

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr L. Britt (Chairman), Cllr C.Beglan, Cllr T. Cook(7.06), Cllr N. Cooper, Cllr J. Davies, Cllr N Dore` (7.06pm), Cllr R. Milner-Gulland, Cllr M Shaw, Cllr D.Wilkins. Clerk Mrs L Quirk. District Cllr R. Dawe, County Cllr F. Wilkinson (7.10) 2 members of the public

The Chairman had brought the meeting forward because of the amount of business to be transacted.

1. **Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies- Cllr Ballard, Cllr Turley- work commitments. County Cllr Wilkinson will arrive late.

Declarations of interest- Village Hall- Cllr Cook & Cllr Dore` prejudicial interest.

Granary Barn, Church Farm - Cllr Britt personal interest.

Four Oaks, Sanctuary Lane – Cllr Davies prejudicial interest.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2009 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising**

138.5 Cllr Ballard reported that the lights were still on in the garage in the evenings, Clerk has reported this on several occasions to Enforcement. *Enforcement has responded that the illuminated Kia sign inside the garage requires Planning permission or that the illumination is removed from the sign, within the next 21 days, and have advised the owners.* Clerk to follow up.

145.2 Estimate bus shelter - John Pullen has suggested replacing the glass with louvers panels, he has given an estimate for 2 panels @ 4ft x 3ft 8ins to fit, made of matching hard wood £400 + fitting which he said would not be very much, the cost could be reduced by using soft wood. Cllr Shaw reported that Mr Pullen suggested he do a sample for members to look at, it was agreed that Cllrs would view to see if it was suitable. Cllr Shaw will take photos of the glass prior it its removal, Clerk will then follow up the possibility of an insurance claim. (see maintenance issues)

146.11 East Clayton Farm- Lighting in the car park still a problem, and visibility splays appear not to have been moved. Reported to HDC & WSCC. *Response received from Gary Peck, who will contact the agent to find out what is happening.*

146.12 Woodlands, Bracken Lane- The email received from HCRA was read out. Enforcement are investigating, but concern was expressed about the fact that work still appeared to be continuing. District Cllr Mason said problems such as this are being investigated with a group from HDC who are looking into flooding and drainage problems. Clerk to ask Enforcement for an update. *Enforcement Officer Beth Howland-Smith who had confirmed that she had made a site visit, and had written to the residents informing them that the driveway must be permeable, and that they need planning permission if they intend to install dormers.* Building Control to be asked if materials have been specified as permeable for driveway.

149. Cllr Davies reported on the meeting Cllrs Cooper and Cook had with WSCC regarding the A24 Bridge Agreed to follow the meeting up with a letter, outlining the meeting, asking who has the legal liability in the case of an accident, and stressing that

this is a South Downs link. *Done* Clerk to report to Highways that there are pot holes on the roadway.

- 150.4 A report has been received that vehicles are being dumped on land adjacent to 2 Bohemia Cottages. Agreed to write to the occupier of 2 to see if they have any information. *Clerk has received a further phone call asking the PC not to write at this stage.*
- 150.5 New notice board- Mr Pullen was to install this on Wednesday 2nd December but was stopped by local resident, who claims the land belongs to him. WSCC Highways have given permission for the noticeboard to be sighted there, but Clerk will now ask Highways to investigate the residents claim. *On going.* Clerk to check whether noticeboard is to be treated prior to installation, advise of J Pullen will be taken.
151. Cllr Cooper reported that he and Cllr Cook had looked at Beggars Lane and considered that something needed to be done, there is a lot of water run off from The Street. The suggested perhaps steps to one side. Local resident Mr Lower is checking his deeds to see if he owns that part of the land. It was agreed that the Chairman would check out where the telegraph poles were in relation to the land as it was thought that EDF may use this as access. *The Chairman checked the area and the EDF poles are not in the vicinity, in her opinion a hand rail would be of benefit along a short stretch.* Cllr Cook will speak to J Lower to establish ownership of the land.

4. **Finance**

- 4.1 The following cheques were approved:

Mrs S Muddle

Mrs L Quirk

Howarth of London (cork for noticeboards)

£74.93

4.2 Recommendations from the Finance Committee

4.2.1 Donations for 2009/10 to be considered

It was agreed that the following donations would be recommended to Full Council.

St Mary's Church

£250.00

Thakeham Church

£140.00

Outset – Lodge Hill

£100.00

Mary Howe Trust

£100.00

Storrington Help Scheme

£100.00

Community Mini Bus

£150.00

Storrington Museum

£200.00

Air Ambulance

£250.00

Mobile Youth Trust

£200.00

£1490.00

4.2.2 Budget 2010/2011

Members worked through the draft budget, making alterations where thought possible, which resulted in an overall reduction of the draft budget to be recommended to Full Council. Details were circulated to members.

