvrability within the trust documents for the trustees. Mr. Wilson also agreed for a considerable amount of money to be released from the fund towards projects in the Town. I am sure they are operating within the trust document and even after the SF there will be considerable funds left for other projects.
- In relation to Highways and 20 mph scheme the minutes refer to the 2008 survey. At that time less than 1m living in areas with 20 mph and now this is 12 m so committee may wish to consider this.

Cllr Barling reported that the country is currently working on a lot of schemes for 20 mph. UpperBeeding wish to promote a total 20 mph zone. Working with school who wish to promote a 20 mph around the school. The criteria are that you have to get close to 20 mph as an average before you can bring speed limit in. CLC look for significant support among local residents. A lot of work and public consultation is needed for this. In Chichester a group promoted this and got petition and 1,000's of signatures and this promoted the introduction.

Cllr Rogers stated she was chairman of H & L in 2008 when we did our campaign. Did have some support, but problem was with county, they did lots of traffic measurements, but the data did not support it. Enforcement was always a problem, I would support it but it is a difficult campaign. The school petition is now running and on website. There is also a paper petition. Need to show support.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

7. UPDATES

Skateboard Facility

Cllr Lloyd declared a prejudicial interest for this item and left the room.

The Chairman updated the council that the working group had met on the 31.10.13 and agreed to continue with the decision made at the F & C committee of 8th October with regard to the acoustic report and re-recording the readings for football match noise.

The working group discussed a new visualisation plan of the facility which it is recommended be published along with a leaflet (also discussed and drafted) from the Council informing residents about the Town Poll. The Town Poll is to be held on Wednesday 27th November, between 4.00 p.m and 9.00 p.m. There will be no polling cards sent from HDC and there are no postal votes.

The Parish Council is proceeding with its submission of amended plans to HDC and after the planning decision it is proposed to organise a skateboard facility presentation day.

Cllr Bowell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Toms that the working groups recommendations as above for the visualisation plan, leaflet and presentation day be agreed by council and that the clerk and Chairman be delegated to action these points. This was **Agreed** by majority, one abstention.

Cllr Lloyd rejoined the meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Lloyd updated the meeting that there had been a recent meeting of the chairmen of surrounding parishes and one area of discussion was clustering with them for a neighbourhood plan. Discussion with Bramber and Upper Beeding, also wish to include Ashurst and Wiston. Upper Beeding has decided to do its own Neighbourhood Plan. Need to register the cluster. If we do link in with Bramber, they have a Councillor willing to drive this on. The idea is to have a minimum of local councillors but majority of the committee to be from the local community. To have a working group meeting.

Nick Mills, Bramber said that we are at first base and it is an important document to put together.

Cllr Rogers said this was an extremely important piece of work for housing and development across the area for the next 20 years. The number and position of houses to be built. There will be a lot of question to answer before supporting this plan. Land supply difficult for Bramber. There is a CIL sum which is the result of building that takes place and want to know how this is apportioned in a cluster arrangement. It could change the shape of the Town.

The SPC is a representative body and needs to have a grip on a Neighbourhood Plan and Steyning should not have a minimal part.

Presentations I have been to say the group that moves it forward should be from the community, young, sport, church, businesses etc. Has to be some councillors on board. If we did cluster with Steyning two or three councillors would be on committee but the rest from the community. Although housing is a significant part it is not just about housing but other issues for the area, economy, infrastructure etc.

Cuckfield have done this and have drawn on a lot of local skills. The idea is to collate information from local people.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Playing Fields – There was no meeting in October 2013.

Cllr Ness-Collins asked Cllr Muncey to report on the recent Dog Fouling campaign and thanked her for her efforts.

Campaign ran for two weeks and 12 volunteers offered to help to mark and flag the fouling.

Top ten results were twittens Roman Road to Church Street - 11, Shooting Field twitten school to Dingemans - 8, MPF – 8 some nil results in Rosemary Avenue, Coxham Lane, Newham Lane and incidents lessened during the fortnight.

The Steyning Downland Scheme are considering adopting a Flick it with a Stick motto as recommended by the Forestry Commission.

There was Press coverage and visit to the play group.

May be worth repeating this exercise in the summer.

