



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 in Southdowns Manor, Trotton commencing at 20.00hrs**

Members present: Carola Brown, Barry Cooper, Dave Dawtrey, Kathryn Mackellar, Thais Robertson, Darren Stiles

Also attending: Kate O’Kelly (WSSC / CDC) and two members of the public

- 1. Apologies for absence: Neil Ryder**
- 2. Disclosure of Interests**  
None
- 3. Public questions: There was a question about the works list for public rights of way; BC agreed to follow this up and report back.**
- 4. Reports from district and county councillors**  
KOK’s report is attached below – see appendix 1
- 5. Minutes from the council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**  
The minutes were agreed and signed. Matters arising were dealt with below.
- 6. Trees in Chithurst graveyard (see notes below)**
  - a) Permission from the church authorities had finally been granted but too late for the tree to be felled before the nesting season. It was agreed that felling should go ahead in the autumn and that the selection of Arborlec should stand as they had agreed to honour the original quote for the work.
  - b) As there had been objections from a neighbouring property, the PC had been forced to pay fees to the church authorities to obtain permission to fell the tree. These amounted to £822 but it was agreed that the PC should not appeal against these fees as this would incur further costs and as church members had agreed to cover the fees.
- 7. Finance**
  - a) Finance update: The updated budget, transaction list and bank statements had been made available with the agenda. The main changes related to item 6 above (court fees and delay in felling contract) and the removal of contingency amounts.
  - b) Payments requiring authorisation before the next meeting were court fees (£520) and the annual donation to Midhurst community bus (£250). Both were authorised for payment.
  - c) Request for donation: Members confirmed the earlier decision to decline donation requests from non-local causes (in this case, Air Ambulance and MAC), particularly given the spiralling costs of the ash tree issue.
  - d) Budget for 2020-21: The proposed budget was approved.
- 8. Current consultations (see notes below)**
  - a) WSSC small schools consultation: Members noted that WSSC had suspended the closure consultation on Stedham Primary School to allow the governors more time (until cabinet meeting on 21 April) to finalise partnership agreement with Harting C of E primary.
  - b) Rake-Rogate federation: The governors of Rake and Rogate primary schools had written to inform the council of their plan to federate the two schools. Members welcomed the proposal and instructed the clerk to write to the governors schools in support of their efforts to keep their schools thriving in the current economic climate.

## 9. Environment / highways

- a) Operation Watershed: CB had been unable to get a response from WSCC and KOK agreed to follow this up.
- b) Climate change / eco-Rother group: BC had circulated notes (see appendix B) about the recent meeting, which was attended by 32 people. Simon Southern had agreed to help set up a steering group to bring more focus to the group's efforts. The next meeting was due to be at the Southdowns Manor at 10:30 on 19<sup>th</sup> March and the group also planned to have a stand at the Rother College open day on 22 April. The wildflower meadow had been divided into 3 areas, the first of which had been scraped and seeded, with trees (funded by a VE75 grant from CDC) to be planted in the spring. The team was due to meet the SDNPA on 13<sup>th</sup> March to discuss a grant application.
- c) Paths and open spaces: BC was no longer able to attend the paths meeting at Capron House on 18<sup>th</sup> March, so CB had agreed to attend.

## 10. Updates on current projects / plans:

- a) Telephone box opposite St Georges: Rain had prevented any work from proceeding.
- b) Events: TR confirmed the dates of the annual parish meeting (1<sup>st</sup> May) and Trotton fete (5<sup>th</sup> September). CB confirmed that the parish litter pick day would be Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April (starting at 10:30 at Aylings). DS agreed to include in his article for R&T News a request for volunteers to email CB so that she could order sufficient equipment.

