



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Wednesday, 24th July, 2024 in Borden Wood Hall, commencing at 18:00 hrs

Present: Chris Cullen, Dave Dawtrey, Colleen Homan, Kathryn MacKellar, Neil Ryder,

Also attending: Kate O’Kelly (WSCC councillor), Tim O’Kelly (CDC councillor), Simon Southern, 5 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Anne Stephens, Max Maharajh
2. **Disclosure of Interests:** None
3. **Public input:** The chairman invited non-members to speak under the appropriate items on the agenda.
4. **Reports from district and county councillors:** Kate and Tim O’Kelly had both provided updates to the PC, which had been circulated and have been appended to the copy of these minutes on the website “What’s on” page.
5. **The minutes of the council meeting held on 22nd May 2024** were approved and members agreed that all matters outstanding were covered on the agenda
6. **Parish council matters**
 - a. CH had written to resign at the end of the meeting and members voted to thank her for her work on the PC. NR described and agreed to initiate the process for filling the vacancy and also agreed to close CH’s MS 365 account and other PC facilities.
 - b. CC and MM had agreed to share the responsibility as chair of the PC, with CC remaining as nominal chair.
7. **Finance:**
 - a. A budget update, together with expenditure summaries and bank statements had been circulated and members agreed these required no further discussion
 - b. Members approved a £25 payment for the use of the hall for the meeting, and up to £500 for items needed for the fete, to be recovered from fete income later if possible.
 - c. Members agreed to change the bank mandate to include MM and CC as signatories, to allow one signature only for payments up to £1,000, and to authorise a debit card on the account.

Priority action team updates:

8. **Action team 1: Local environment:** MM had provided an update on the team as follows:
 - a. Sophie Newton is a good source of knowledge for footpaths in the area and MM hoped to recruit her to the
 - b. MM had tried saving routes on OS maps but had not found a way. NR agreed to help. Other apps are available but might not be so universally recognised.
 - c. MM suggested trying to create a walk of the month for the noticeboards and website and members felt this was worth trying.
 - d. MM also suggested having a "draw your route" facility at the fete and SS said this would be a good idea if MM could come up with a proposal.
 - e. MM and NR to meet Ben Pope (head gardener at Trotton Place) to agreed the route of the path through their property from Trotton Bridge to Chithurst Lane, after which his team would maintain it.
9. **Action team 2: Community facilities / infrastructure** [meeting minutes available in meeting papers]. CC reported:
 - a. Disputed rights of way in the parish had been shared out amongst the team to research whether they still exist / are used and, if not, to talk to landowners about them before making recommendations to the PC.
 - b. NR had met Kate O’Kelly to discuss the walkway project and had been invited to meet the WSCC highways and rights of way teams shortly.
 - c. It was agreed that PU and NR should draft a letter to our new MP about motorbike noise and to ask him if he would like to attend a PC meeting to discuss this (and other things).
 - d. After discussion with the churchwarden, the team had agreed that the church might not be the ideal community hub and that the PC should consider a co-operation agreement with Borden village hall. Members liked the hall but there was some concern about parking for larger events and CC/NR agreed to ask for a meeting with the hall trustees to discuss options. Elsted, Rogate and Nyewood halls were viable alternatives for large meetings, with good parking, but would not offer the same partnership potential.

10. Action team 3: Community events & activities: In AS' absence, SS provided updates as follows:
- Fete: teams had been set up with group emails and stall holders were to meet on 25 Jul. The duck tickets had been received and would be distributed shortly. R&T News had offered a colour centre spread in their Aug issue. Posters were under preparation and mowing & strimming parties had been organised.
 - First Friday: There would be no August FF as there would be a Madhurst cello concert in St George's, and no Sept FF due to summer holidays and the fete on 14 Sept with a helpers BBQ afterwards. Oct and Nov would be discussed with Elsted Inn and Three Horseshoes. There was one suggestion that the landlord at the former might be asked to offer cheap drinks between 6 and 7pm on First Fridays to encourage a broader attendance by those who did not wish to eat.
 - Bonfire: The owner and lessee of the Hop Field (opposite Trotton Farm) had agreed the bonfire could be staged there but DD and NR needed to check regulations further. Members agreed that nearby horse owners should be informed if this was confirmed as the venue but DD had yet to check with the owner of the traditional field.
- Other events: Wildlife walks had been a success, as had the AGM at Aylings and the BBQ on the Wildflower Meadow, but the July one planned behind Spring Cottage had to be cancelled due to poor weather.

