

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2011 AT THE ARK AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT: Mr G Pearce (Chairman) Mr V Dudman (Vice Chairman) Mr C Harding Mrs C Jarvis Mrs T Mason 10 members of the public and Cllr W Acraman

APOLOGIES: Mrs J Forbes-Kiely Ms O Howard-Thomas Mrs S Roffe

215 Apologies were received and noted as above.

216 Public Participation Mr Rainsley reported that the grit bins had not been refilled – this will be followed up. He also reported that the nameplate at the northern end of Lion Lane has been damaged and needs replacing – the Clerk will report this. Mr Dawes informed Council that he was looking into having the magnificent collection of old village postcards from the museum printed as new postcards and also in A4 for framing. He is currently obtaining prices and will provide all the relevant information in writing to Council in order that a decision can be made on using museum funds for the project. Mrs Daniels spoke about the poor condition of the street lights, most of which require painting. It was explained that this would be expensive, in part due to all the health and safety measures required and that funds were not currently available. Mr Forbes is to enquire as to any possible funding available from MSDC and Mr Harding suggested asking the CLC. Quotes will be obtained so that an informed discussion can take place. Mrs Forbes reported that the rubbish on East Street has not been removed and she believes it is asbestos. The Clerk will inform MSDC. Father Murray spoke about planning application for and all weather facility for Worth School. He explained the process of identifying an appropriate site which would minimise any light spillage.

217 Declarations of Interest Mrs Mason declared a personal and pecuniary interest on item 15 concerning allotment rents and Mr Harding declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 16 concerning concessionary fares. Neither took part in the relevant discussions or voting.

218 Chairmans Announcements Mr Pearce announced that Parish Clerk, Mrs Karen Bolt had given birth to a baby girl, Jessica, weighing 7lb 4 oz on 28th February. Congratulations were expressed by all present.

219 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2011, as circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

220 Matters Currently being pursued by the Clerk
Paddockhurst Estate considered the request for a gate at The Bank but did not feel it was appropriate. They suggested that children should be told it was private property and they should not be using it. Rubbish left around the village was reported and, other than that on East Street, has been removed. Various drains have been reported and work is in hand.

The manhole cover on Selsfield Road has been repaired. A reply from WSCC regarding the hedge at Alexander House was reported on but this may be superseded by the outcome of the meeting with Mr Acraman. Damaged and missing bollards on Paddockhurst Road have been reported again. Leaves at Medway have been dealt with by MSDC. The Cad drawings were obtained from WSP and forwarded to Mr Harper who is intending to do some work on them. The new farm shop owner has been invited to submit a planning application. The apparent provision of an additional entrance/exit at Taranas is being investigated. Downlands are looking into the situation regarding lighting at Withypitts. Rubbish left for a long period by the flats at Withypitts has been reported to Downland. The police have been contacted regarding the parking of transit vans on the corner at Withypitts. The cooker at the Ark has been partly repaired further parts are awaited. The dishwasher has been repaired as has a leak in the outside changing rooms. One of the Dyson cleaners has gone for repair. MSDC are hoping to deal with the outside woodwork of the Ark in the spring. Belinda Purcell will speak at the Annual Parish Meeting and we have information available from SALC on becoming a Parish Councillor.

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

11/00192/FUL (Emma Carter Withy Cottage) (amended plans)
We have no objections to this application but would like a condition in place to ensure that this remains for personal use only.

11/00262/FUL (Worth Abbey)
We have no objections to this application but would wish the floodlight use to cease at 9pm.

11/00104/COND (Mrs J Lyle, Furzewood Farm)
We object to this application as we serious concerns over the future use of the farm land and existing farm buildings should the agricultural condition be removed.

11/00426/FUL (Miss C Fretten, 9 Newstone Cottages) No objections

222 Report on Previous Applications

No decision notices received.

223 Meeting with Mr Acraman at Turners Hill Park. Mr Dudman reported the following:

Hedge at Alexander House – Mr Acraman was of the opinion that Alexander House could be asked to take the hedge back inside the wall.
Entrance – Highways are actively looking at providing red strips and improved signage at / near the entrance. They also suggested that it could be worth asking the Park owner to have a hatched entrance at the exit which would move motorists towards the island where visibility is better.

Speed limit – Highways are looking at restricting the speed to 40 mph along the length of East Street to East Grinstead. However this would be a long term plan with further discussions required and a great deal of input on testing such a scheme by Highways.

Mr Dudman asked that anything that might help the situation, like appropriate interactive signs, is costed and the information supplied to Council as it might be possible to raise some funds from residents of the Park and from the Council.

It had been a very sensible and worthwhile meeting and should move things forward.

Mrs Forbes reported that she had received an email from Roger Harper saying that funds were limited at present and they might only be able to look at the signage.

Mr Acraman then arrived and, with the Chairman's permission, reported on various highway matters:

Following the meeting at Turners Hill Park Mr Harper spoke to the manager of Alexander House asking him to have the hedge cut back. If this does not happen within a couple of weeks then Mr Acraman wants County to do the work and invoice the hotel.

