

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr K. Ballard, Cllr C. Beglan, Cllr L. Britt (Chairman), Cllr T Cook,
Cllr J. Davies, Cllr N. Dore`, Cllr R. Milner-Gulland, Cllr M Shaw,
Cllr M Turley, Cllr D. Wilkins, Clerk Mrs L Quirk, District Cllr C. Mason.
2 Members of the Public

The Chairman informed members that the agenda would be slightly altered to allow members of the public to address the meeting, and then for Rod Goldsmith to address members regarding the estimate he has provided for copying the historic photographs.

98. **Apologies & Declarations of Interest**

Apologies – Cllr Cooper holiday & County Cllr Frank Wilkinson- holiday

Declarations of Interest –

Cllr Britt & Cllr Turley personal interest Church Farm Barn- know applicant.

Cllr Dore` Village Hall- employee.

99. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd August were approved & signed.

Public Adjournment

Resident Mrs Stewart Scott spoke about problems with footpaths being overgrown, especially the one by Sandhill Lane to the Caravan Park (which has been reported to WSCC), she asked why the Parish Council couldn't provide maintenance, the Chairman said that there is a limit to funds available for these projects and that it was the responsibility of WSCC. Mrs Stewart Scott also asked what was happening with Beggars Lane where someone had fallen recently and broken their leg, she reported seeing a caterpillar type vehicle using the lane and thought this had probably contributed towards the damage to the footpath. PC to investigate this. Also she was still unhappy with the access into Jockey Meadow and thought it was unnecessary to have a stile there, which she found difficult. It was thought that access may be made suitable for wheelchairs now that Lorica who has the area now, is due to open. It was suggested that Mrs Stewart Scott email the Clerk with any footpath issues that arise, and these can be passed onto WSCC. Resident Mr Logan suggested that a day be arranged for villagers to assist with clearing footpaths etc be arranged.

Mr Logan said he was also concerned about the continuing problem of speeding traffic. This Chairman agreed that this is also a continuing problem that the Parish Council is constantly bringing to WSCC and the Polices attention, and was an agenda item. Also the PC are awaiting a Road Safety Survey with is due to be carried out, that will include A283 and A24.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending.

100. **Historic Photographs**

Rod Goldsmith of Dream Vision had provided an estimate below:-

Washington Photograph Archive DVD

To produce a disc containing approximately 800 photographs:

- Create file structure for archiving
- Scan in photographs at approximately 1200 dpi (dots per square inch)
- Crop photos to correct size
- Save photographs in relevant files

Work involved – approximately 40 hours

(5 days based on an 8 hour day at £150 per day)

£750.00

- Author to disc

- Produce 10 copies on Verbatim Gold Archival discs (more can be created on request and at additional cost)

Work involved – approximately 2 hours plus cost of discs

£50.00

Total

£800.00

A reduction in costs could be achieved by scanning the photographs in at a lower resolution, e.g. 600 dpi, but this would result in reduced quality of the final image.

Any photographs requiring additional work, i.e. brightness and contrast, repair, scratch removal etc., will be charged at an additional cost depending on the work involved and subject to consultation with the Parish Council.

Mr Goldsmith explained in detail the process to members, who asked various questions regarding copy right, cataloguing, being user friendly, selling copies etc, which would all need to be looked into. The Chairman thanked Mr Goldsmith for taking the time to explain the process to members.

The Clerk had spoken to Horsham Museum Curator who was very interested in the project and was willing to visit Mrs Wilmshurst who holds the photos to advise on the best way to preserve the originals and to copy them, he also thought that he may be able to assist. Members considered that it was important, as the Parish Council had funded the provision of the assembly of the record of photos initially, that these photographs be preserved and that digital copies be made for the future, that funding could be sought if necessary to facilitate this, the Chairman suggested the CLC could be applied to for funding, members decided that it would be a good idea to start with to take up the offer of assistance from Horsham Museum. Clerk to ask him to liaise with Mrs Wilmshurst direct.

101. **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.

