

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2011 AT THE ARK AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT: Mr G Pearce (Chairman) Mr C Webb (Vice Chairman) Mr B Forbes
Mrs C Jarvis Mrs T Mason Mr R Webber and 14 members of the
public.

APOLOGIES: Mr C Harding (attending CLC arrived for item 17)
Mrs S Roffe

151 Mr Pearce welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented a leaving gift to Elaine Ancomb of a framed picture of the village and an orchid to thank her for her work as our PCSO.

152 Apologies Mr C Harding attending CLC meeting on Councils behalf and Mrs Roffe unwell.

153 Public Participation

Mr Kelley spoke about the tragic events at Worth School last week when a young student lost his life in a road accident. Mr Kelley said that he was very aware that the Council has tried many times in the past to get the speed limit reduced and hopes they will take this up again. The Chairman assured him that we would continue to try to get a reduction in the speed and would work with Worth School on this.

Mr Kelley went on to speak about the closure of the IT facility which he saw as a community service. He said he had looked at the associated costs compared to his community charge and felt it was a very small amount to contribute. He questioned the view that the community facility stops at the village boundary and felt that the Council was acting in a parochial way. In his opinion all those that use the Ark are subsidised to some extent. Many of the people who use the IT facility are pensioners – should we be excluding them from this opportunity.

Mr Bryant commented on the application for 5 Medway which he was very concerned about. The development is inappropriate and removes parking for the other residents of Medway who are reliant on roadside parking. Mr Bryant felt that the entrance to the new property would be very tight and therefore probably not used leading to more problems and also that such development could result in others building in their gardens and so destroying the area.

Mr Fitzgerald also spoke about this application and shared the views previously expressed. He was also concerned at the loss of views which would be removed by this proposed development. He felt it was totally out of keeping and would severely reduce on street parking for residents who have no other alternative.

(Mr Forbes left the meeting in order not to prejudice his views as a member of the Mid Sussex District Council Planning Committee)

Mr Dudman said that he fully agreed with the comments made regarding the accident outside Worth School and the need for speed reduction at this point. He went on to speak about the PCSO vehicle which he had read about in the local paper. He felt it was very sad that Worth PC

appears to have taken a decision which has put this Council in a difficult position and that it should not have been handled in the manner it seems to have been. Mr Dudman questioned how much support we receive from the Police in terms of speed watch.

Mrs Anscomb reported that over her time as PCSO the storage of the vehicle caused her all sorts of problems even while she had been on sick leave. She was caught between the Police and Parish on many occasions and never really understood what the problem was but she assured Council it had never had anything to do with her or where she lived. The decision to keep the vehicle in Crawley Down was made by Councillors. However it now seems that things have completely turned around. Mr Kelley said that he had attended a meeting with senior police officers in his time as Chairman of the Council in order to ensure the vehicle was obtained for the PCSO to use.

Council was asked by a local resident if speed watch could operate on Church Road / Paddockhurst Road in the 30mph area. It was explained that they can only operate on police approved sites and they say it is too dangerous and that distance is limited. Mr Webb said that he would discuss it with the Police at the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting. He also explained that while letters were only sent by the Police to those doing over 40 mph those reported at over 30 mph were also recorded and if the data base shows them as persistent offenders it is followed up.

Mrs Daniels reported a large pot hole on East Street – this was filled in the last 48 hours. The trench across Selsfield Road by Withypitts Farm has sunk to the point of being dangerous and will be reported again.

Mr Dawes asked if the Council would find someone to take on the responsibility of flying the flag as it is getting difficult for him. Council will try and do so.

154 Declarations of Interest none

155 Chairmans Announcements Mr Pearce thanked Mr Webb for laying the wreath on Councils behalf at the Remembrance Service. He informed members that the village Christmas tree was to be put up on Saturday 10th and help was welcome. Chairman reminded members that the January meeting is on the second Tuesday of the month which is 10th January. Mr Pearce extended Councils sympathy to the family of the child who died in the tragic accident at Worth School last week. He finished by wishing everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

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

Mr Forbes raised the issue of Alexander Hedge and questioned where WSCC took their measurements from. He asked that it was recorded that the Residents Association was very disappointed that nothing further was to be done.

