

PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at The Rackham Old School on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors – Tim Hayward (TH) Chair, Heather Cartwright (HC), Catherine Dugdale (CD), Will Rydon (WR), Claudia Fisher (CF) and Nigel Dean (ND)
Also present – County Councillor Paul Marshall, District councillor Diana van der Klugt, Mrs Jenny Robinson (for Item 5) and Vicky Spiers (the Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Paul Slimming and HDC councillor Paul Clarke.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes were agreed by council and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

Item 5 was moved up the agenda.

5. ADJOURNMENT TO TAKE QUESTIONS/QUERIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mrs Jenny Robinson spoke to provide an update on a defibrillator for the Parish. A defibrillator has been sourced by Elizabeth Greenfield (an ex-paramedic who runs the defibrillator use/cardiac massage courses in Amberley) for £300, the Amberley Welfare Trust have been approached for the funding. As previously agreed by council the Rackham Old School would be the preferred site for this defibrillator, one of the trustees of The Old School has raised some questions regarding this, which the clerk will respond to and will hopefully be able to provide an update on the trustees decision at the March PC meeting. The council thank Jenny for all she has done in securing the defibrillator and the funding.

4. UPDATE FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Paul Marshall advised that further comms would be issued to local clerks regarding the landslide on Church Hill in Pulborough, WS Highways are currently in discussion with the landowners, the debris on the road cannot currently be moved as an engineer's report has shown it is supporting the remainder of the bank, the road will stay closed until a solution is found and work completed to make the bank safe.

The B2139 from Whiteways Lodge to Storrington is going to be re-surfaced over 17 to 20 shifts in February and March, this will involve night time closures, WS Highways will be engaging with local clerks on the best diversion routes.

Signed: _____ Date: 14th March 2023

Cllr Diana van der Klugt advised that Kithurst Hill car park has been saved, HDC will be taking over the management for 2 years.

Diana advised that HDC's direct carbon emissions have reduced by 57% from 2019/20, their goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Diana also advised on the following;

HDC's current round of community climate funding for community projects which help combat climate change closes on 10th February.

HDC are in partnership with Connected Kerb to provide EV charging points across the district where there are no off-road facilities and are asking residents to put forward suggestions for public spaces where these could be installed.

There are local and district elections on 4th May where those voting in person will now be required to bring photographic ID.

HDC voted to postpone their Local Plan due to a planning consultation the government are currently running which could result in changes to the required number of houses local authorities are required to build.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(a) Defibrillator for the parish – already discussed under Item 5 (b) New parish council website the clerk advised that she had not found any available funding, so 25% of the cost has been added into the budget for 2023/24 with the remainder of the cost being met from council reserves. This will be actioned later in the year.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

The clerk advised she had received a letter from a resident regarding a large pothole in Greatham Lane that had damaged the resident's car. This pothole has already been reported to WS Highways.

N Dean had been given a letter from a resident raising several issues around the Parish, after discussing the letter it has been resolved that (i) clerk to report poor condition of the road between Wayside Cottages and Stone Cottage in Greatham (ii) C Fisher to report the flooding on Greatham Road between Greatham Manor and Glebe to Southern Water, as this is due to a broken hydrant (c) clerk to ask for further info from resident regarding overgrown trees and hedges (d) clerk to reply to residents letter

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS & REPORT

The Financial statement (as detailed below) for the period 9th November 2022 to 18th January 2023 was reviewed and approved by councillors and signed.

Signed: _____ Date: 14th March 2023

The Financial Statement is as follows;

Current account balance as at 9th November 2022		5,779.53					
Receipts since 9th November 2022		£					
None		0.00					
		5,779.53					
Less cheques presented or BACS payments since 9th November 2022		£					
V Spiers - clerk's salary, mileage and office expenses for 01/10/22 to 30/11/22		501.80					
HMRC - clerk's PAYE for Oct and Nov 2022		101.20					
		603.00					
			£ 5,176.53	SUB TOTAL (as at 18th January 2023)			
Cheques issued but not presented to date:							
None		0.00					
Less BACS payments to be approved at this meeting and cheques to be signed:		£					
BACS	V Spiers - clerk's salary for 01/12/22 to 31/01/23 (includes backdated Sector pay rise)	636.85					
BACS	HMRC - clerk's PAYE for Dec 22 and Jan 23	140.40					
BACS	Wildbrooks Parish magazine - inclusion of 2022 minutes in magazine	50.00					
BACS	Greatham PCC - annual donation	50.00					
BACS	Parham PCC - annual donation	50.00					
BACS	Wiggonholt PCC - annual donation	50.00					
BACS	Hire of Rackham Old School for PC meetings in 2022	120.00					
		1,097.25					
Current account balance available after all payments as above made		£ 4,079.28					

The November and December 2022 bank reconciliations were reviewed, approved, and signed, along with the November and December 2022 bank statements.

9. TO REVIEW THE 2023/23 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The council discussed the budget prepared by the clerk and agreed to the proposed increased in precept, which for a Band D will be an extra £5.72 per annum, meaning the annual figure increases to £45.90 from £40.18.

It was noted that services including litter bin emptying, insurance, audit fees and website domain costs would all be increasing in 2023. A small amount has also been included for the maintenance of the proposed defibrillator at The Old School.

Signed: _____ Date: 14th March 2023

10. TO REVIEW CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

These are as follows;

SDNP/21/06423/HOUS	9 Rackham Street Rackham - Erection of part single and part two storey extension, reinstatement of a front porch and construction of a detached carport and store	Applicant attended PC meeting and explained plans in full. PC thought they were much approved from previous plans. Agreed no objection. Decision pending with HDC.
APPEAL against HDC decision	Link Farm Wiggonholt - Retrospective application for the continued storage of bricks.	Site visit undertaken by PPC planning committee who object to the brick storage. HDC have issued enforcement notice - for the bricks to be removed. Owner has Appealed against decision. PLANNING INSPECTORATE HAVE REFUSED APPEAL, ALL BRICKS TO REMOVED WITHIN 6 MONTHS.
SDNP/22/01524/LDE	Link Farm Wiggonholt - Application to confirm the continuous use of mobile home for (C3 class dwellinghouse) purposes for a period in excess of ten years (Lawful Development Certificate Existing)	PPC objected, mobile home should have been removed as per planning permission decision issued 16 years ago. APPLICATION APPROVED BY HDC
SDNP/22/02300/FUL	Link Farm Wiggonholt - Retrospective application for the storage of coaches and buses	PPC have put in a strong objection. Application in progress with HDC
SDNP/22/04806/CND	Link Farm, Wiggonholt - Removal of Condition 2 of previously approved application SDNP/18/01502/FUL	The owner is asking for the Condition of a Noise Assessment Survey to be removed - PPC objected. APPLICATION REFUSED BY HDC
SDNP/22/05888/FUL and 22/05889/LIS	Parham House - Conversion of existing Estate and farm workshop to provide a staff flat	To be reviewed at PC mtg 18/1

Following a discussion the council asked the clerk to arrange a site visit to Parham House to review the application SDNP/22/05888/FUL.

11. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HDC'S CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Claudia provided a presentation on the one-day event she attended held by HDC which was run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, who work with councils to provide a grounding of the context of climate change from global to local levels and provide an understanding of the role local councils can have to tackle climate change together with the beginning of a practical action plan for their communities. Claudia will be sending the presentation out on Listserve.

At the event Claudia suggested to other participants that a WhatsApp group was set up to connect parish councils and share ideas on climate change initiatives. Claudia's ideas for some local initiatives for Parham parish include sharing EV charge points, encouraging parishioners to join Gaggle and a food waste collection etc.

Claudia would also like to do a survey of the parishioners to see what is important to them as she currently thinks the parish council could do more and find out what the parishioners want. Storrington PC have run a similar survey, it was resolved that Claudia will share Storrington PC's survey with council members and this initiative can be further discussed at the 14th March PC meeting.

Signed: _____ Date: 14th March 2023

12. TO DISCUSS THE REQUEST FOR A SLOW SIGN TO BE INSTALLED AT THE APPROACH TO THE BEND ENCLOSING THE TURN TO RACKHAM STREET

This was requested by a resident, after discussion it was resolved that the clerk will contact WS Highways to see what the requirements are for the installation of a Slow sign.

13. TO DISCUSS THE MANAGEMENT OF DEER IN THE PARISH

Item brought by C Fisher, there are approx. 900 deer in the Parish and C Fisher feels they are having a detrimental impact on the environment and biodiversity. T Hayward advised that local landowners are tackling the issue together, DEFRA only allow a certain number to be culled, pre-Covid the deer numbers were nearly under control, but numbers rose when the shooting stopped during lockdown. Updates to the numbers of deer population is available when landowners register for a shooting licence. Agreed by council to add as an agenda item for the July PC meeting to review.

14. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

None.

15. TO AGREE THE MEETING DATE FOR MAY 2023

The Old School is not available on the original proposed May meeting date, now changed to Wednesday 17th May 2023.

16. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Noted as 14th March, 7.30pm at The Old School Rackham.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Parham Parish Council
20th January 2023

Signed: _____ Date: 14th March 2023