- 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. *Cllr Dore` to give the Clerk the contact details.*

- 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. *Letter sent - no response as yet*
- 90.2 Village Hall hire for youth club - It was also agreed to contact the Youth Service and ask them how many yps are expected to be attending when Youth Club commences in September, as it appears only 5 yps had been attending recently, but this was put down to the loss of the male youth leader, it is understood that another has been recruited for September. Members will then decide whether it is still appropriate to contribute towards the cost of the hall hire. The Village Hall Management Committee is also to be asked to consider reducing the hire costs by 50% to assist.
Response received that the Youth Service do not think the Washington Youth Club is viable, so it will not reopen in September, as there are only 5 yps attending, they are to offer transport to neighbouring youth clubs.
- 90.4 Historic photographs- Gina Wilmshurst who has compiled the photographs, which has been financed by the Parish Council in the past, has informed the Chairman that she has stepped down as curator of the Storrington Museum, and would like to have another copy of the photographs for safe keeping, which she has asked the PC to finance. It was agreed that the photographs provided an important record of the past for Washington and attempts should be made to preserve this record. The Chairman had details of a local company who may be able to assist with digitally photographing them. It was agreed that Gina Wilmshurst be contacted and asked to liaise with this company, to obtain an estimate of the costs involved.
Estimate received to be discussed at the meeting.
- 91.2.2 DC/09/0801 Lamorna, Old London Road- email sent from Kathryn Sadler(circulated to planning committee), suggesting a meeting with HDC Officers, HDC Cllrs and PC following the decision at Committee that decided the application be delegated with a view to refusal to look at alternative proposals in consultation with local members. District Cllr Chris Mason will liaise with HDC to arrange a meeting and inform the Chairman. *Meetings attended*
- 91.2.6 Cllr Cooper asked if there was any further information on the visibility splays at East Clayton Farm, last update was that it was still with the legal dept, nothing further had been received. Clerk to enquire. *Gary Peck is holding the application in abeyance at present awaiting further updates from WSCC.*
- 94.1 Cllr Dore` noted that the tree at Chanctonbury Close was still in need of surgery, Clerk to chase HDC. *Tree has had surgery since last meeting.*
- 94.3 Cllr Beglan suggested that the Crimestoppers phone number be put onto the noticeboard. *On going*
- 94.4 Cllr Wilkins asked if there was any further news regarding Newhouse Lane ditches; Clerk to ask Cllr Sanson who was following this up, if there is any further updates. *Cllr Sanson has nothing further but will ask WSCC.*
- 94.5 Cllr Ballard reported that the speed of traffic was still bad on Rock Road. The Chairman suggested that this be on the agenda for the next meeting as a there had also recently been complaints again regarding The Bostal. *Agenda item*

102. **Finance**

102.1 The following cheques were approved:-

Mrs S Muddle Litter Warden

Mrs L Quirk Clerk salary

Howards Garden & Leisure

£278.88

SLCC – Charles Arnold Baker 8 th Edition (book)	£ 55.60
South Downs Campaign subs	£ 10.00
Shaws of Brighton (glass for bus shelter) insurance claim£125 excess to be paid	£377.20
BT phone bill (Quarter)	£237.06
Breakdown	
Internet £107.00- Calls £37.90 rental £57.33 – paper bill £4.50 - VAT £30.33	

- 102.2 Youth Club – Cllr Wilkins attended the recent VHMC meeting when reduced rates for the youth club were discussed. His comments are below-
Request for cheaper rental for the youth club- Mrs Dore` informed the other members that the PC was requesting an update on the way forward from Youth Club before committing the PC for any long term commitment. The VH Cttee were not inclined to go down the discount route and will write to LQ clarification of her email and a decision from the PC once they have more info from the youth club. It was suggested that more advertising might help. Interesting info, one member pointed out that the Washington YC was on the same night as the Ashington club with better facilities. A number of Washington youths went to Ashington in preference. No spare booking days to change according to Nora. Awaiting response from youth leader.
- 102.3 A Clerks Day has been arranged at Lodge Hill for 28th September cost £45 + VAT – it was agreed that the Clerk would attend.
- 102.4 John Pullen had provided an estimate for repairs to the children’s play area from the ROSPA report :-
Estimate no more than a day's work, so maximum £120 plus approx £20 for materials for the gate and fence. I would need some top soil to make up the grass level. The rest of the recommendations are odds and sods that I can fit in with the other jobs at that site so I would estimate maximum £60. I may need to contact the equipment suppliers for special bolts etc. This was agreed.

103 **Planning**

103.1 **Applications to be discussed:**

DC/09/0945 - Church Farm Cottage The Street - Conversion of barn/granary to 2-bed self contained ancillary accommodation & DC/09/1493 Listed Building Consent for above.

Object regarding design.

DC/09/1480 - Minchenden Sanctuary Lane Ground floor extensions and alterations, loft conversion and new dormers- Over development of the site, Object.