157 Matters Currently being pursued by the Clerk The Clerk reported on the no parking signs for Tarana which have been removed. WSCC will not replace these as they were only supposed to be a temporary sign and are not compliant with regulations. However they will allow us to replace

them. It was agreed that prices should be obtained for two new signs. MSDC has installed an additional bollard to prevent parking on the green at entrance to Withypitts. The floodlights on the court are not all working and these are to be replaced by MSDC asap. The Clerk met with MSDC and a heating specialist to discuss replacement of the control panel and has a second meeting arranged. The new dropped kerb in Lion Lane has all the permission required. Land opposite Chapel Row, North Street – this has had weed killer applied and in the spring it will be tidied up, fence repaired and shrubs planted. School Safety Zone – WSCC has agreed that the sign is placed at the existing location and that the lights remain on the village green. They now have to consult with school and will notify us when that has been done.

158 Planning Applications

It was RESOLVED that MSDC be informed that:

00/11/03149/FUL Alexander House PV installation
No objections

00/11/0357/TEL56 Broadband Cabinet opposite Mulberry Cottage
Whilst we welcome the broadband development we object to the siting of the box in such a prominent position on the lower green. It will further detract from the stone wall which is a characteristic of the village and the conservation area. We suggest that it is placed next to the existing BT cabinet in Lion Lane.

00/11/03667/FUL MS K Boonprakong 5 Medway
We strongly object to this proposal. It is total overdevelopment of the site and area and is most definitely not a bungalow. A bungalow is a single storey property not a three floored house. To grant permission would set a very bad precedent for the area. The proposed property is out of keeping with the surrounding dwellings in terms of size and style. The proposals severely restrict the on street parking which other residents are reliant on as their properties have no access available to them. This would make a bad situation even worse. This proposal does not fit with our Village Design Statement.

00/11/03739/FUL 1 Providence Cottages
No objections

(Mr Forbes left the meeting during discussion of application 00/11/03667/FUL in order not to prejudice his views as a member of the Mid Sussex District Council Planning Committee)

- 159 Report on Previous Applications
 11/03044/FUL Worth School swimming pool PERMISSION
 11/03147/TCA 95 North Street fell/reduce canopy PERMISSION
- 160 Renewal of the contract with the Police for the PCSO Vehicle
 The Chairman said that there were concerns about the way this has been dealt with and apologies have now been received. He reported that a meeting had taken place earlier in the day with Worth PC Chairman and Vice Chairman, himself, Mr Webb, the Clerk and Inspector Tomlinson. Mr Pearce explained that after all that has taken place there really is only one way forward and, if the van is not made available, the PCSO will have to travel on public transport in order to get around the villages. The proposal is that the vehicle be used by PCSO Arnold while on secondment and will be kept at Haywards Heath Police Station, once a permanent PCSO is in place the vehicle will be kept at East Grinstead Police Station; it will be used by the PCSO for the villages only and the PCSO will keep the keys. It was RESOLVED that this proposal is accepted and the Clerk is authorised to sign the contract.
- 161 The Minutes of the Cluster Meeting held on 16th November were discussed and noted. The next meeting is at The Ark on 15th February 2012 at 9.30 am.
- 162 East Grinstead Liaison Group Mrs Jarvis had been unable to attend. The facility is now due to open in February and the next meeting is on 6th March.
- 163 SALC and AiRS AGM's Mr Webb gave a brief report on this reporting that they had been well attended and SALC had provided a good presentation.
- 164 Mid Sussex Older Peoples Council meeting. Mrs Jarvis reported that a public meeting was to be held on 16th December.
- 165 MSDC Resilience meeting – report postponed as Mr Harding was not present.
- 166 MSALC Meeting Mrs Mason said this had been a very interesting meeting with a good speaker from the Council for Voluntary Services. There had also been a discussion on Neighbourhood Plans.
- 167 MSDC Neighbourhood Planning meeting Mr Forbes and Mrs Jarvis attended this meeting and found it most useful. They felt that we were in a very good position to progress our Neighbourhood Plan especially as we have the VDS in place. Achieving the 50% vote in the referendum is going to be the biggest challenge for everyone. MSDC are going to put further information on their website as it is received.
- 168 Potential changes to Bus Services Mr Forbes explained that he had been in contact with officers and County Councillors about this and had also

obtained copies of the survey form for bus users to complete. The questionnaires must be returned by 17th January. WSCC needs to know who is using the various busses in order to make an informed decision. The local paper will be asked to do an article on this so that residents are aware of the survey and a poster will be put up on the notice board.