Cllr Howell thanked Cllr Muncey and all who supported her.

- Lots of comment about increase in school holiday. Is there an opportunity to address children in the schools.

The wardens are working on this.

- Experience is more the older children sent out in the holidays with the dog.

Message needs to be if you do pick up and bag it, don't leave it as this will be there forever. If you don't pick up flick it away off the footpaths.

8.2 Planning 22nd October & 5th November 2013

Committee objected to the Wappingthorne Farm application– objected mainly as we were not consulted and not invited to the open day. We are visiting on Friday to meet the applicants.

Cllr Barling did go to the Tollgate open meeting. This is a substantial application and originally the position was further towards Steyning than it now is so has been a change. The neighbours do still strongly object.

Concern also was it is very close to listed buildings.

Cllr Alexander **proposed** agreement to and adoption of the minutes which were **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd and **Agreed** with one abstention on minutes from Cllr Rogers on 5th November regarding Wappingthorne Farm.

8.3 Highways & Lighting – 29th October 2013

Cllr Alexander reported that the committee had agreed support for the Steyning Primary School in its petition for a 20 mph limit on certain safer routes to school. The Parish Council will assist with publishing articles on its website.

Cllr Alexander also reported that we now have the salt/grit bags delivered and stored ready for severe weather. Still waiting delivery of six new bins.

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

Chairman congratulated Cllr Alexander on Winter Maintenance plan.

8.4 Finance & Community Committee – 5th November 2013

Cllr Lloyd reported that committee has agreed the new Financial Regulations and these had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Lloyd **proposed**, **seconded** by Cllr Rogers that these be agreed. This was **Agreed**.

Risk Assessments para. 16.2 states that for any new activity there will be a risk assessment, do we have for skateboard facility. This will be done further down the line when we are nearer towards build. It does, of course, need one but we don't yet have the facility.

Cllr Lloyd **proposed**, **seconded** by Cllr Alexander that the Risk Assessments recently circulated to all councillors be agreed. This was **Agreed**.

Committee had agreed a new frequency for the consideration of grant applications. This will be quarterly, commencing in January 2014.

Saxon Weald has asked the Parish Council to suggest names for the new development at Briton's Croft. Anyone with a suggestion to send this to the clerk by the end of next week. Cllr Lloyd also updated the meeting that the new homes are due for completion in spring 2015. Anyone wishing to know more about buying an apartment should contact the sales team. Details will be on the Council website.

Suggestions for a name are keep the Briton's Croft name, also Fair's Field.

Cllr Rogers one item of correspondence at F & C was an invitation to drop in to a presentation for a proposal for a solar farm. Could we invite the developers to us for a presentation. This could impact on Steyning.

To invite to a planning meeting.

Cllr Lloyd **proposed** adoption of the minutes and accounts, **seconded** Cllr Rogers. This was **Agreed**.

9. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rogers reported importance of planning and the Horsham District preferred strategy across the District over the next 20 years. Importance of the economic strategy and if accepted will mean the building of new houses in North Horsham which will include a business park. Sussex Police and Crime commissioner is currently consulting on an increase in the Police precept.

Will pick up on Wardens report on burglaries. This is one of the priorities for the Community Safety partnership. In the main these tend to be outbuildings and sheds in Steyning.

Cllr Barling reported on WSCC finance, starting to work on budget for 2014. Need to make savings. Need to save approx. £60m. Looking for other ideas for saving possibly on parcels of land the county owns. Trying to freeze the council tax for next year if possible. Asked to look at TRO's, one is putting more yellow lines in Penns Court. Work in the Bostal next March and this will be closed for 5 days to repair road. Made a grant to Downland Scheme. Some money left in CLC grant pot, Festival has asked for a grant towards the children's parade. Next CLC meeting in March.

In March will be looking at TRO's in detail.

- Can you do anything with the cement works?

Problem is asbestos but county does not have the money to do it.

- Cllr Rogers has there been any change in CLC policy in awarding grants to PC's.

No, it is a general policy of whole of CLC's not to grant to Parishes.

- Any further news on travellers on Horsham Road.

No solicitors are looking at it now.

10. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE

There were no specific items for press release.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS – to receive information items

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 9th December 2012 at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.46 p.m.