103.2 **Enforcement issues –**

103.2.1 EN/09/0466 - 6 Chanctonbury Close, Washington- response from Eddie Hughes

I have visited the site and spoken to Mrs Durrant resident at the address. The access onto School Lane is a temporary measure in order to facilitate the use of a digger to carry out landscaping works to the rear garden. Access from the front of the property is impossible. Mr & Mrs Durrant have no intentions of forming a permanent access on to School Lane and having seen the gradient of the access, it would be totally impossible to use it as such.

Members were most unhappy with this response and considered that the resident should be asked to ensure that the bank is reinstated, and a replanting schedule should be included.

103.2.2.EN/09/0460 - Wealden (formerly RMC Engineering Works) Storrington Road, Washington.

The 'Wealden' sign sign is permitted under Part 6 of the 2007 Advertisement Regulations. I have spoken to Derek Penfold from WSCC Planning Compliance and he has confirmed that the use of the site by Wealden is within the parameters of the lawful permitted use. With regards to the Section 106 agreement drawn up in 1969, the only discrepancy is that it restricts the use of the site to RMC Engineering. I understand that this was to stop sub letting of the site This Company was bought out by Hansons several years ago and the site has remained unused until recently when Wealden leased the site. I have also established that the site is actually owned by Cemex (Cement Mexico) a Company based in Surrey. I spoke to our Legal Department and they said that technically it is a breach of the agreement but they would not pursue the matter.

It was agreed to write to HDC Legal drawing attention to the fact that they are in breach of the 106 and may be operating outside their operating licence.

Further email received from Eddie Hughes regarding the sign- *I had cause to drive the opposite way past the RMC site this morning and noticed that the 'Wealden' sign is a dove tailed sign. When I visited the other day I actually turned round and went back towards Washington roundabout and from my position it only appeared to be a single sign board. The sign will require Advertising Consent after all.*

103.3 Wheel Clamping

Billingshurst PC has asked neighbouring parishes for support in making wheel clamping illegal on private land, by writing to the local MP and requesting it be raised in Parliament. It was agreed to support the letter from Billingshurst by writing to Nick Herbert MP.

104. Proposed Sponsorship of Washington Roundabout

Email from Neil Smith Highway Manager WSCC-

The County Council has engaged a service provider (Keegan Ford) to extend roundabout sponsorship within the County and improve the appearance of its roundabouts. Attached is a draft Report providing details of proposals in your area. Should your Council wish to comment I would be grateful to receive your comments in the next two weeks. Should you require longer to respond please do not hesitate to let me know. Response extended until after the meeting on 7th Sept. Report sent by email to members. Members considered the proposal and thought the scheme was too urban, and not suited to the countryside location, also that the Parish Council are trying to reduce the number of signs being displayed in the area, and therefore 4 sponsorship signs were considered to be excessive, and a further distraction to motorists.

105. Traffic Speeding Problems within the Parish

Problems are being reported again in various parts of the parish with speeding traffic, The Bostal, School Lane and The Street, Rock Road, Old London Road (traffic coming to and from the industrial estate local resident Mrs Crane local resident is very concerned). District Cllr Chris Mason reported that he and County Cllr Frank Wilkinson had had meeting recently with the Police regarding problems within the Ward, but the Police do

not consider that there are any particular problems, basically as no one has been killed. They have limited recourses and say they have worst places tatty they have to put their recourses into. Speed limits and traffic calming issues were discussed and it was agreed to chase up the new Highways Manager Neil Smith to see what was happening about the 106moneies that are to be used for restricting speed in The Bostal.

It was reported that unmarked Police bikes were patrolling the area.

Local resident Mrs Crane from Old London Road has contacted the Clerk regarding the speed of traffic which she thinks is mainly using the industrial estate. It was suggested that if she knows the names of the companies trading there that the PC could write and remind them that it is also a residential area.

106. **Washington Village Hall Roof**

Cllr Wilkins attended the last Village Hall Management Committee meeting at the request of the Hall Management Committee when the problems with the roof were discussed. His notes are below

After much discussion the way forward, at present is a dual approach will be taken, to explore further litigation and to get more information of the fabric structure problems. Pat O'Shea will write to HDC re problems with the sign off by HDC not being in line with the structural survey and requesting help and advice re litigation. She will send a letter to LQ requesting if PC can bring any help as having a financial interest in getting HDC legal to help. John Lower will get appraisal from Architectural Design consultant who will need to liaise with a Structural Engineer and Keith Hurley to draw up action plan and estimated costing.

There has been no further contact from the VHMC following this meeting, and members considered it would be premature to write to HDC at this stage, but really needed to see the original contract, plans, copies of the new survey and quotes for the work, which the Clerk was asked to obtain in time for the October meeting.