- 169 District Plan The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December were discussed. It was RESOLVED that a committee is formed to begin work on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan with full reports provided to Council for consideration. The Committee members will be Mr Pearce, Mr Webb, Mrs Mason, Mr Webber and the Clerk. The first meeting will be on 15th December at 10 am. The 21st February 7pm was allocated for a first public forum meeting.

The Clerk circulated information on infrastructure needs received from MSDC. They have requested that the information be amended, updated, added to and returned to them by 12th December. The information given was agreed although the amount shown as needed to upgrade the changing facilities for the football club were questioned and amended to £4000 to be funded by grants. In addition the following are to be added – Improvements to Wallage Lane, provision of Petange, improvements to the Ark.

- 170 The Annual Parish Meeting It was RESOLVED that this be held on 15th May 2012. Consideration will be given to using this meeting for further discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 171 Budget and Precept for 2012/13 It was RESOLVED that the recommendations of the advisory committee be approved resulting in a total budget of £65,040 being set and a precept claim of £58,850 being submitted to MSDC.

The Clerk apologised as the Reserves details had been omitted from the paperwork circulated and a decision on these funds will now be made in January.

- 172 Surgery Rent It was RESOLVED that the rent for the surgery be raised from £5820 to £6000 pa from 1st April 2012.

- 173 Hire rates for The Ark from 1st April 2012 It was RESOLVED that the rates recommended by ACE and discussed at the budget meeting, be accepted.

- 174 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 November, 2011, be approved.

- 175 Correspondence The Clerk reported that a request had been submitted for a seat to be placed on the village green in memory of Anil. It was agreed that the older seat should be moved to the recreation ground and a new seat, to match those in memory of George Mugridge, put in its

place. A letter has been received from the school in reply to ours concerning the banners being displayed for more than 28 days. It was agreed that the school should be looking for a permanent sign for Tots and that the banners should be removed. Mr Harding will discuss this further with Mr Burcombe. South East Water has issued warnings on the current reservoir levels and the urgent need to conserve water. There has been a delay to the decision on fire service merger plans while more financial information is awaited. MSDC housing department is very interested in meeting with Councillors to discuss the housing needs and types of affordable housing. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged for January and that MSDC is asked for information specific to the village. Top soil for two allotments – a quote of £50 for 3 cubic metres has been received, however it was agreed that 6 cubic metres would be required. Further quotes are to be obtained. Information on changes to Carers Emergency Alert Card scheme has been received and will be put in the next Parish News. A letter has been received from Mrs Patricia Kelley concerning the IT facility and this was circulated to all members. The views of members remain that:

- the Parish Council is partially funding people from outside of the village
- the Parish Council no longer wishes to provide the facility
- that Miss Kelley should, and has been, offered the opportunity to run the facility as a small business
- currently the facility runs with no control of the activity that takes place that no contract or review mechanism was ever put in place
- if an individual wishes to take on the service then it has to be on a proper controlled basis as it is for the surgery
- discussions would have to take place regarding equipment should an individual wish to run the service

A reply will be sent to Mrs Kelley.

176 Any Other Urgent Business

Mr Harding reported that the TRO for East Street was approved at the CLC meeting as was a grant of £2500 for the school.

177 Item 14 of the agenda was then taken.

MSDC Resilience meeting Mr Harding reported that a vast amount of the meeting had been spent discussing floods and flood warnings. There was some discussion on dealing with snow and on emergency planning. It was suggested that this could be done in clusters. It was agreed that reviewing our Emergency Plan will be an agenda item in January.

The Meeting Closed at 9.55 pm

Signed (Chairman)