## 11. Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Actions:

Minute	Person	Agreed action
2020.03.11-6a	CB	Arrange felling of tree with Arborlec
2020.03.11-7b	NR	Pay court fees and donation to Midhurst Community Bus
2020.03.11-8b	NR	Write to governors of Rake & Rogate schools to support their federation plans
2020.03.11-9a	KOK	Follow up Op Watershed project (drains on A272)
2020.03.11-10b	DS / CB	Publicise and arrange litter day

- **Appendix A: county and district councillor report:**  
These notes are attached to the minutes on the website only (or call the clerk for a copy)
- **Appendix B: Notes on Eco-Rother Action Group meeting**  
These notes are attached to the minutes on the website only (or call the clerk for a copy)

## Appendix A: county and district councillor report

### 1. Covid-19

- a. Best place for advice remains Public Health England: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
- b. Neighbourhood Watch have published 10 ways you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community:
  - Meet with household members, other relatives, friends and neighbours to discuss what to do if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community and what the needs of each person will be.
  - If your neighbourhood has a website or social media page, consider joining it to maintain access to neighbours, information, and resources. Alternatively, share phone numbers and email addresses particularly with those who are isolated or vulnerable.
  - Consider establishing a 'buddy' system within your community to ensure everyone stays connected to COVID-19 related news, services and can receive support safely, such as essentials deliveries.
  - Plan ways to care for those who might be at greater risk for serious complications.
  - Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are healthy.
  - Learn how to self-isolate. Guidance can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>
  - Create a list of local organisations that you and your neighbours can contact in the event that one of you need access to information, healthcare services, support, or resources. Consider including organisations that provide mental health or counselling services, food, and other supplies.
  - Create an emergency contact list of family, friends, neighbours, healthcare providers, teachers, employers, the local public health department, and other community resources.
  - Learn about the emergency operations plan at your child's school or childcare facility, and your employer's emergency operations plan.
  - Practise everyday preventive actions including regular hand washing.
- c. The NHS provides guidance on how to wash hands: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>.
- d. The World Health Organisation provides guidance on basic protective measures: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- e. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention provides guidance on handwashing for families <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/handwashing-family.html>

### 2. WSCC – Full Council

Budget debate Friday, 14th Feb. Significant challenges with increasing children's and adult's services overspends. New budget agreed which includes a 3.99% rise in Council tax related to WSCC activities – approx. £50 for band D house. They have allocated an extra £1million for the roads, the debate was dominated by Highways issues. I spoke to the LD amendment which included cancelling the cut to the Local Assistance Network that helps families in crisis, also cancelling cuts to support for children who are over 16 and not in education or training. Our amendment included extra money for sustainable transport initiatives and climate change work.

### 3. WSCC – Household waste recycling sites

Significant issue locally with residents just living in West Sussex now needing to pay to use Petersfield site. I raised this issue at full council and directly with the cabinet member. As a result of the changes residents will need to travel longer distances to recycle which is not in keeping with the WSCC climate change agenda. Also significant risk of increased fly tipping. The Cabinet member has agreed to enter negotiations with Hampshire to see if they can arrange payment for residents with certain postcodes to use the Hampshire HWRS – nothing confirmed yet.

### 4. Rother Valley Way – Petersfield to Nyewood cycle path

Recent meeting with RVW steering group. Hoping for more progress on this route over next few months. SDNPA cycling officer has more time to prioritise the development of the scheme.

## Appendix B: Notes on Eco-Rother Action Group meeting 24 Feb 2020

**General:** We welcomed more new members, including a group from Bepton! Please remember that we have a Facebook Group and a WhatsApp Group for any that use those methods of communicating. To join the WhatsApp group please contact Sue Hoar on 07915 302223.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Dr. Kate O’Kelly our District Councillor to the meeting.

### Carol’s Talk

Carol Granger, owner of the shop Down to Earth on West Street, Midhurst gave an interesting and informative talk, leaving us with plenty to think on. Carol carefully researches the stock she carries to decide if it is Local, Organic, Fairtrade, Artisan and Environmentally Responsible. She explained how aware she is of the possibility of ‘green washing’ which is when a supplier appears at first glance to be in line with the above ideals, but turns out not to be when one digs a little deeper. Everything in the shop is as local as possible and nothing is ever flown in. Carol also gives careful consideration to what the packaging is made of, when plastic is the best choice she finds ways to re-use it afterwards whenever possible. As a trained nutritionist, Carol, suggested we look up the research from the University of Newcastle which looked at the comparative nutritional value of different foods, including if they were organic or non-organic.

