

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr K. Ballard, Cllr C.Beglan, Cllr L. Britt (Chairman), Cllr T Cook, Cllr N. Cooper, Cllr N. Dore, Cllr R. Milner-Gulland, Cllr M Shaw, Cllr M Turley, Clerk Mrs L Quirk, District Cllr J. Sanson, (left 8.55pm) County Cllr F. Wilkinson (left 9.35pm).
4 Members of the Public

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and said there would be a public adjournment after the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved.

114. Apologies & Declarations of Interest

Apologies – Cllr Davies – work commitments. Cllr Wilkins - Holiday
Declarations of Interest – Village Hall

115. Minutes of the last meeting

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

Public adjournment

Local resident Rebecca Gilligan had moved to Washington in May this year and has two young sons, one 5 and the other 1yrs old, she is very disappointed because she could not get her son into St Mary's School, and has to travel to Storrington, without any assistance with travel, as she has been told by WSCC she is inside the 2 mile limit, and they can walk to school. It costs her £60 per week. Her concern was exacerbated when having previously been told she was next on the list for entrance to St Mary's, she has recently been informed that she is now 3rd as other children who have siblings at the school already, have priority, which she thinks is unfair, as they do not live within the parish. The Chairman said she understood that the school was currently full, as reception was amalgamated with year 1; she explained that it is down to the placement Officer at County to ensure that placements were offered in the correct way, but she knows the school do try to facilitate local children. County Cllr Frank Wilkinson said he has an awful lot of calls regarding admissions, especially for Washington, he confirmed the County has very strict criteria for entrance and thinks that there will be a logical reason for the child going down the list. He suggested that the resident contact him with the details of the child and he would find out exactly what is happening, and make sure that no-one is jumping onto the list. He said it is quite amazing what lengths and false information people will give to get onto their preferred school waiting list. The resident also expressed concern that WSCC consider it safe to walk to Storrington School from Washington, along roads that have no pavements, with young children. The Chairman said that was an ongoing concern of the Parish Council's as well, and that Frank Wilkinson had brought this up a number of times at County. Cllr Wilkinson said he had been promised by the Cabinet Member for Education that he will put together a task force to look at this, and he has made a request to be on that task force. The County Councils present transport Policy is in place and if they make an exception to that for one child it would open the door to everyone, so they do have to adhere to the policy, but he assured her that it will be looked at and agreed that it is ridiculous to suggest it was safe to walk. The Chairman asked Cllr Wilkinson if he could keep the Parish Council in the loop. Cllr Wilkinson said that this is a particular problem in the rural areas, as in towns they have schools that are closer and not so far apart. Cllr Cooper said that he thought that the Parish Council should pursue this issue if there was not a satisfactory result. The Policy needs altering and pressure needs to be

brought to ensure that this happens, which was agreed by members. Rebecca Gilligan thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

Local resident Mike Russell asked Cllr Wilkinson if there was any further progress with the speed problems on the A283. Cllr Wilkinson said it was still work in progress, and proposals should be put to the Parish Council for discussion, and implementation in 2011. Mr Russell said that he had another near miss recently, as even with a mirror for him to check traffic; someone was travelling so fast, he was nearly hit by them. Mr Russell asked if it was possible to have a sign put up, Cllr Wilkinson said that they have found that people take little notice of signs, and that it needed more drastic action, and for the police to become involved, but they have said there are other areas in more need, but he would keep trying. The Chairman asked if the hedge had been cut back, he said it had not. WSCC had cut this last year but have said that it is up to the landowner to do this in the future. Mr Russell thought that this would now be Lorica Trusts responsibility and not the National Trust, it was suggested that the Clerk contact the National Trust in the first instance. Mr Russell thanked the Parish Council for replacing the broken glass in the bus shelter.

