

STOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
At: Forestside Village Hall, Forestside

Present: Councillors:  
Mr Andrew Elms (Chair), Sarah Foxall, John Stilwell, Mary Williams

Other:  
Mrs F. Baker (Parish Clerk), WSCC Cllr Sandra James, 3 residents

Absent: Mr Alun Alesbury, Mr Michael Gauntlett, Mr Graham Hockley, Mr Charles Langmead, Mr Robert Sadler, PCSO Booker, Julie Tassell (CDC),

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr Alun Alesbury, Mr Michael Gauntlett, Mr Graham Hockley, Mr Charles Langmead, Mr Robert Sadler, PCSO Booker

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made

3. Approval of Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were agreed by all present to be a true and accurate record, the Chair signed them accordingly.

4. Update on Affordable Housing

Mrs Williams updated the Council on the latest progress of the Affordable Housing working Group. The Group had tried to get a meeting with Mr Tyrie MP, to discuss the right to buy. The councillors entered a discussion over the issue of Right to Buy. The next Affordable Working House Group meeting is in October and the outcomes will be followed up at the Stoughton Parish Meeting in November.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a) Volunteer Days – the volunteers have been out and completed the bus stop, they are going to return on 24<sup>th</sup> September to finish the fingerpost signs and put the covers on the noticeboards.
- b) Website development; the Clerk has spoken to Ben Coleman who will be able to help set up a site. SSALC have emailed to say that funding is now available. The Clerk will prepare the forms for approval at the next meeting and then they can be submitted to NALC. The Clerk reminded the Council that whilst the Council does have access to the Internet, computers and scanner they are not the Councils, they are the Clerk's.
- c) Speaker from the South Downs National; unfortunately there was no representative available to speak at tonight's meeting, the South Downs have offered to come to another meeting. The Councillors agreed to invite them to the May meeting; the Clerk will contact the South Downs to let them know the exact time and date.

6. Update on Operation Emsflow

Mr Elms updated the meeting that the contractors Landbuild would be looking to start work on the Emsflow project the week commencing the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Mrs Foxall informed the meeting that Stansted Park was also clearing their ditches near Rowlands castle.

Mrs Williams pointed out that work along Woodberry Lane is still required

7. Report from WSCC Cllr Sandra James

Mr Elms invited Cllr James to address the Council.

For the September meeting this evening I want to itemise some issues. The summer months are traditionally a little quieter than in other times of the year, so I will keep the news, brief.

- Further to the WSCC Performance and Finance appraisal of the Capita commissioning and the WSCC Internal audit findings. This has been a matter, which has been reported in the Local Press and where I have raised my concerns on the level of transparency of commissioning decisions at WSCC and the resultant current outcomes. This I first raised during the WSCC Audit Committee meeting and latterly at the Performance and Finance committee meeting. The relevance and importance of opposition groups scrutinising decisions at County Hall should not (in my judgement) be underestimated.
- The current position on infrastructure provision within the area. No one cannot feel anything other than absolute compassion towards the plight of the refugees fleeing Syria. WSCC will undoubtedly debate this with regard to the additional provisions that I contend will be rightly necessary to support the increasing number of refugees to the UK and particularly relevant to housing, schooling and health services within West Sussex. The issue of economic migrants will also be a compounding issue.
- Your neighbouring parish of Westbourne - their village speed limit is now operating at the reduced level of 20 mph. This is the result of circa 2 years work to reach this conclusion – whilst not perfect in some areas e.g. Monks Hill remains at 30 into 60 mph, Westbourne residents campaigned for the 20 mph within the village and I was happy to support. I want to see the speed limit reduced in Monks Hill and believe a petition and resident's voices are important to channel this.
- I am actively involved in a Task and finish Group to improve the process for Traffic Regulation Orders at WSCC (TRO's). These are clearly more relevant in more densely populated areas. My inbox regularly has requests from residents requesting TRO's, yet currently the financial constraints at WSCC and legal necessities means that very few are implemented per annum. Not every situation need necessarily warrant a TRO and this TFG will also be looking at alternatives such as single white lines et al. (I was incidentally told that double yellow lines have the effect of depreciating property values – so another consideration to bear in mind!).
- I am delighted at the progress of another parish within the Bourne division concerning Neighbourhood Plans. Southbourne N.P is now progressing to referendum and I hope very much that this will promote what the village of Southbourne wants rather than what developers wish to impose. Elsewhere the threat of new housing is compounded, Hambrook is particularly badly affected in this way and the resultant huge pressures on local schools particularly Chidham primary.
- River Ems project at Lumley OW project – this continues with a further planning application to improve flood relief scheme in this area going through currently. This is a really impressive community led outcome for OW and can be rolled out elsewhere along the River Ems.
- Referendum Public meetings are being planned in the South East in preparation for the EU referendum. I am not at liberty to direct you to these only to point out that many differing entities including UKIP will be involved in this provision, which is I believe right and proper for the electorate to then make a considered decision and understand the facts. There are euro-sceptics across all parties and of course the people have elected a Government, which wants to see changes made to our relationship within the EU. Hence the balance of each side being permitted to put their case is important to allow people to be fully informed prior to a Referendum on this important matter.