### Updates

1. Water butts – 8 water butts have been purchased and are being picked up by their new owners. When so much of what our group is about needs careful discussion and thought in order to find the route forward, it is good to have done one real, practical thing already!
2. South East Climate Alliance, SECA – we are now part of this alliance, which should help to keep us well informed and be a source of support.
3. Group name – we have tweaked our name from Eco Rother Group to Eco Rother Action, ERA
4. MRC Community Day, April 25<sup>th</sup> - we have agreed to have a stall and now need to decide what we will have on our stall. Clearly we have plenty of ideas and information on paper that we can share, but need something a bit more enticing too. One idea is to grow some seedlings, either vegetables or flowers that are good for bees and other insects. These could be made in home made paper pots (Veronica has a gadget that makes these). Please let her know if you are interested in helping with this. Could we also take an electric bicycle to show and talk about?
5. Trotton litter pick, April 18<sup>th</sup>, meet at Aylings garden centre at 10:00a.m.  
Rogate Litter Pick, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 9 – 1, meet at the village hall.  
Rake Litter Pick, 28<sup>th</sup> March, meet at the Flying Bull (same times as Rogate, as far as I know)  
At previous meetings strong feelings have been expressed about the amount of litter that is being dropped in our area. While we work out how we might address the source of the problem, at least we can do something by making an effort to support one of these litter picks.
6. Wildflower Meadow. This is the second ‘real and practical’ project that our group is involved in. Any attending the meeting will have come past the site that will become the meadow on their way to the meeting, it being at the junction of Terwick Lane, Dumpford Lane and Trotton Road, in the Dumpford area of Trotton. We are receiving a grant from the District Council to pay for a memorial elm tree, one that is resistant to Dutch elm disease. We are also applying for a larger sum from the South Downs National Park. Veronica and Andrea are completing the form and liaising with SDNP about this. This grant would also come with advice and work party support from the SDNP Rangers. With the help of Suzi Batty (landscape architect, and member of the steering group) we also now have a fairly detailed plan for the meadow and the 3 phases we will work through to create it. Many thanks to all who have turned up to the recent work parties on site.
7. Website – Trotton with Chithurst PC are offering us a page on their website. Do any of our members have relevant experience to take this on?
8. Terracycle/Sussex Green Living – now that we are allied with SECA we have been offered the opportunity to piggy back on their existing schemes for recycling ‘beyond our burgundy bins’.
9. Book club – Sue Hoar, of the steering group, is interested to know of anyone who might be interested in a climate change themed book club. Three people have expressed an interest and the current plan is for this group to meet something like every 3 months. They will also create a book list to share with the rest of us. A good first read might be Active Hope by Dr. Joanna Macy and Chris Johnston. And not quite a book but the film, Decoding the Climate Machine (available on Netflix) is well worth a watch – clear and factual and full of ideas for solutions.
10. Trotton with Chithurst PC have asked some of us to work on a possible action plan to address the issues around climate change. At this meeting we had members of that PC, and also of Rogate PC and Bepton PC. It was felt that there is little point each PC working on this individually so we will explore forming a cross-PC working group to begin this work, if that is what the various PCs would like. Simon Southern expressed interest in helping with this endeavour for which we are very grateful.

## Group discussions

- **Transport – Led by Susi**

**Topics Discussed:** Public transport, Electric Cars, Cycling, Car sharing.

**Public Transport:** Kate O Kelly feedback on the initiatives at county and district council levels to reduce car usage and increase bus use. Issues being raised by the consultation by the above councils with the bus companies are yet to be resolved regarding uneconomic bus routes in rural areas and the lack of regular connectivity between Midhurst and Petersfield, Midhurst and Haslemere.

Kate stated that as Midhurst had no railway station it was imperative that Midhurst needed better connectivity with Petersfield and Haslemere where there are main line stations. Community bus services filling the gaps in timetabled service had been discussed but was deemed not to be practicable because of their reliance on volunteer drivers.

Discussion was had regarding Hydrogen powered buses and getting sponsorship for such a bus to address the lack of regular connectivity in local villages. There are issues with the environmental and monetary costs of producing hydrogen for vehicle use. There is a need for someone to research the cost benefit to environment of hydrogen generation and its use.

### Electric Cars

Kate stated she also is involved in the planning for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and various options are being discussed. Kate will continue to update Parish Councils on the bus consultation and vehicle charging infrastructure but warned councils are still constrained in what they can achieve by government funding.