As there were no further comments from the Public the Chairman reconvened the meeting

116. **Matters Arising**

- 78.2 Crimestoppers - A request has been received from the chairman of Sussex Crimestoppers volunteer board, (see attached which has been circulated by email) giving information about an anonymous phone number, **0800 555 111** that people can call to pass on information about crime, and requesting a donation of £50 for each of the next three years towards the running and development costs of the charity as they have no funding as yet beyond this year. Members required more information prior to a decision being made. *Additional information copied to members for information, to be considered at future meeting.*
- 83.4 Cllr Turley informed members that the Dog Training group who use the Village Hall for training were using the recreation ground to train the dogs, and he thought they should be charged. It was agreed to ask for £10 per session as they were roping off an area, which means it is for exclusive use. *Letter written*
- 83.9 Clerk reported that Mrs Milner-Gulland asked what was happening with the footpath Beggars Lane were she had fallen recently. It was agreed to write to the SDJC asking what improvements could be made to this footpath to ensure it. *Email response from Richard James SDJC, who has inspected the footpath and does not think it needs a hand rail etc, read out to members. It was agreed that the footpaths committee would look at the site again.*
- 110.2 Cllr Shaw asked if she could have a letter to go to residents in Sandy Lane as they are also dumping their garden rubbish. *On going*
- 110.3 Cllr Shaw reported that the ferns at the junction with Hampers Lane and Rock Road needed cutting again. *Email sent to WSCC.*
- 110.4 Cllr Ballard asked if there was anything that could be done about taxi's using Newhouse Lane – not if it is a public road.
- 110.5 The Chairman reported that the bus stop by the rec tiles still needed replacing. *Reported to HDC*
- 110.6 Brambles have come through the hedge on the rec Howards to be asked to strim these as well as the nettles in the ditch that have not been done. Email sent to HG& L. *Done with hedge cut.*
- 111.2 It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BHS and WSCC to set up a meeting regarding the bridge over the A24 to discuss the height of the barriers, which are a cause of concern for horse riders. *Done, no response as yet. Cllr Cook will speak to Mr Green.*

117. **Finance**

117.1 The following cheques were approved:

Howards Garden & Leisure	£ 278.88
Howards Garden & Leisure Hedge cut	£ 230.00
J Pullen – maintenance & Materials for Hampers Lane Bus shelter	£157.01
reconstituting woodchip in play area	£ 7.50 Total
SALC Clerks Networking day	£ 51.75
Mrs S Muddle litter warden	
Mrs L Quirk Clerk salary	
Inland Revenue	£ 871.60
Lakers - annual inspection of MUGA electrics following vandalism	£ 185.29
Wenban-Smith material Vera's Shelter	£ 118.45
HDC Trade refuse sacks	£ 23.52

117.2 **Bus Shelter- Hampers Lane**

Estimate for replacing glass in the Hampers Lane Bus Shelter has been received: £176.00 + VAT- Members agreed to have the glass removed and not to replace it at this stage, as it keeps being vandalised.

117.3 **SALC/NALC Subscriptions**

Advance notice has been received that the subscriptions for SALC will be increased for 2010/11 by 2p making 25p per elector. Present number of electors in Washington 1468 = £367 NALC will be 5.19p per elector = £76.19- Clerk was asked to check the reasons for the increase as it was above inflation.

117.4 **2009/10 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD FOR LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

Back dated to 1st April 2009.

Members were presented with the National Salary awards, and the present and increased figures of the salary awards back dated to 1st April - amounted to £90.96 back pay. Cllr Beglan proposed and Cllr Shaw seconded that the proposed National Salary award be accepted.

118. **Planning**

118.1 Applications to be discussed:

DC/09/1684 -Overhead Lines (Bracken Lane, Hazelwood Close and Hampers Lane) It was agreed if any further application are received for overhead lines that the Clerk will notify the Planning Committee for information and then respond, as HDC have confirmed that they are also only consultees and that EDF have the power to do the works anyway.

