

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30 PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Bowell,(Chairman)  
Cllrs Lloyd, Rogers, Hopkinson, Alexander, Trundle,  
Muncey, Barling, Toms, Marshall, Staines, Toomey  
Also in attendance:  
Cllr Cockman – Horsham District Council  
Michael Pearce – Warden  
Paul Conroy - Warden  
1 Press representative & 28 Members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Ness-Collins.

**2. DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.

**3. MINUTES**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Toms **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be Agreed and signed by the Chairman. This was **Agreed**.

**4. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Bowell reported that Nick Marks has currently withdrawn his application to be co-opted as a parish councillor.

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

A visit to the proposed solar farm was arranged for the planning committee and this was discussed at the planning meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February.

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

The Wardens gave their report which is attached to the F & C minutes.

- At what stage is information about young people passed on to parents or warnings sent.

If it is reported to us that there are groups but we don't actually witness anyone committing any offences, or there is no identification by the residents of the young

people involved, we can only caution them and warn of consequences. If we can get identification we can warn the anti-social behaviour team and get warning letters sent.

- You reported about sheds and outbuildings, has there been any round this area. Not in Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding as far as we know.

## 7. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

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

- The disruptive behaviour mentioned by young people, it concerns me that a lot of young people have nothing much to do. The skateboard park would give the young people something to aim for, look at that snowboarder who probably started off as a skateboarder. Our young people are being deprived of what they need, because of a few people who cannot see the benefits.
- Although I realise this is coming up later, there is a lot of confusion about the disability parking initially raised by FoMPF who wanted this, but in their poll leaflet they were against this.

We will be addressing this later on in the meeting.

- When is planning going in.

Hoping for March but not confirmed yet.

- Is there actually going to be one(skateboard facility) or will this scheme be squashed. It feels like it at the moment.

We have had a lot of discussion for a long time. The Parish Council is clear, so are the people of Steyning. We had a poll and it is our intention to build this in the MPF as it is the only area we have access to.

The chairman re-convened the meeting.

## 8. SKATEBOARD FACILITY

The Full Council Working Group had met to discuss a proposed Landscape Plan for the proposed skateboard facility.

- The working group recommend that the clerk be delegated to discuss this with the Landscape Officer from HDC for advice on species of shrubs and trees and submit plans to HDC showing the proposed planting scheme as part of the application.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Toomey, **seconded** by Cllr Alexander to agree the recommendation above. This was **Agreed**.

The Working Group discussed the new advice from the Equalities Officer from HDC that the creation of further disabled parking spaces on MPF as part of the skateboard facility project were not necessary.

- The working group recommend removal of the two additional new disabled spaces we had proposed and to remove the 'hexopath' from the facility to the gate at Mill Road track and to amend the D&A statement accordingly. The clerk to be delegated to submit the new plans and D & A statement once amended.
- With regard to access and mud is it because the path cannot cross the piece of land and would end 10 metres short of gate?
- Can we establish who owns it to get permission?

Owner not happy about giving permission. We have right of access across the land but not to build a path.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Toms, **seconded** by Cllr Trundle to agree the recommendation above. This was **Agreed**.

The Working Group discussed the recent submission by the FoMPF of a sound report as part of their application for a skateboard facility at the Leisure Centre car park, which is still waiting decision by HDC Planning.

- As you may be aware the council had a meeting with school head and members of the board to ensure we had looked at all options for the residents of Steyning as to space to build a facility. The Council had an unequivocal 'No' from Steyning Grammar School to site a skate-park on their land, as it is against the best interests of the future development plans of the school. The working group recommend and reiterate that the Parish Council should not be involved in the Leisure Centre site skateboard project and will not take on this site going forward should planning permission be granted. The Parish Council will continue to pursue its plans for the proposed facility in the Memorial Playing Field as mandated in the recent Town poll.
- If school changed its mind, or was minded to open up discussions would Parish Council change its plans? We don't have planning permission nor does the Leisure Centre site and it seems there are still a lot of unknowns.

Would have to discuss this but based on our position at present there is no way forward with school. We would never say never but it would depend on what stage we were at with our plans.

The school have been asked on a number of occasions, and I do not think there is any movement on behalf of the school.

There are decisive arguments that an installation at Leisure Centre would not be as good as MPF. Want to do a project we can complete. We can complete on MPF but not Leisure Centre. We have a clear public mandate from the poll.

Cllr Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Toomey to accept the recommendation above. This was **Agreed** with one abstention.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 9.1 Playing Fields – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

Cllr Toms said committee had discussed a proposal from 10:10 to start a community orchard on the site of the old existing one in MPF. No agreement made as yet and a meeting has been arranged to discuss this further with the group concerned.

There may be other locations to look at further.

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

### 10.2 Planning 21<sup>st</sup> January & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Cllr Alexander said that committee had discussed the proposal for a solar panel installation at Huddlestone Farm and had raised no objections, it is in a low lying area and is low quality agricultural land and not easily visible other than a few houses some distance away, subject to an Environmental and Ecological report.

- Have the residents been consulted.

Yes they have, some did come to our meeting. From Parish Council point of view this is quite a suitable site.

Cllr Rogers declared she would not participate in this decision or part of this meeting as she would be on the HDC planning committee when the matter is heard.

Cllr Barling declared a personal interest as he knows both some of the objectors and the applicant.

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

### 10.3 Highways & Lighting - There was no meeting in January.

### 10.4 Finance & Community Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Cllr Lloyd reported that committee have been circulated a draft Emergency Plan and Business Continuity plan document – committee are to comment for the next meeting.

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

## 11. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

**Cllr Rogers – HDC:** A recent document sent to Parish Council from a small group of councillors at HDC presenting an alternative strategy about housing in this area. HDC has been consulting on strategy on how many houses we have to build across the district and where. The preferred strategy was to look at 2,500 house development in North Horsham, and in Southwater and Billingshurst. The rest to come from Neighbourhood plans. There has been concern from residents in North Horsham. Some of the councillors have therefore put forward an alternative strategy, this was not a strategy by Council nor has it been voted, or approved. A meeting on Thursday in Council chamber which is a public meeting to discuss this.

New Green Waste service, 55% have signed up in Steyning. Some properties have agreed to share bins.

- In the preferred planning framework policy of HDC, does this take into account the possible second runway at Gatwick and the impact on jobs, noise etc.

No, it doesn't. At meeting being held this week there will be presentations to have strong economic strategy. HDC have responded to consultation with regard to noise of second runway. If housing is built there has to be regard to noise insulation.

**Cllr Cockman – HDC:** Two things to report from HDC to do with staffing strategy and council tax. Staffing looked to flatten the structure by removing level of managers below Directors and this was passed. We have unfortunately lost a lot of competent and loyal employees. Looking at budget, we have accepted from central government not to raise council tax but to receive from them the freeze grant.

- Will job losses affect services we get from HDC.

Hopefully not.

Cllr Rogers said we are working extremely hard to ensure services not affected. Looking at all areas to ensure the Council is run as effectively as possible.

- Last time there were cuts from WSCC and no tax increase, it affected Youth Provision which affected the service in Steyning.

Can't say a discretionary service may not be affected.

**Cllr Barling – WSCC:** Budget is going to council on Friday.

WSCC freezing council tax. We are taking governments freeze grant.

Had to take £141m out of the base budget over a four year period. This has now shrunk and this is now £128m over 4 years. Now making arrangements for first two years. We are shrinking our base budget by £14m in the first year.

Surprisingly some increases in spending will take place this year.

Operation Watershed, working to continue this for a further year with £1m in the pot.

The Big Society fund has been successful and this will be increased to £380k.

The biggest news is Highways who have £15m in next year to spend on upgrading unclassified roads, and £15million in the year following.

Need parishes to give lists of priority roads for upgrading.

Flooding issues – problem in Shooting Field by Church. There is a log stuck in the culvert.

Engineers from WSCC have visited. It needs specialist equipment. Looking at this urgently this week.

In correspondence with Environment Agency and will be discussing this with leader of WSCC.

CLC meeting here on 5<sup>th</sup> March. Lots of local issues on agenda. Yellow lines in Penns Court, petition from Steyning Primary school, lots of grants to be discussed.

14<sup>th</sup> April is the Annual Parish meeting here at Steyning Centre and the leader of WSCC, Louise Goldsmith is coming.

Showcase this year was first rate, congratulate all who organised the event, everyone really happy and a very enjoyable day.

- In Herald last week there was an article and I was quoted as saying that Balfour Beatty needs a quality management system. But WSCC said they had never heard of problems with the company. I have been saying this since I joined the Council, the quality of work is atrocious.
- Problem at Shooting Field is getting quite serious, if road has to close real problem. Needs urgent action.
- Walk to school is dangerous and traffic not slowing down. Sign is there to slow down but motorist not taking account of it.

They are working on this and I will stress the urgency.

- £30m over two years for repairs. What is this in relation for the area it has to cover.

This is over and above routine maintenance, this is extra.

- £40m savings will there be redundancies.

Have been assured that our intention is to protect front line services and staff where possible.

## **12. ITEMS FOR PRESS RELEASE**

No items for press release.

**13. INFORMATION ITEMS – to receive information items**

Invitation to all councillors to attend the Ride and Stride event at St.Andrew & St.Cuthman church on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 for the presentation of awards by the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs. Susan Pyper. There is an invitation for all councillors. Email Andrew Baldwin, HDC regarding the renewal of arrangements for the garden waste collection service for the next 12 months. The charges for the service remain unchanged.

The clerk reported that Saxon Weald has a small community fund that groups can apply for in our area. Suitable applications may be equipment (particularly IT equipment) for a youth group or older persons group, contribution towards playground equipment, etc. Anyone wishing further information please contact the Clerk.

1<sup>st</sup> March – Water Fair being held here at Steyning Centre, cafe, lots of different agencies attending.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Deputy for all their work for Showcase.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.30 pm.**

The Chairman closed the meeting 8.35 p.m.

## **ACTIONS**