- Access through Emsworth - North Street. The work to repair the wall in this area is now 'put on hold', the adjacent footpath is currently closed, as legalities are resolved, there is no full closure to the road expected.
- Fire Services – concerns being raised in both WSCC and Hampshire fire Service on government cuts affecting their service provision and the knock on effects to emergency responsiveness. I have a meeting with the Hampshire Fire Brigade to discuss this more so this week.
- Education - Sats 4 position not great within WSCC, GCSE's slightly up but 40% still not achieving 5 grade A\*-C.

#### 8. Report from PCSO Booker

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

Below is an update of calls since the last meeting on 13th July: -

- On 16th July we had a couple of reports about a possible homeless female around Walderton asking for food. Police units did attend the area but nobody was found in the area.
- 17th July a report came in from Stansted Park about a group of youths being abusive to farmer in one of the fields. The group were believed to have been drinking alcohol. Police attended and group were spoken too and removed from area but I don't know if any further action was taken.
- Throughout July I had a number of messages about a vehicle parked up in a layby in Forestside with a male sleeping in a car. No further details were known about the male but it was believed he was either dealing drugs or homeless. The vehicle had a registered owner from Rowlands Castle, I have attended the location on numerous occasions towards the end of July and throughout August but there has been no sign of the male or the vehicle.
- 3rd August we had reports of a mobile phone and a couple of laptops being stolen from a festival at a festival held at the Hare and Hound in Stoughton.
- On 8th August a bicycle was stolen from a track at Stoughton Down.
- Overnight between 9th / 10th August a Battery and Energiser for an electric fence were taken from land close to Holme Farm.
- There have also been numerous reports of flytipping including one about asbestos along Broad Walk; the Council should have removed it last week.

#### 9. Correspondence

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

- a) The Audit return – the Clerk updated the council that the External Auditor has returned their audit with no comments
- b) Steve Protheroe has emailed the Council to ask if they have any plans to clear the vegetation from the ditch at Dean Lane End. The Councillors discussed this and agreed that they would look at using volunteers through the West Sussex Volunteer Team; if no dates were available then the Clerk will contact the Probation Service. The Clerk will report back
- c) The All Parishes meeting is on 30<sup>th</sup> September at Chichester District Council
- d) Invitation to AGM of the Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- e) South Downs National Park Public Drop ins
- f) A letter from SSALC regarding the organisation of PCSO's and the wider use of Community Wardens- the Council are unable to attend the briefing but will write in favour of the PCSOs
- g) A letter from Phil Mason regarding Markwells Wood

#### 10. Planning Applications

A list has been provided, Alun has left no comments but I have been sent the following –

Dear Mrs Baker

Ref: SDNP/15/03942/TCA

Proposal - Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Goat Willow tree (T1) and 1 no. Mulberry tree (T4). Remove northern sector branch (over drive originating at 3.5m) on 1 no. Silver Birch tree (T2). Crown thin by 25% on 1 no. Hornbeam tree (T3). Crown reduce by approx 1.2m on 1 no. Magnolia tree (T5) and crown reduce by approx. 2m on 1 no. Ash tree (T6).

I refer to the current application at the above-mentioned property within the Walderton area.

App. SDNP/15/03942/TCA publicity expired on 8 September 2015 and the 6-week expiry date is 16 September 2015.

I was wondering if Stoughton Parish Council were going to submit any comments on the application, as I will need them by 14/15 September prior to the Local Planning Authority making a decision on this application.

Yours sincerely

**Henry Whitby**

The Cllrs discussed the application; Mrs Baker will try and contact Mr Borland for some guidance re the above application.

#### 11. Cheques paid and received

##### **Received**

Second half of the precept instalment £4516 paid in today

##### **To pay**

Chq 356 – repayment of funding to West Sussex County Council – £752.56

Chq 357 – HMRC (PAYE August) - £91.60

Chq 358 – Clerks Wage (Aug £367.15, Sept £) - £734.10

Chq 359 – HMRC (PAYE Sept) - £91.80

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

#### 13. Any other business

No other business was raised.

Meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm

Next meeting will be Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm at the Walderton Pumping Station, Walderton

Signed:

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(Chairman)

Date: