

**A Meeting of Stoughton Parish Council held on Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm, at the
Walderton Pumping Station, Walderton**

Present: Mr Andrew Elms (Chairman), Mr Michael Gauntlett, Mrs Sarah Foxall, Mr Graham Hockley, Mr Charles Langmead, Mr Robert Sadler,

Absent: Mr Alun Alesbury, Mr John Stilwell, WSCC Cllr Viral Parikh, PCSO Colin Booker

Others: Mrs Fiona Baker (Clerk),

Residents: 1

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Alun Alesbury, Mr John Stilwell, WSCC Cllr Viral Parikh, PCSO Colin Booker

2. Declaration of Interest by Councillors in matters on the Agenda

None received

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th January 2019 to be signed as a true and accurate record

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting, it was agreed by all present that they present a true and accurate record of the meeting on Monday 14th January 2019. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. **British Legion** – The Council made a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion, in lieu of payment for the wreaths laid by Stoughton and Forestside at the memorial service last year, they agreed to contribute to the cost of the wreaths going forward but would like to be kept informed when the service is and be involved in the laying of the wreaths.
- b. **South Downs Road Sign**; the road sign marking the entry point into the South Downs National Park has been installed on Hares Lane.
- c. **Stoughton Green** – The Clerk has acquired some quotes for the replacement of the posts and will look into a possible funding source to cover the cost of replacing the posts. Alun is still working on the Stoughton Green village green application.
- d. **Forestside Meeting** – Forestside residents have met with PCSO Booker to discuss concerns over the level of crime in Forestside and surrounding area. PCSO Booker reported that someone had been arrested and jailed. The best advice the police can give is to be vigilant and REPORT anything suspicious. It may not seem that they are doing anything but the more they get the more they can build up a case and if need be get the extra resources to catch these criminals. Reports can be made online via 101 (although limited resources mean this may not be answered for a while) or online <https://beta.sussex.police.uk>
With regards to fly tipping, burnt out cars etc, his advice was be vigilant, take photos if you can and take down registration numbers.
The police do offer a ‘marking’ service and will come to properties to mark and record valuables.

5. Affordable Housing Update

No update received

6. Report from WSCC Viral Parikh

In his absence Cllr Parikh forwarded a report which was read out by the Chairman and covered the following topics;

- a. **Bus** – the 54 bus is not going to be axed and there is no change in timetable affecting Westbourne, Compton or Stoughton.
- b. **Sugar reduction in school dinners** – School dinners across West Sussex now contain 2.5kg less sugar per child than they did just four years ago.
- c. **£6 million improvements boost for West Sussex Highways** – the extended programme of work, funded by the Department for Transport’s £6 million capital injection announced last year includes; surface treatments to improve roads and footways, improvements to highway bridges, vehicle safety barrier upgrades, some drainage improvements. - It is important to realise that this is not the same as the Pothole Action Fund and is to be used for a range of local highway maintenance. Some of the money will be used to treat and repair surfaces to tackle and prevent potholes. Other areas include safety barriers, highway bridge maintenance and some drainage improvements.
- d. **Potholes** – a reminder to use the app and copy Cllr Parikh in to all holes reported.
- e. **National Careers Week** – during the week West Sussex County Council was raising the awareness young people with special needs seeking work.

Following the reading of the report a discussion took place around the lack of funding for schools and the Worthless Campaign, the councillors agreed to invite Cllr Parikh or a member of the education department to present at the May meeting and update on the current funding crisis.

7. Report from PCSO Booker

The Chairman read out the following report from PCSO Booker; there haven’t been too many issues, but they are listed below.

- During the evening on 14th February a garden shed of a property in Stoughton was broken into and several items of garden machinery were stolen
- In the early hours of the morning on 18th February a male was attacked on his doorstep in Stoughton by an unknown male. The male left the area in a vehicle being driven by someone else, no vehicle details obtained.
- Over the weekend just gone a one tonne skip loader was stolen from a building site in Dean Lane end.

There have also been several reports about suspicious vehicles seen in the Parish and a couple of incidents of fly tipping.

8. Correspondence

A list has been circulated, but I would like to bring the following to the Council attention;

- Velo South – The Chair read out a recent email received from West Sussex County Council about the development of a ‘Major Events Protocol’ following concerns about the proposed event in 2018.
- Public Rights of Way – correspondence has been received detailing planned inspections and works for the forthcoming year.
- Citizens Advice – a letter has been received asking the Parish for a donation. The Councillors agreed to donate £50.

9. Planning applications

A list of all applications had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further update was given.

10. Cheques paid and received

None received.

The following cheques were raised;

Chq# 475 – Donation to the British Legion - £50

Chq# 476 – HMRC (FEB PAYE) - £91.80

Chq# 477 – HMRC (MAR PAYE) - £91.80

Chq# 478 – Clerk Salary (Feb £366.95, Mar £366.95, Home Allowance Dec & Jan £60) - £793.90

Chq# 479 - Microsoft Office 365 subscription (February & March) - £22.56

Chq# 480 – Chichester & Arun Citizens Advice - £50

Mr Elms & Mr Gauntlett signed the cheques.

11. Short opportunity for the public to raise questions

A resident asked is the 54 bus was staying, the Chairman confirmed that from information received from Cllr Parikh, the service was remaining.

12. Any other business

The Chairman asked what had happened to the post box at Lordington, the Clerk will contact Royal Mail and feedback.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th May at 7.30pm at the Forestside and Stansted Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.