4.2.3 Precept 2010/2011

Breakdown of fund

Balance brought forward @ 1st April 2009

35,125.53

Predicted receipts by 31.3.10

39,073.43

74,198.96

Predicted expenditure 31.3.10

33,677.42

Approx funds to carry over at 31.3.10

40,521.54

4.2.4 Precept figures Band D property raised by percentage 2010/11

HDC have given the figure 983.3 as the tax base (Band D equivalent) for the parish in 2010/2011. This is a reduction in the figure given last year which was 991.5.

If the precept is retained as £35,713.83 with this years figures of 983.3 then the Band D equivalent would work out as £36.32 an increase of 30p.

If the Band D equivalent is left at £36.02 precept of £35,418.47 against last years of £35,713.83 – a reduction of £295.36.

%	Band D	Precept
	£36.02	£35,418.47
1%	£36.38	£35,772.45
2%	£36.74	£36,126.44
3%	£37.10	£36,480.43
4%	£37.46	£36,843.42
5%	£37.82	£37,118.41

The precept for 2010/2011 was considered, and after lengthy discussion Cllr Cooper proposed and Cllr Turley seconded that an increase of 1% be recommend to Full Council.

After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Wilkins and seconded by Cllr Cooper that the recommendations of the Finance Committee be approved. A vote by a show of hands took place which was unanimous.

PCSO Carol Boniface visited the meeting to introduce herself to members. The Chairman closed the meeting to allow her to address the members. She informed members that a PC had been appointed to look after the 6 areas, and he will be based at Pulborough. There was not much crime in Washington, apart from some domestic disputes. Her contact details are available on the website. She will try to attend more PC meetings when possible. The Chairman thanked her for attending.

- 4.3 Cllr Wilkins has been investigating changing the provider for the Clerks phone line, it looks as though another provider may be able to reduce the cost substantially per month, Cllr Wilkins asked members to approve him taking this forward and changing the phone line from BT should this prove cost effective after further investigation. This was unanimously agreed.

5. **Planning**

5.1 Applications to be discussed

Extensions of time had been requested for the following applications and they will therefore be discussed at the next planning committee meeting.

DC/09/2216 - Barn west of Church Farm Cottage, Church House, The Street - Conversion of granary/barn to self contained 1-bed ancillary accommodation

DC/09/2217 - Listed Buildings Consent for above.

DC/09/2238 - Overhead Lines at Bohemia Cottages, Dera Doon and Del Lago and fronting Georges Lane and Rock Road, Storrington

DC/09/2297 - Woodlands Bracken Lane - Two front dormer extensions

DC/09/2276 - Four Oaks Sanctuary Lane - Attached double garage with habitable room over

5.2 Withdrawn Application

DC/09/1950 -Little Georges Barn East Clayton Farm Storrington Road.

Re-building and restoration of dilapidated barn structure to form a farm volunteer centre for East Clayton Farm.

5.3 Approval

DC/09/2011- Wynfold Melrose Place - proposed single storey rear extension.

5.4 Roundabout

The Chairman updated the members of the current situation, WSCC had agreed to reduce the size of the signs to the smallest, and the scheme had therefore been agreed. It had also been agreed that no mention of the PC would be included on the signs. Cllr Cooper said this was brought up at the recent CLC meeting and members there appeared to be surprised about the sign sizes. Cllr Milner-Gulland said that there has never been a debate on this subject, as to whether this should be accepted or not, SDJC has responded and the situation has been moving over the past few months, so have not been in a position to discuss this, it has put the PC in a difficult position. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council should have been involved at the initial stages when this was originally considered by WSCC, but added that WSCC are under no illusion about the views of the PC on the matter, and that a compromise had been sought, via working with the County and sponsorship company to get the best scheme available, the hope is that the SDJC will continue to press this. Cllr Milner-Gulland added that we ought to make it clear whether we are opposed to it, are we against the whole thing or are we just trying to tweak it. The Chairman added we are of course against it. County Cllr Frank Wilkinson said he agreed that the PC should have been consulted at the initial stages. The Chairman said that she had been delegated to liaise with the Sponsorship Company and WSCC to achieve the best outcome; it was always known that WSCC intended to implement a scheme and the result had therefore been reluctantly accepted as the best compromise that could be achieved. The Clerk was asked by the Chairman to outline the decision of the November meeting, as Cllr Milner-Gulland was still strongly opposed to the decision. The Clerk reminded members that this had been discussed at some length at the November meeting, and that a decision had finally been agreed, following a meeting attended by Cllrs Shaw, Beglan and Cook, that the Chairman would be delegated to liaise with WSCC and the sponsorship company etc, to establish the best solution to the sponsorship plans, as this was something that WSCC intended to impose on the parish regardless. The Chairman said that discussions now needed to be brought to a close.

5.5 MWDF informal engagement on options

A letter from WSCC informing us that there is an additional round of engagement, they do not intend to hold any forums at this stage but will where possible attend meetings if requested to do so. Updated (Version2) background papers are available on their website www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf any comments need to be received by 29th January 2010. They can be made on line, or sent to County Hall. Clerk is endeavouring to arrange a meeting with Officers, the Chairman said it had been suggested that this include Storrington PC.

6. **Nominations for the National Park Authority**

Nomination forms for local councillors interested in representing local councils on the National Park Authority had to be in by Friday 18 December 2009. Hustings will be held in East Sussex for East Sussex only, Lewes Town Hall, 5 January at 1930 / West Sussex for West Sussex only, Arundel Town Hall 7 January 2009 at 1930 - voting papers and

full details will follow shortly from SALC. Cllr Milner-Gulland has indicated that he will be unable to attend this meeting, members are to discuss whether another representative from the PC is to attend. Cllr Milner-Gulland is now able to attend weather permitting. As a decision needs to be made on the candidates, prior to the next Full Council meeting, the Planning Committee which is due to meet on 18th January, were delegated the power to select two of the candidates.

7. **Village Hall**

The email and letter received from the Village Hall Management Committee to be discussed, (previously circulated to members). The Chairman read out the letter to members. Cllr Beglan said she thought that the PC had previously made it clear to the VHMC that we cannot provide funding, and funding should be sought via grants etc. Cllr Cooper read out a copy of a letter he had from 2003 which indicated that HDC were reasonably happy with phase 1. It was thought that it was important that the facts be sought from the Chairman at the time Mr Sturgess, and Mr Curren-Briggs, if as it appears the correspondence including the contracts etc could not be found, statements should be provided. Cllr Beglan said it was encouraging to see that sub committee had been appointed and should be commended for attempting to sort out the problem, but they needed to be looking at raising the necessary funding and gaining more information. The Chairman reiterated that pressure should be put on the former Chairman and fundraiser to give details on what has happened if the documents are lost as they cannot pursue this without evidence. District Cllr Dawe offered to check with HDC to see if they have any copies of documentation which may assist. Cllr Wilkins asked if anyone had come back from the VHMC about a PC member attending their meetings, as it had been agreed that they would forward agenda's and minutes. The Clerk has not received copies of minutes from their meetings. Cllr Wilkins confirmed that he had not received any either. Concern was also expressed at the content of the proposed letter, and that it should come from the VHMC and not include the PC. It was also suggested that it should come from a Solicitor, and that a no win no fee Solicitor should be considered. It was agreed to go back to David Cook and say that the PC are unable to assist financially as they are already funding a Public Works Loan for £50,000, and suggest that more information is gathered in the form of statements etc prior to any further action being taken.

8. **Correspondence**

1. WSCC MWDF – informal engagement on options – notification of updated background papers which can be viewed on www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf any comments by 29th January 2010. Agenda item.
2. Letter by email from Tom Crowley Chief Executive HDC – circulated.

9. **Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

Previously discussed under agenda items.

10. **Local Issues including Maintenance**

- 10.1 A request has been made for a marquee on the rec on 28th May 2011 for a wedding reception being held in the village hall. They intend to have approx 130 guests and live music. It was agreed that a fee of £250 would be asked for, the Clerk has already informed them that they are to be responsible for organizing the necessary licences and insurance etc and making good any damage caused and that they cannot have exclusive use of the recreation ground as it will remain open to the public.

- 10.2 The Chairman informed members that Wiston Estates had now put the gate on the Youth Shelter.
- 10.3 Bus Shelter- Cllr Cooper, Beglan & Shaw looked at the louvers suggested to replace the glass, it was agreed to proceed with the Larch. Cllr Cooper proposed this & Cllr Wilkins seconded. The western end to be left open.
- 10.4 Cllr Milner-Gulland informed members that the Village sign would need some maintenance this year. It was agreed that this would be discussed by the Footpath/Cons committee.
- 10.5 Cllr Wilkins will contact WSCC re- Newhouse Lane for an update.
- 10.6 A24 Findon – Dial Post Cllr Wilkinson will follow up the safety review that was to be done in the Summer.
- 10.7 A report has been received about litter around the Pike etc HDC to be asked to do a litter pick.
- 10.8 Tyres have been dumped in The Bostal layby again.
- 10.9 It was reported that the footpath from the Frankland to The Street was overgrown, the Chairman said this was a continuing problem, which HDC were aware.
- 10.10 HDC has responded regarding Cissbury House conditions, it was agreed to object to the application.

- 11. **Meetings Attended**
None

- 12. **Any Other Urgent Business**
None

- 13. **Date and Time of next meeting**
Dates and times of next meeting - Monday 1st February 2010.

Meeting finished at 9.00pm

Signed Date 1st February 2010
Chairman