

STOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November

At: Walderton Pumping Station, Walderton

Present: Councillors:

Mr Andrew Elms (Chair), Mr Michael Gauntlett (Vice Chair), Mr Alun Alesbury, Mr Graham Hockley, Mr Charles Langmead, Mr Robert Sadler

Other:

Mrs F. Baker (Parish Clerk), 5 residents

Absent: Mrs Sarah Foxall, Mrs Mary Williams, Mr John Stilwell, PCSO Booker, Sandra James (WSCC), Julie Tassell (CDC),

1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs Sarah Foxall, Mrs Mary Williams, Mr John Stilwell, PCSO Booker, Sandra James (WSCC),

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made

3. Approval of Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) PCSO Booker has spoken to the Chair and he is not going anywhere in the foreseeable future, therefore the Council have will not write to Sussex Police in response to the potential of employing wardens.

5. Update on Affordable Housing

Mr Elms updated the Council on the current situation; there is still issue with the result of the recent announcement over the Right to Buy. Mr Alesbury informed the Council that the National Parks are coming together to levy the Government to allow an exemption on the Right to Buy within National Parks.

The next Affordable Housing Working Group Meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

6. Update on Operation Emsflow

a) Mr Elms gave an update on the recent Operation Emsflow. A report prepared by Joanne Higgs of the Environment Agency had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr Edden on behalf of Stoughton Parish Council had attended a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October with Tim McCauley and his Landbuild gang and reported back the following; The best solution at Stoughton Green is not to dig out the ditch at the green which hardly needs it but to concentrate on jetting the culverts and land drains and ensuring they are clear.

The section to the East of the village where is was proposed to dig a ditch on the North side presents them with a major problem as there is a very small gap between the hedge and the road and to dig would undermine both the hedge and the road and probably cause more problems than it solved. They are going to concentrate on checking all culverts and the drain under the road, which is undersize.

b) The Clerk updated the Council that unfortunately the Volunteers who had been due to clear the ditch at Dean Lane End had to cancel at the last minute due to an event they had to attend following the Shoreham Air Disaster. The Council asked that the Clerk try and ascertain a new date, if no date is available the Clerk will contact Carroways to arrange for the work to be done, using funds left from the Operation Watershed funding received last year.

7. New Homes Bonus Agreement

Mr Elms informed the Council that the Parish Council were successful in their application to the New Homes Bonus and have been awarded £714.50 for the purchase of a noticeboard for Walderton Bus Stop. As part of the agreement the Parish Council unanimously agreed to the terms and conditions of the funding, as set out by Chichester District Council.

8. Nomination for Compton and District Relief in Sickness Fund

Emily Mott was proposed by Charles Langmead and seconded by Andrew Elms. Agreed that Emily Mott will be the new member of the CDRSF charity.

9. Report from WSCC Cllr Sandra James

Cllr James sent apologies and forwarded the following report.

WSCC Capital Programme 2015-21

I attended a specially convened 'extra' formal County Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 regarding the capital requirements for delivering the future West Sussex Plan:

- Giving children the best start in life
- Championing the local economy
- Independent for longer in later life
- An efficient council

The requirement for this capital programme is to address the demands from the current projections for house building and subsequent demographic shifts within West Sussex and to support the economy. (Current plans show that 57,000 new homes will be built within the county over the next 15-20 years). The Council voted to approve the gross expenditure to support the capital programme of £676.3m of which £404.4m is out-looked to be supported by grants and a maximum of £174.8m from borrowing. (The remaining comes from capital receipts, revenue contributions and other external contributions). To deliver the Capital programme the level of core borrowing of £17m per annum (£99.8m over the programme) is supplemented with additional **extra borrowing of up-to £75m**. With net revenues declining over the period to 2021 this means that debt financing for the overall borrowing will rise from 6.8% to 8.1%. The peak Minimum Revenue Provision plus actual interest paid on the debt will peak in 2036 to £44.6m.

UKIP raised the concerns that we are storing up a '**debt mountain within West Sussex**', in common with the National debt for future generations to deal with. Other speakers in the debate raised concerns that CIL/S106 was already known to have a gap in its contribution to infrastructure financing. This is with the backdrop of Government grants reducing explains the rationale for this borrowing. An amendment to the Motion raised by UKIP to robustly strengthen WSCC Governance prior to agreeing any borrowings before being implemented (prior to February 2016) was voted down. The reason for this was that the WSCC Cabinet had already amended the original capital and borrowing proposal to recognise the needs for robust governance but agreeing to the Capital programme being approved without waiting until February 2016.

You may be interested in my voting on this Capital programme. We have a duty to serve West Sussex residents in extremely challenging conditions- mammoth requirements on our infrastructure, increasing new homes and population, decreasing government grants. There are options to consider which I raised including improved ranking of Capital schemes; ensuring WSCC assets are earning returns (some assets have nil interest returns but due to commercial confidentiality I was unable to raise this further). The bigger picture of what funding arrangements we have with government relative to the other demands on our national income/expenditure – the EU was raised by UKIP. I felt I had to support the borrowing to

preserve services to West Sussex residents but it was very much on the basis that I feel as a country we can do better strategically in alleviating the pressures on the UK finances and the grants that West Sussex thereby receives. We can also use West Sussex assets better to mitigate the level of borrowing.

#### Emsworth Fire Service Consultation

The link to the Hants Fire and Rescue consultation is now operational on the WSCC website.

I presented (at a heavily attended meeting) in Emsworth on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and spoke in support of the work of the Emsworth fire station and the firemen there. I would urge all Parish Councils within Bourne to submit their concerns both through this Hants FRS consultation and separately to WSCC Cabinet (Louise Goldsmith).

We have enormous extra new homes being built within the Division and many hundreds more that will be built as part of the CDC local plan. This is in addition to the huge number of new homes being built immediately across the border in Hampshire and just to the west from Westbourne and Emsworth (all served from Emsworth and Havant FRS).

I was somewhat aghast to hear a Cons Councillor from Hants speak and comment that it was not the government that was creating this change in fire service provision but the Fire Service precept affecting Hampshire fire services. I pointed out that the Precept funds comes from the taxpayer and is determined by the government in terms of its allocation.

#### Police Consultation

You will be aware of the consultation inviting WS residents to comment on future policing and whether it is appropriate to increase the funding on WS police. I would again request parish councillors to be very clear on the future policing provision within Bourne and affecting their areas. Will they be guaranteed a PCSO? What service provision is there for criminal incidents from central Chi police station being supported? In the event of an emergency what resources are there and are they likely to be affected?

#### Bourne Division Planning Appeal

I attended an appeal hearing at CDC last week. I have a major concern that Neighbourhood Plans are being dismissed even when they are significantly underway. I argued that villages should be allowed to grow organically to preserve their character and to support future housing needs and mindful of the enormous pressures on existing infrastructure.

#### Community Initiative Funding

Please have this funding stream uppermost in the various organisations within the parish.

No comments were made

#### 10. Report from PCSO Booker

PCSO Booker sent his apologies, Mr Elms read out the following update;

Reports of incidents reported since the last meeting in September:

- Between the end of August and the middle of October an off-road moto cross bike was stolen from South Holt Farm.
- There have been reports about a group of youths gathering in a lay-by along the Stansted Road smoking Cannabis, no further details are known at this time.
- Around 13th / 14th October damage was caused to the Parish Noticeboard at Dean Lane End.
- There have also been reports of Criminal Damage to a pheasant pen in Aldsworth. Quite a considerable amount of damage had been caused over a period of time. One incident was caught on CCTV and the male involved was identified, he had also been causing issues for other landowners around the area. The male was dealt with via a Community Resolution in agreement with the landowner and due to the Anti-social behaviour he was causing he was also given an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, which begins the process for a Criminal Behaviour Order (formerly ASBO).
- Fly tipping is still an issue with a bridleway just outside of Stoughton village becoming a regular place

for dumping.

There have also reports of Scam letters being received by some of the local residents. If anyone does receive anything they are not sure about please contact me and I will advise and assist as best as possible.

A member of the public wondered

11. Correspondence

A list of correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting. The following were brought forward for the Councils attention;

a) Question and Answer letter from Markwells Wood

Mr Elms informed the Council that he had spoken to the CEO about the proposal at Markwells Wood. It was made very clear in the conversation that there would be no fracking involved in the removal of oil from the site. A discussion took place with various concerns and questions arising.

The CEO would like to present to the Council and given the various questions amongst the members, the Clerk was instructed to invite him to either the January or March Parish meeting.

12. Planning Applications

A list has been circulated prior to the meeting; Mr Alesbury had no further comments.

13. Cheques paid and received

**Received**

None received

**To pay**

Chq 360 – HMRC (OCT PAYE) – £91.80

Chq 361 – HMRC (NOV PAYE) - £91.80

Chq 362 – Clerk Salary (Oct £366.95, Nov £366.95, Home Allowance August – November £120) - £853.90

Chq 363 – Forestside and Stansted Social Club (hire of hall for September meeting) - £15

14. Short opportunity for the public to raise questions (to be discussed as agenda items at future meetings)

A member of the Public raised concern over the news that if a Parish had defibrillators then it would stop it being an emergency call out, the Clerk will try and arrange for someone to attend the AGM and update on the issue.

Mr Gauntlett asked if the grips could be cut back on Hares Lane

15. Any other business

No other business was raised.

Meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm

Next meeting will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm at the Walderton Pumping Station, Walderton

Signed:

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(Chairman)

Date:

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