11. Action team 4: Community support:
- CH had agreed to continue on this team after leaving the PC, along with Andrea Whittle.
 - It was hoped that whoever replaced CH on the PC would agree to chair this team and take over the emergency plan. CH promised an update. In the meantime she agreed to send NR details for the website on the Midhurst Community Forum.

12. Action team 5: Housing and planning
- Housing: NR had held a meeting with Aylings, START and Action in Rural Sussex to try to progress the possible Aylings site for new small houses. The SDNPA planners had made it clear that access to the site would be critical and the meeting agreed to seek advice on this issue as the next step. NR suggested that he might ask the PC for some of its CIL funds to help pay for this advice, if Aylings also agreed to contribute and START could get match funding through grants.
 - Planning:
 - Members approve the minutes of the 3 July planning meeting
 - The agreed objections to application SDNP_24_00995_FUL (Crocker Hill stables mobile home) had been submitted.
 - A letter had been sent to the SDNPA director of planning, requesting that he "call in" this application, but he had declined (with detailed reasons).
 - The agreed complaint had been sent to the enforcement team re fences on the site and this was now under investigation as SDNP/24/00269/BRECON
 - NR had circulated notes on, and draft objections to, application SDNP/24/02547/CND [for change of use and limitations on number of horses at the same site]. After some discussion, and contributions from members of the public, the objections were approved.

13. Action team 6: sustainability & biodiversity
- The team's draft action plan had been circulated but was yet to be discussed at a full team meeting.
 - About 80 hours of work (10 people for two hours on four occasions) had so far been devoted to balsam clearance and further sessions were planned on 28th and 30th July
 - Members expressed concerns about the proliferation of ragwort in the parish, and ignorance of the dangers it posed to livestock, and KM agreed to discuss this with the team.

14. Date of next meeting:
26th September 2023 (regular PC meeting)

Reference	Who	Action	By when
20210310-9c	DD	Repair tel box door-closer and remove windows	ASAP
20230921-7b	NR	Liaise with Op Watershed re further works on A272	Awaiting WSCC response
20240522-12c	MM	Ask team members permission to add to MS 365 email group	ASAP
20240522-15	CH	Give NR details of Midhurst Community Forum for website	ASAP
20240724-6a	NR	Initiate process to fill PC vacancy and delete CH from MS 365	Done
20240724-7a	NR	Initiate process to change bank mandate	ASAP
20240724-8b & e	MM	Discuss OS maps with NR and send proposal to SS re fete 'draw your route' facility	ASAP
20240724-9c	PU/NR	Draft letter to MP re motorbike noise and invite him to PC meeting	20 Sep
20240724-10b	SS	Approach Elsted Inn landlord re cheap drinks ahead of First Fridays	20 Sep
20240724-13c	KM	Discuss ragwort problem with team	20 Sep

County Report for Trotton Parish Council 24th July 2024

ROW Trotton/ Highways issue

Nick Scott (Principal ROW officer) / Mike Dare (Highways) are arranging a meeting have offered a date I have asked to include Neil in the teams meeting pre site visit.

Leadership

New Chief Exec now in place – Leigh Whitehouse

Children and young people

WSCC Children's services are being inspected by Ofsted this July. Visit days 24th, 25th July.

WSCC are reaching out to find more foster carers. They have joined a partnership to improve the work to support foster carers they are hoping this will mean more people will come forward.