Electric charging points: crucial but what, practically, will we be able to do in some of our small villages where there is NO possibility of charging points? South Harting and Rogate are good examples as some houses have no private parking and no opportunity for on street charging points.

### Cycling.

Proposals for local cycle specific routes was discussed by various members of the group, cycling on local roads is becoming unsafe because of the state of the roads, the pollution of the high number of Large Heavy Goods Vehicles traveling through local villages and towns (soon could increase if local sandpit development is increased) and speeding motorists, therefore cycle specific routes should be encouraged.

### Car Sharing

The pros and cons of car sharing was discussed, possibly using a local means of communication or a phone app.

### Actions going forward:

**Volunteer to research the costs and benefits of hydrogen generation and its use in road vehicles and to feedback to the group at regular intervals.**

**Volunteer to liaise with groups working on cycleways and report to the group on developments.**

**Volunteer to research how a car sharing scheme could be set up.**

- **Waste/Litter/Recycling – led by Veronica**

The main discussion revolved around how we might organise our 'beyond the burgundy bin' recycling. The scheme we would be piggy backing on collects a rather eclectic list of items and it was felt that we should simplify this and concentrate people's efforts in a shorter and more memorable list of items that we might be able to collect. The list we ended up with includes the following:

- Ballpoint pens, felt tips, biros, correction fluid bottles, markers and highlighters
- Flexible plastic from sweet biscuit, cake and cracker wrappers and crisp packets
- Plastic milk bottle tops – marked with 2, 02, 4 or 04
- Empty inkjet cartridges – only Dell, HP, Lexmark, Canon, Samsung, Neopost
- Home cleaning products plastic bottle caps, trigger heads, pumps and cleaning wipe packaging
- Dishwasher, cleaning and fragrance flexible packaging

Veronica to liaise with Sussex Green Living, re coming under their waste transfer licence and risk assessments etc. The inkjet cartridges do not come under Terracycle and are a separate setup.

The 'Adopt an Area' District Council scheme was briefly discussed.

- **Psychology of Climate Change – led by Sue and Andrea.**

There were about ten of us in the group discussing the psychology of climate change. Beforehand, I had surfed the net on the subject and, for anyone interested, there is an enormous amount of related information online. Helpful contributions from: Psychology for a Safe Climate, Australia - who have a booklet "Coping with Climate change distress" that you can download from <https://www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org/publications> on protecting your own and others well being while being active in the climate emergency. The Good Grief Network, USA does a ten week course on coping with the extreme feelings that can be created while fighting for the environment.

On asking for people's feelings about climate change, some of the following were expressed...guilt, fear, sadness, anxiety, importance, depression, frustration. We decided the best antidote to feeling powerless is activism within a community. We also looked at how to talk to children about climate change...

- Be honest
- Don't be too graphic
- Avoid defeatism and doom
- Tell them how they can help
- Talk to them. If you don't they will think there really is something to worry about.

National Geographic has lots of games, videos , activities to get children involved.

An excellent book on the subject is Active Hope ...how to face the mess we are in without going crazy. By Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Another name to look out for is Jem Bendall who writes about Deep Adaptation, suggesting how society will change as a result of climate change.

#### **Final Words**

After the groups had fed back, Veronica mentioned the Sign-up sheet at the back of the room, asking for folk to consider if they could help with: the Wildflower Meadow; the MRC Community Day, April 18<sup>th</sup>; the Book club; being a 'Womble' and helping with our recycling scheme; creating a website for the group; or any of the Litter Pick events. Veronica also explained that all expenses of the group (printing, village hall hire cost, tea/coffee/biscuits etc.) have so far been carried by the steering group, as we do not yet know how we will organise that side of things. There is a third grant possibility that we are looking into but in the meantime members were asked to consider making a small donation to keep us going for now. We thank those of you who did! Your donations have pretty much allowed us to break even – happy to share the numbers with anybody who would like to see them.

Thank you to all who made it to this meeting and to all who are supporting the group, one way or another.

#### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is at the same venue and will be on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. A lady from the Alton Climate Action Network will give us a talk on how that group got going and what they are doing. The April meeting will be an evening one, with a talk on energy – using less and generating one's own.

**Buy less, Use less, Waste less – making frugality fashionable!**