



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 13th November 2018 in St George's church, Trotton at 20:00 hrs

Members present: Carola Brown (chairman), Dave Dawtrey, Rosie Hodgson, Katherine Mackellar, Neil Ryder (clerk), Darren Stiles, Keith Tregunna

Also attending: 1 member of the public

Apologies: Kate O'Kelly (WSCC), , Andrew Shaxson (CDC)

Disclosure of Interests: None.

1. Public questions:

- a. How much water is a resident allowed to take from the river Rother – a local resident was believed to have been pumping water for irrigation purposes during the drought? KT answered that the limit is 20 cu m per day and it was unlikely anyone was taking that much.
- b. One of the footpaths on Dumpford farm had not been restored after harvesting. It was agreed that DD would speak to the farmer (post-meeting note: the path has been restored).
- c. NR had been asked by a resident to ask a question on his behalf: Could the PC establish a working party to put forward a case for a simple pavement along the West side of the road from Rother Lane to the bridge - and again from the bridge up to Terwick Lane. It was believed that an offer had already been made by WSCC to gift some land between Rother Lane and the bridge to better accommodate a bus stop to connect the footpaths. A pavement would have an enormous positive impact on the community, the church and to visitors to the South Downs and would be relatively cheap compared to the sums committed to other communities (to further improve their existing superior facilities – eg the grant of nearly £0.5 m for Rogate's traffic calming system. NR passed in a comment from KO'K that, for any scheme to be taken forward it usually needs a traffic group to form and to work on the project usually overseen by the Parish Council. WSCC would then work with Highways on what whether the community plan was feasible and desirable. The rector of the benefice also offered the church's support. It was agreed that CB, DD and KT would form a working party and **KT would invite relevant landowners to join it.**

2. Reports from district and county councillors

a. Report from AS:

- Grange site: Midhurst PC fighting CDC sale to care home operator.
- SDNP local plan: 'Examination in Public' will start on 13th November
- Paperless planning: CDC's paperless planning policy starts soon and some councils are concerned about how to cope. NR reported that the planning committee had agreed measures to deal with this.

b. Report from K O'K:

- Budget: The financial position at WSCC was getting harder, with the expected deficit of £5.7m now estimated to have grown to £22.3m, so more savings will be required – possibly including:
 - Reduction in budget for troubled families programme – more targeted
 - Review of WSCC support for non-commercial bus services - across the County
 - Termination of housing support contracts with voluntary sector – these include specialist accommodation based schemes for residents who are at risk of homelessness
 - Reduction in the Local Assistance Network (LAN) – a support for households in crisis situations which had previously been available through the benefits system.
- Health: Closure of the Bailey Unit at Midhurst Community Hospital due to the shortage of staff. This decision will be scrutinised on 27th Sept meeting of Health and Adult Social Care Committee at WSCC. A group had been set up to explore the idea of a frailty hub based in Midhurst and to explore the options with regard to reopening the ward. The CCG are hoping that it will be a temporary closure.
- Bus Update: The Bus Group at WSCC is meeting in Oct to discuss bus strategy on 23rd Oct @ 6pm in Rogate Village Hall. WSCC forward plan involves a timeline for the review of its bus strategy and of WSCC support for non-commercial bus services – a consultation is due in Dec 2018

- Velo South: A challenge to the legality of the TTRO process has been served to WSCC – WSCC have not responded yet. In the event that Velo South goes ahead, please collect details of benefits and losses, although non-financial ones will be hard to quantify. This information can be presented to WSCC so they can use it to make an evidence based decision when they are considering a rerun next year and in years to come. [post-meeting note: event cancelled due to poor weather forecast].
 - Planning and Environment: New permit scheme at WSCC recycling centres from 1 Oct: vans, pickups or single axle trailers will require permits – free to West Sussex residents only.
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/van-pickup-and-trailer-waste-permit/#apply-for-a-permit>. NR reported that the process is simple and circulated his new permit.
 - Kate's Drop-ins: Rogate (Village Shop): 24th September 10.30-12.30; Milland (Milland Stores): 4th Oct 10.30-12.30; Harting (White Hart): 11th Oct 10.30-12.30
3. Minutes of last meeting – 12th September 2018: These were approved and signed. All outstanding items were already covered in the agenda except:
- a. NR was asked to check with Hyde Housing if they own the property on Mill Lane (East) where the current residents were parking across the “hammerhead”. The property is owned by Hyde but it seems the verges belong to WSCC and there are no rights of way for the public to use the verges. **NR was still trying to check the WSCC angle and had been asked to submit a formal query for more information about the property they own in the parish.**
 - b. NR had agreed to ask RH to remain on the council on the basis that the council is not short of resources and can cope with her periodic absences. RH has agreed to remain a member on this basis.
 - c. NR asked WSCC to clear the badger “exhaust” in Dumpford Lane and had made the request to WSWCC.
 - d. NR obtained a quote for using compacted scalpings to fix the eroded verge on the corner of Terwick Lane. George Hughes said this would cost at least £500 (cost of scalpings, hire of compactor, plus labour). Members agreed that this cost could not be justified for a job unlikely to provide a permanent solution to one of many unsound verges in the parish.
4. Finance:
- a. Update on finance for year-to-date:
There were no significant changes to the budget since the last meeting.
 - b. Approval of planned payments:
NR asked for authorisation for the following payments:
 - £22 for annual domain fees
 - £250 for annual web hosting fees
 - £6,960 for CCTV survey of the drains from Gatehouse Lane to Trotton bridge (reimbursed by WSCC)
 - Up to £700 for possible charges for tree surgery at Chithurst graveyard – see item 6c
 - c. Chithurst churchyard: the churchwarden at Chithurst had reported a dead tree in the graveyard at Chithurst. As this closed graveyard is the council's responsibility, NR had sought advice and quotes for pollarding or cutting down the tree. A tree surgeon recommended by DD had quoted up to £700 for the work. CB's brother had offered to do it for £250 but the Rector believes he can get the job done (by a professional) for free. **It was agreed that NR would press the Rector** to pursue his contact and check liability insurance but the RFO and clerk were authorised to spend up to £700 if necessary.
5. Updates on current projects / plans:
- a. Results and feedback from Trotton fete: NR had circulated estimates showing that the Trotton fete was estimated to have raised net income of over £3,500 – the highest in the last 5 years.
 - b. Telephone box opposite St Georges (CB): CB reported that she was progressing an application to buy this, possibly to house a second defibrillator and information boards.
 - c. GDPR preparation (inc Office 365): **NR was still pursuing costs from Microsoft**
 - d. SWT response re fire on Iping & Trotton common (circulated): NR to agree joint response with Stedham PC to SWT based on members' comments.
 - e. Rogate community land trust: meeting on 14th Sept at 2pm to progress plans for possible Rogate/Trotton/Stedham CLT. [post-meeting note: plan agreed in principle – next meeting late October]
 - f. Operation Watershed: survey completed, report awaited
 - g. Joint event calendar with Rogate: **RH agreed to pursue Elizabeth Brown.**
 - a. Wildflower meadow: Stuart Fowler had sprayed the area and DD has been keeping it cut.
6. Planning / enforcement update: KT gave a summary of recent decisions as reported in the committee's minutes.
7. Date of next meeting: 14th November 2018