DC/09/1719- Hilltop Bracken Lane - Proposed 2-storey extension to form living rooms, study and day room/kitchen with bedrooms and bathrooms- No objection

DC/09/1671 - Chardons Badgers Holt - Erection of a conservatory overlooking the front and rear- Object

118.2 **Approvals**

DC/09/1210 – Tilleys House, The Pike- Demolition of single storey kitchen & replacement with single storey extn, alterations & replacement garage

DC/09/0951- Sevenoaks, Sanctuary Lane- 2 storey extn & internal alterations to existing dwelling & change of roof finish & wall cladding.

DC/09/1302 - Walnut Tree Cottage The Pike - Proposed single-storey side extension

DC/09/1480- Minchenden, Sanctuary Lane – The Parish Council objected to the application and the District Cllrs have been advised that the Officer intends to recommend the application for approval. The Chairman read out the reasons given by the Officer, who has visited the site. She then asked members if there was anything that could be contested from

the Officers comments. Concern was raised that the existing garage was being converted and that there was no provision on the plans for a replacement, and that this could be subject to a further application. Cllr Ballard pointed out that this would not be sufficient grounds for a refusal. The Chairman said that it was difficult on the ground that the Officer had given to contest the approval, especially as she did not think there had been any other objections, from HCRA etc, and asked the District Cllrs to note the comments regarding the garage.

118.3 Withdrawn

DC/09/0945- Church Farm Cottage - Barn conversion.

DC/09/0801 Lamorna, Old London Road- A meeting was held to discuss Lamorna, with Parish & District Cllrs and the Officers, following this meeting the owner of the site has submitted further history for consideration and the HDC officer has advised that the details that the applicant (John Smith) submitted do not alter the views as Officers. They consider that the information does not justify dwellings on the site under current policies, given that the site is within a countryside location. She has received enquiries from developers and thought that HDC should respond to the owner. It was suggested that Enforcement be asked to check the site as it is very untidy, and there have been two cases reported recently in the County Times of action being taken.

118.4 Enforcement Issues

Eddie Hughes has now retired; the new Officer is Andrew Morrison, Planning Compliance Officer

EN/09/0515 – Taints Orchard- erection of stable. To be investigated

Wealden - Email from Andrew Morrison new Planning Compliance Officer re Wealden site- *Following my meeting with Fiona Rae in the Legal Dept this morning, please find an update following our conversation last week. -The original S106 agreement is subject to an amendment deed (made in 1981) which removed personal restrictions upon RMC for use of the site. As is such, if it is ascertained that Wealden are using the site for similar purposes as contained in the S106, it would appear that no objection could be supported. Clearly, a site visit needs to be carried out with a spokesperson from Wealden so we can fully establish: what is going on, how long has it been going on for, who and when Wealden acquired the site from etc. I will contact Wealden in this regard. -Regarding conditions placed upon the site, including hours of operation, I will later be looking at the microfiche of a planning permission from 1968, linked to the S106, which contains such conditions. Again, if these are not personal to RMC then proving a breach of planning control raises difficulty. I will email you once this has been established. -Also note that if it is established that Wealden have been using the site for a period of time over 10 years, enforcement action will not be possible. Not knowing the site or area, perhaps you can advise me on this? I hope all these issues will be cleared up following a meeting on site in the near future.*

Further reports have been received about the noise from the site especially in the early morning, with residents being woken up. Email to be sent to David Beck Cemex copy to the Chairman. Enforcement to be asked if they have a copy of the Deed of Variation.

118.5 Other

BT has now sent HDC a formal consultation regarding additional red phone boxes in the Horsham District they intend to decommission. The phone box in The Street in Washington was discussed at the last meeting, when members agreed to ask whether it could be retained as an emergency phone, and as it is Listed did not wish to pursue adoption. Members did not wish to add any further comments.

119. **Consultation Document on the membership of the future South Downs National Park Authority –**

The consultation document was email to members in August; any responses have to be received by 9th October. Cllr Milner-Gulland reported back to the August meeting on a meeting he had attended at Findon to discuss this. SALC are urging members to make a response, on the following questions. The following responses were agreed:-

Consultation Questions

1. *What is your preferred overall size for the Authority?*

29

2. *Within your preferred overall total, how many seats would you want to have for local authority members; for national members; and for parish members?*

Within a 29 seat National Park Authority, a split of 15 Local Authority seats, 8 National seats and 6 Parish Council seats.

3. *If you are advocating more than 15 local authority seats (so that there is more than the statutory minimum of one per Council available) how would you allocate those additional seats?*

N/A

4. *For local authority respondents only: Do you wish to be excluded from the list of Councils appointing to the National Park Authority (this option is given to you by paragraph 2 (3) of Schedule 7 to the 1995 Act).*

If this applies to Parish Council's then Washington Parish Council does not wish to be excluded, as it is not yet know how Parish Members will be elected.

120. **Washington Village Hall roof –update from VHMC meeting -**

The Chairman brought this item forward as Mrs Jacqui Keech Treasurer of VHMC had attended the meeting fro this item, and it was getting late.

At the last meeting it was agreed to write to the Village Hall MC and request copies of various documents, a letter was sent making a request for them to be available for the next meeting. Documents had been emailed to the Clerk that day.

Mrs Keech said the VHMC were giving as much documentation as they could find, but were not sure why the Parish Council had made that request. The Chairman said it was still not clear which route the VHMC wished to take, as there had not been any further communication with the Parish Council following the meeting that Cllr Wilkins had attended, when it was thought that the VHMC were to write to the Parish Council with certain requests. So as am interim measure the members had asked to see certain documents. Mrs Keech said John Lower had apparently shown the documents to the Chairman, but they have now gone missing. The Chairman said that what she had been shown were only letters, no other documents. Mrs Keech said that the VHMC were unable to find the original contract, and had contacted the previous Chairman of the VHMC, who has said he did not have it, and they are now asking for this in writing. John Lower has said that the VHMC should not contact the Architect at this stage as there is a possibility of legal action being taken. The Chairman said that if the VHMC decide to take action, then they will need the documents. Mrs Keech said that a member of the VHMC is looking though the minutes, to see if there is mention in there. Mrs Keech said they are seeking legal advice, but this will take sometime, and the roof needs attention now. Cllr Milner-Gulland said that this matter should not be discussed further at this stage until the facts are clearer. Cllr Turley suggested that a public meeting may be necessary to decide the way forward, once the facts were established. The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council were willing to help as much as it could, once the VHMC had decided which route it was going to take. The next VHMC

meeting is 12th November Mrs Leech said it would be helpful if a member of the Parish Council could attend.

121. **Proposed Sponsorship of Washington Roundabout**

Neil Smith WSCC Highway has been in contact with the Clerk regarding the response sent to him following the last meeting, when the proposals were considered. He has said that WSCC are looking to have all of their roundabouts on major routes sponsored, and this is the parishes' opportunity to be involved in the design for the Washington Roundabout. He is prepared to work with the Parish Council to find a design, and has suggested that a way forward could be for a member to be nominated to work with WSCC to achieve this. He has a design company that could put forward another design, with input from the Parish Council. County Cllr Frank Wilkinson informed members that there are 170 roundabouts within the County and WSCC needs to save money, and allowing sponsorship of roundabouts can save a substantial amount, which will enable other services to continue and help keep the precept down. Members were still concerned about the urbanisation of the roundabout, and were in agreement that it should reflect the rural aspect of the parish. After further discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Beglan, Cook and Turley would be prepared to form a working party to look at this with Neil Smith. The Clerk will liaise with Neil Smith how he wishes to proceed from here.

122. **Twinning - approach received from Saint Pierre d'Autils**

Cllr Cook has been approached via the Washington Village Website by Saint Pierre d'Autils, to see if there is any interest in twinning. Members were asked to consider if they would like to pursue this further. Cllr Cooper said that it needed a number of dedicated people to support it and to be prepared to become involved, that it could not just be the Parish Council. Cllr Ballard said that he would not support it. Cllr Turley thought it could be difficult to get others involved, and that funds would have to be raised. Cllr Milner-Gulland thought that firstly there was a need to know what Saint Pierre d'Autils are looking for. Cllr Cooper pointed out that France would get funding for twinning. Cllr Milner-Gulland suggested that an article be put into the next newsletter to gauge resident's interest, this was agreed. Cllr Cook will also make enquiries with Storrington PC re twinning, to find out their experiences.

123. **Newsletter**

Lancing Press are still hoping to be able to produce a newsletter, they have been approached by a number of other parishes. The main problem is organising the advertising, and they now have someone Jo Weatherall who is in advertising and is prepared to take this on. Jo Weatherall is in the process of putting a package together and will be in touch with all parishes who have expressed an interest shortly. They are working towards hopefully getting some sort of newsletter out in early December. It was agreed that the Parish Council would put together a newsletter for early December, if Lancing Press were unable to do so.

124. **Correspondence**

1. HD Heritage Matters- Newsletter Autumn.
2. SALC AGM 6th November 2009- South Of England Show Ground Ardingly.
3. Mary Howe Trust newsletter
4. BT consultation red phone boxes
5. Letter from Sir Peter Walters re Beggars Lane.
6. HALC AGM agenda- copy emailed to members
7. HDC Play tennis in HDC District leaflet
8. NALC 2009/2010 National Salary Awards for Local Council Clerks
9. Letter from Gary Peck HDC re various Planning issues. The Chairman read out the letter. Clerk to ask Highways if wooden posts could be erected along the northern boundary to stop

vehicles using the verge to access the display area. Also ask highways if replacement trees/hedgerow can be planted on the verge to replace those removed in the building of the garage. The Chairman is willing to meet with Tim Boxal from highways if necessary.

125. **Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

None to report

126. **Local Issues**

126.1 Email from Carol Boniface PCSO- Just to advise you of the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting which is to be held on Thursday 29th October at 1900 hours at the Storrington fire station. Everyone is welcome and could I ask you to pass this onto all your councillors and anyone else whom you feel would be interested in attending.

126.2 Email from resident Irene Thomson – request has been received from a local resident that a sign be put up asking people not to park in front of the post box by the Frankland Arms, as it makes it very difficult to access. Clerk to speak to PCSO.

126.3 Request from Cllr Cook - I would like to hold a nativity/carol singing for the village at Christmas. Possibly 13th December. This was agreed.

126.4 Cllr Ballard - I have just returned from Wales and without exception all the towns, villages and hamlets I went through had a Post Office that was OPEN, could we write to the Post Office and ask them how its is Wales can keep there Post Offices open and England cannot. Members thought that there was no point in writing as nothing would be achieved.

126.5 On the M6 yesterday I saw a man strimming the verge and with only one vehicle in attendance, can we ask West Sussex CC again why they need 4. Members thought that they would give the same response as before, for Health & Safety reasons.

126.6 The Chairman had received a copy of a letter a local resident had sent to their neighbour regarding parking in a disabled parking bay. The Clerk had obtained details from WSCC Highways regarding the use of these bays, and it was agreed that a copy of this letter be sent to the resident and neighbours for their information, and to confirm the usage of the bay for all concerned.

126.7 The Chairman had received a complaint about an overgrown allotment, this allotment has been monitored recently, as the tenant has been unwell, Clerk will investigate.

126.8 The Chairman informed members that it had been necessary for the Clerk to put a notice on the gates of the 1st extension graveyard as garden refuse was being deposited in there.

126.9 The Chairman has been asked by a resident if the hedge along by the caravan park could be cut back as it is impairing the visibility when they cross the road, on the way to school.

127. **Meetings Attended**

none to report

128. **Any Other Urgent Business**

None

129. **Date and Time of next meeting**

Dates and times of next meeting Monday 2nd November 2009.

Meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Signed Date 2nd November 2009
Chairman