West Sussex County Council has joined others from across the South East to create the country's largest local authority fostering partnership, in a bid to increase the number of foster carers across the region.

With over 11,000 children in care across the South East, and fewer than 3,000 local authority approved foster carers, there is an urgent need to recruit more people able to provide safe, loving, and local homes for vulnerable children.

Local Authority Fostering South East is a new virtual fostering hub bringing together the expertise of 20 councils from across the region. The new hub will ensure prospective foster carers have access to all support in one place, right from the start of a carer's fostering journey.

Water Supply

Havant thicket reservoir consultation, background reading attached SOSCA press release.

The bottom line is the reservoir is much needed and long over due however Southern Water are proposing to use a tech better designed for drought countries, campaign groups believe there is a better and more sustainable more environmentally sensitive way of achieving this new reservoir.

If the proposal goes ahead SW will be investing millions to recycle water from sewage, diverting money from all the long over due investment into storm overflows.

Full Council

Full council last week, there was a debate on Sepsis and how important it is to recognise this life-threatening condition.

Road closures

I have had recent discussions with the cabinet member from Highways related to the Uppark road closures, these are long and disruptive for residents and businesses, 2 phases of closure in August and Sept, the team have said that traffic lights instead of road closure is not a viable option on safety grounds. In view of the impact on the community I have talked to the Cab member the farmers have requested an overnight opening so they can get their machines through during this most busy of times for their harvest.

CDC Report for Trotton PC 24th July 2024

Events

Circus Zyair are returning to Oaklands Park with performances 24-29 July. The annual Chichester International Film Festival Open Air Screenings in Priory Park 9-11 August.

An Antiques and Vintage Market in Chichester city centre will be returning on Sunday 11 August and a bigger vegan market will be returning in late September.

The Novium Museum in Chichester is calling on people to share their memories as part of a new project about the former Shippam's factory. Funded by Arts Council England, the museum will unlock the advertising archive of the former local family-run business, with an exhibition taking place in 2025.

The next stage of the project will involve recording oral history interviews to gather stories and memories of Chichester's meat and fish paste manufacturer which came to its site on the East of the city back in 1786 only closing its doors in 2001.

Sussex Six

The Council has put money towards a new campaign called 'Sussex Six' which aims to increase the amount of local produce featured on menus and shop shelves in the district. The idea is to encourage food businesses to stock at least six locally produced products or use at least six locally produced ingredients in their menus over the coming year. Businesses that take the 'Sussex Six' pledge are then encouraged to highlight this to their customers in a variety of ways including on their social media channels, in their menus and by including special labelling on their shop shelves. The ultimate aim of the campaign is to help build a robust circular economy where producers, hospitality and retail help strengthen our local community by using each other's products. For every £1 spent in a local business, around 63 pence stays within the local area. So, it will help to keep money within the local area, support our economy and help keep people in work locally. It also benefits the environment, reduces food miles and keeps us connected to our local farms and producers.

70 local food and drink producers, hospitality and retail businesses came together to launch the campaign, which is led by the Natural Partnerships CIC (Community Interest Company). As part of the campaign there is also a dedicated food and drink directory where people will be able to find all the different food and drink producers in our district and the places that serve and sell it. At the moment, businesses can have their details listed for free. You can access the directory by going to: www.sussexfoodanddrink.org

Climate Emergency Action Plan

CDC launched the Climate Emergency Action Plan consultation on 1 July and they have already had a really positive number of responses. The consultation is open until 30 September and so they would be grateful for any help you can provide in helping them to get the word out within local communities and to encourage people to attend one of the events that have been arranged. If you haven't had chance to have a look or complete the survey, please visit: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange>

Excavations in Chichester

The archaeology team have been digging in Priory Park adjacent to the Franciscan Priory building. They have made some exciting discoveries! The huge ditch that surrounded the motte (the massive mound is still there), was linked to the bailey (demolished in the thirteenth century by Henry III) by a beautifully constructed bridge built by the Normans. Sadly this is all going to be covered up...