Mr Acraman reported that improved signs etc, as reported by Mr Dudman, were being followed up.

B2028 south from Taranas, and also within Ardingly - Mr Acraman is trying to get a consistent approach to the speed limits in the area and formal consultation will soon start on reducing the speed limit to 40 mph. He asked that Council support this and also encourages others not to object as this will seriously slow down the scheme.

VAS – Mr Acraman agreed that the sign on North Street would have more effect if sited by Miswells and that one should be provided on Selsfield Road as agreed with Mr Harper.

Crossroads scheme – Parish to fund the study but WSCC should help as a major contributor towards the actual scheme.

S106 funds – County now has a good data base in place indentifying all the funding available and not spent and that which is allocated and not available. They are trying to make S106 agreements flexible so that the money can be used anywhere. Councillors would prefer that the money is allocated to the Parish or Town in which the development takes place.

Worth Abbey traffic calming – the scheme has been approved and will happen soon with the Abbey paying the cost.

Mr Acraman also reported that no libraries in West Sussex would close.

There are to be some cost reductions helped by better use of technology.

The County has to save £38 million in year 1 and then £70 million over 3 years. There will be a lot of re-organisation especially at officer level which will need careful management.

The Chairman thanked Mr Acraman for his support and for the information supplied. Mr Acraman then left the meeting.

- 224 Mr Dudman reported on the LAT meeting held on 15th February. The only aspect affecting Turners Hill related to the garage and the lack of warning signs when unloading the transporter. This is to be followed up by the LAT.
- 225 Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils Mrs Mason had been unable to attend. The Clerk highlighted some of the items discussed from the minutes of the meeting:
 S106 funds – to be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy and according to MSDC these funds will continue to be allocated to local parishes.
 During the next year MSDC will be discussing with Parish Councils the idea of using laptops and projectors for planning applications as there is a large saving to be made in not sending out paper copies. They are also considering including a fee to cover the cost of neighbour notification letters once the Localism Bill is in place and, at the same time, they will be encouraging people to sign up for notification of planning applications in the vicinity of their property, on line. Greater use of the planning portal in this way will reduce costs.
 Neighbourhood Plans – these are going to be essential documents which will feed into the District Council Development Plan. We have no details re the content as yet but it is hoped that our Village Design Statement can be used with some amendments.
 Abolition of the Standards Committee – this was discussed at the meeting and followed up by the Chairman. The outcome being that SALC is looking at establishing a mediation service on a reciprocal basis with a neighbouring authority. This would serve the Council well. Meanwhile it is stressed that the Code of Conduct remains in place.
- 226 Mrs Jarvis reported on the MSOPC Matters discussed covered independent living; the changes to NHS with GP's handling 80% of the budget from 2013; keeping warm during cold spells.
- 227 Turners Hill Twinning Association Mrs Mason reported that the AGM had gone very well and they have some new members on the committee. Mrs Mason remains as Chairman. The Twinning Association members will be visiting St Leger from 27th to 30th May.
- 228 Street Party Following a discussion it was RESOLVED not to hold a street party on 29th April. Council will consider arranging a celebration for the Queens Jubilee in 2012.
- 229 Allotment Rents It was RESOLVED that the rental levels should remain static for the coming year.
- 230 Concessionary Fares It was RESOLVED to continue with the additional £5-00 subsidy for residents who have a rail card but no bus pass.
- 231 Household Waste Recycling Site Imberhorne Lane It was RESOLVED that Mrs Jarvis attends the liaison group meeting being held on 3rd March to discuss the development of this site.

232 West Sussex Rural Forum There were no Councillors available to attend the meeting on 22nd March and the Clerk agreed to see if she could attend on Councils behalf.

233 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 1st February, 2011, be approved.

234 Correspondence The clerk informed Council that an invitation to attend the East Grinstead Mayor's Charity Dinner had been received; the cost is £40 a head. We are invited to a meeting to discuss the traffic arrangements for the 2011 South of England show – no one available and no problems experienced in 2010. A letter of thanks has been received from the Crawley down Monday Club for the grant given. The Clerk informed Councillors of the New Councillor courses being held after the elections. Information regarding the interpretation of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations has been received from the planning department; when parish councils comment on development of 6 or more dwellings then they need to inform the planning department of indentified projects under the headings of Local Community Infrastructure and Community Buildings. The concessionary fares scheme is to be run by County in the new financial year; the only change will be that the bus pass not be able to be used until 9.30 am. Environmental grants for parish councils from MSDC are ceasing. MSDC is bringing in a £50 charge for pre application advice given on site. Mr Dawes has written with an offer from the Parish News team to provide a village flag. Samples of the material and design were supplied. Councillors supported this and were very grateful for the offer.

235 Any Other Urgent Business Mr Harding informed Council that he had the hedge past SITA has been cut back following a letter from County to the landowner.

As the following item was confidential the Chairman asked the members of the public to leave the meeting.

236 Stewards Salary it was RESOLVED that in line with Local Government recommendations on salaries and the reduced Ark income, no pay award will be made in April 2011.

The Meeting Closed at 10.15 pm

Signed(Chairman)

5th April 2011

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