107. **Proposal from BT to decommission red phone box in The Street & invitation for Parish Council to adopt the box.**

BT are offering the red phone box in The Street for adoption. There have only been 2 calls made from the box in the last year, and BT therefore says it is not viable for it to continue and they intend to decommission it. They have to have HDC permission before they can do this. Application to adopt the box has to be made by 14th November 2009 and can be made on the same basis as the one in Sanctuary Lane for £1.00.

This box unlike the one in Sanctuary Lane is Listed, Gary Peck has been asked what effect this has, his response is below-

BT are not obliged to maintain the box just because it is listed but if it got in a poor state we could serve a notice under Section 215 of the Planning Act. They could not use lack of maintenance as a method of removing the box altogether, for which they would require listed building consent, as we would be entitled to refuse such an application on the grounds that reasonable attempts had not been made to maintain it. This may be a good one for the Parish to adopt if possible as clearly it makes a positive contribution to the village and almost certainly if any maintenance was required yourselves would be in a better position to do so than BT

After further discussion, members decided as the box was listed, that they would not pursue adoption, but that BT be asked if the box could be set to make emergency calls only, as it was on the route of the South Downs way and within the new National Park, because mobile signal strength is poor.

108 **Correspondence**

1. Letter from Billingshurst PC asking for support in making wheel clamping illegal on private land, by writing to the local MP and requesting it be raised in Parliament. Agenda item.
2. BT offer to adopt red phone box in The Street – Agenda item
3. Community News letter from EA – proposed Landfill sites.
4. Poster NHS – Have your say
5. HDC Food & Drink Festival 5th September to 4th October & Life is for Living 1st October 12 – 4.00pm free events for people of retirement age.
6. Arun DC- Notification of Arun DC updated Statement of Community Involvement
7. HDC Legislative Reform (Minor Variations to Premises Licenses and Club Premises Certificate Order 2009) guidance notes.
8. WSCC acknowledgement of receipt of letter re Laybrook
9. HDC acknowledgement of receipt of letter re Laybrook
10. HDC Parish & Neighbourhood Council Core Strategy Review Seminar – copy emailed to members Cllr Wilkins & Cllr Cook to attend.
11. Sussex Safer Roads Partnership Operation Crackdown (anti-social driving) can be reported www.operationcrackdown.org or call 01243 642222. Leaflets available.
12. HDC Development Control South 18TH August 2009 **Plan Com**
13. Victim Support – Hate Incidents & Hate Crime leaflets
14. HDC Acorn Plus Refuse Recycling Scheme.- HDC have sent copies to members.
15. Fieldwork CPRE - **Plan Com**
16. Lorica Trust letter from Stephen Sharpe invitation to visit the project in the last week of September
17. BAA Gatwick update
18. HDC Future Jobs Fund- email circulated.

109. **Reports and Recommendations from Committees**

No further reports to be made

110. **Local Issues including Maintenance**

- 110.1 Cllr Shaw reported that the garden rubbish being dumped on the boundary of the Sandgate Park had been removed.
- 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.
- 110.3 Cllr Davies reported that the ferns at the junction with Hampers Lane and Rock Road needed cutting again.
- 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.
- 110.6 Brambles have come through the hedge on the rec Howards to be asked to trim these as well as the nettles in the ditch that have not been done.
- 110.7 The Clerk reported that Alex Jenkins was now working for the Worthing Herald and their Senior reporter and that Becky Churcher will now be covering Washington for the County Times.

111. **Meetings Attended**

- 111.1 Cllr Wilkins & Cllr Cook reported on the HDC Core Strategy Review meeting they had attended. Cllr Cook handed out notes she had compiled.

- 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.
- 111.3 Cllr Milner-Gulland reported on a meeting he had attended at Findon Village Hall, regarding the National Park Authority structure being set up which will consist of 23-30 members, 6 or 8 elected Parish Councillors so there will not be many from each County, it is not yet know have they will be elected.
- 111.4 Cllr Dore` reported that she had attended a meeting of the St Johns Ambulance and been made Vice President of whole area. Members congratulated her.
- 111.5 The Chairman and Cllr Beglan attended reported on a meeting with HDC Planning Officers and the District Cllrs, regarding Lamorna and a number of outstanding issues.
- 111.6 Lorica have invited members to attend a viewing of the project at the end of September, Lorica will contact the PC to arrange a date. Members were reminded to mention the problem with their lights being a problem for traffic in the evenings if they attended.
112. **Any Other Urgent Business**
None
113. **Date and Time of next meeting**
Date and time of next meeting Monday 5th October 2009. Cllr Davies gave apologies for the next meeting – work commitments.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.