MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013 AT THE ARK AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Mr C Webb (Chairman) Mr G Pearce (Vice Chairman) Mr B Forbes Mrs C Jarvis Mrs T Mason Mr J Pratt Mr R Webber and 4 members of the public

98 Mr Webb welcomed Mrs Chris Marsh (Clerk) and Mrs Isy Parker (RFO) to their first meeting.

99 Mr Webb asked if all members had read the documentation sent or did they need five minutes to look at anything. No time was required.

100 Apologies Mr C Harding - unwell

101 Public Participation
Mr Dawes welcomed the new Clerk and RFO and also thanked Mrs Bolt for her work and wished her a happy retirement when it finally happens. Mr Dawes asked if there was any update regarding the Post Office as residents have no information. The Clerk explained that the owner of the shop at Turners Hill Park wants to take over the Post Office but the Park owners are not supportive. The Council was told that the Post Office would maintain the current facility until a solution was found and they will request an update. Mr Dawes reported that there are a lot of weeds growing round Forge Corner and various other places in the village. The Clerk will ask MSDC if they can spray the areas and will also put a request in the next Parish News for residents to keep the fronts of their property clear. Mr Dawes went on to say what a pleasure it is to see so many families using the play area and how popular the new swing is with everyone.

Mr Parker provided an update regarding planning applications for drilling and also on the management of the site in Balcombe. He is concerned that an application could be made which will affect Turners Hill.

Mr Jarvis reported that the seat on Paddockhurst Road near the Village Gate was covered in brambles. The Council will look at getting these cleared.

Mrs Forbes asked if there was any information following the meeting held with Mr Chisenga and Mr Rhodes-Kubiak. The Clerk reported that she is still chasing for a reply and that Mr Rhodes-Kubiak is trying to assist. Mrs Forbes gave Mrs Mason details of people interested in helping with Speed Watch outside Turners Hill Park.

102 Declarations of Personal and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests None

103 Chairman’s Announcements Mr Webb gave a vote of thanks to organisers of Village Fete for another very successful day. He also reported that Miss Stanbridge is recuperating steadily and wished her well. The Chairman informed members that Mrs D’Arcy Howell had sadly passed away on 29th July, our thoughts go to her family.
104 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 2nd July, 2013 and on 6th August, 2013 as circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

105 Matters currently being pursued by the Clerk The Bus Stop for Thornhill Cottages will be placed just where the pavement starts at Tarana, with a couple of bollards being removed and opposite on an existing pole. Both stops will be where the solid white line is so traffic behind any bus that stops will have to wait. The School 20mph signs should now be working; connection took place on 18th August. Mr Pratt asked what signs were to be installed informing motorists of the 20mph zone coming from East Street and North Street. Bench for Village Green / Recreation Ground – Mr Webb to follow up again. Various issues have been reported to WSCC – blocked drains; bollards damaged on corner of Church Road; hole in footway at Willow Ridge; a photo showing soil placed on either side of drains when they were cleared. WSCC have edged the footpath to Home Park and cut back the overgrowth. Grass Cutting – we are still waiting on the legal document from WSCC. Recreation Ground – agreed works are being chased. External decoration of The Ark has been completed by MSDC. The agreed street light painting has been completed. School bank – the overgrowth and restriction to site lines was reported before the end of term and Mr Burcombe is getting this attended to. The new photocopier was installed at the end of July and training will be provided by Konica this month.

106 Planning Applications
It was RESOLVED that MSDC be informed that:

13/02592/FUL Greenking plc Cowdray Arm No objections
13/02616/FUL Mr I Symes 106 Lion Lane No objections

13/02831/SEC52 Mr R Verbeeten Springfield, Rashes Farm
While we appreciate that this is a legal decision our original comments on application 12/03501/FUL still stand - “No objection to plans to develop the existing buildings. However we are totally opposed to alterations to garage and garden store as it is on ANOB land and could possibly be converted into living accommodation. If MSDC have a mind to approve this application conditions must apply”.

107 Report on Previous Applications
13/01632/FUL Greenking PLC Cowdray Arms cold room PERMISSION
13/02596/DEMOL Alexander house re bungalow PERMISSION

108 Replacement Street lighting column Selsfield Road The column is on order and we need to mark the actual place for installation. Once we have a date the connection will be arranged. We have received £1034 from our insurance and the legal department will claim the balance of £546 plus £125 for our excess. A small piece of the old lamp needs removing - will be dealt with by Mr Pearce.
109 The Minutes of the ACE meeting held on 17th July, 2013 were noted.

110 Winter Management Plan The draft document was approved and we await comment from WSCC on implementation.

111 The Minutes of the meeting held with Southern Water on 30th July, 2013 were noted. Outstanding items are to be followed up with them.

112 The Minutes of the Cluster Group meeting held on 17th July, 2013 were noted.

113 Cleaning of Village Signs Members of the Village Open Gardens group have volunteered to keep the village gate signs clean. They will also plant around the signs. They will only work in pairs, will wear fluorescent jackets and understand that they are not covered on the Parish Council insurance. The signs on Church Road will not be cleaned as it is too dangerous. Members expressed their thanks to the volunteers.

114 The Minutes of the MSALC meeting held on 10th July, 2013 were noted.

115 WSCC meeting regarding Air Travel – it was noted that the survey carried out by Crawley Borough Council and WSCC reported a high percentage in favour of an expansion at Gatwick as it was seen as financially beneficial in terms of employment.

116 Police Neighbourhood Panel Mr Pratt gave a report on the meeting held on 24th July. The ‘Day of Action’ was postponed; Anti-social behaviour is an issue in Crawley Down; parking problems in Crawley Down are also been investigated.

117 Village Walk Many of the reported items have been dealt with and further discussion is needed on how these events are organised. It was agreed that members would meet to talk about this and also the highway plans on 17th September at 7pm.

118 Skate Park Following a request from teenagers, Mr Forbes spoke to MSDC about the possibility of providing a skate park at the recreation ground. MSDC estimate the cost at £40 - £100K. It was RESOLVED that MSDC be informed that the Parish Council would like to consider this with MSDC for future implementation if possible. Additional facilities for teenagers will be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan.

119 Withypitts Pond removal of reeds It was RESOLVED that quotes be obtained from Grasstex for clearance and removal from site and clearance to an onsite skip.

120 Thank You Event It was RESOLVED that a second event be held in March.

121 Twenty-one Events – fundraising for The Ark. Councillors put forward various
suggestions for the 21 Events to be held next year which will be considered further and a plan for the year produced. 100 Club; penny jars; jumble sale; event after the Fete; village merchandise to sell; events at The Crown, Red Lion and Tarana; silent auction; dinner with a speaker; afternoon tea; table top sale; craft sale; film show; 200 squares; raffle with major prize (licence); car washing; car boot sale; calendars; quiz on village; treasure hunt; race night; barn dance; fashion show; indoor bowls.

122 **Signatories for the Parish Council Bank Accounts**  It was RESOLVED that signatories be any two from Mr Webb, Mr Pearce and Mrs Mason. The RFO Mrs Parker is to be a signatory in order to manage the bank accounts only.

123 **Local Government National Salary Award**  It was RESOLVED that the salaries for Mrs Marsh, Mrs Parker and Mrs Bolt be increased by 1% from 1st April 2013 or as appropriate.

124 **Accounts due for Payment**  
It was resolved that:
1. The Accounts shown on the schedule as being due for payment be paid and
2. The Accounts shown on the schedule as being paid since the meeting held on 2nd July, 2013, be approved.

125 **Correspondence**  An invite to attend Age UK AGM on 13th September has been received. Thank you letters have been received from St. Leonards and the Parish News for the donations given. A report on routine maintenance of the public rights of way was received. The reply from Balcombe PC for our letter of support was reported on. Notification of the election of Father Luke Jolly as the sixth Abbot of Worth for a term of eight years was received. Notification on ‘The Devil In the Downs Cycle Ride’ was sent by the organisers. MSOPC information booklet has been received; relevant dates are to go on the website.

126 **Any Other Urgent Business**  Mrs Mason asked for a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Shoubridge for his help in clearing bread bins from the road following an incident today.

127 **As the following items were Confidential the Chairman asked members of the public to leave the meeting.**

**Neighbourhood Plan**  It was RESOLVED that the minutes 17th 24th 30th July and 21st August 2013 be adopted.

Meeting Closed at 9.35 pm

Signed ..............................................................Chairman PAGE 4

1st October, 2013