

**Cuckfield Parish Council**  
**Minutes of a Meeting held at 8.00 pm on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Present: Mr Salisbury (Chairman), Mr Gregory, Mrs Revell, Mrs King, Mrs Burgess, Mr Blanch,  
Mrs Macintyre, Mr Gilboy, Mr Mercer  
In Attendance: Mrs Jones (Clerk), Mr P Bradbury (WSSC)

**161 Public Question Time:** Mr Monteiro tabled a paper and gave a presentation to the Council regarding the traffic in Cuckfield, particularly at Whitemans Green. The presentation highlighted the high traffic speeds and the need to reduce both volume and speeds with the aim of reducing the rat run to the A23. Mr Monteiro suggested graduated speed limits at Whitemans Green 30/40/50 and the narrowing of the existing road by widening the pavements and creating a cyclepath. Concerns were also expressed that the new mini-roundabout at the London Lane/Road junction would increase traffic flows. Councillors thanked Mr Monteiro for his presentation and said that the points were well made. The Parish Council was very aware of these problems and was working towards slowing the traffic down at Whitemans Green, this would include the introduction of VAS signs.

**162 Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr Gallagher

**163 Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest regarding any items on the agenda

**164 Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September (previously circulated) were approved by the Council

As Mr Bradbury had to leave at 9 pm, it was agreed to bring forward items 12 & 14 of the agenda.

**165 Economic Review for Cuckfield**

The Chairman, together with Mr Bradbury, had undertaken work earlier in the year as discussed at the previous meeting. The Chairman had circulated a paper that day regarding Horsham/Crawley/Mid Sussex Employment Land Review. The situation had moved on and it was extremely unlikely that the grants mentioned earlier were still available but a lot of the work had now been undertaken by the Land Review. It was possible that Cuckfield should concentrate on the provision of high speed broadband as this would be of considerable benefit to local business. It was critical that, if Cuckfield was interested in providing more employment, this was made known to the Strategic Planning Group responsible for the Review.

Councillors considered that this was an extremely large and important subject and that a special meeting should be arranged when the matter could be fully discussed. At present councillors did not consider themselves qualified to know what was required and there was a need for a collective vision. It was agreed to contact AIRS for guidance and that a visit to the Basepoint Scheme in Crawley would be useful

**166 Report from the County Councillor**

Mr Bradbury reported that he had agreed to support the residents of Chatfield Road at the appeal for the development. The Burgess Hill Three-Tiers Group had reported on the western strategy for the large scale development in Burgess Hill, the Parish Council to request a copy of this document. Following the request of residents in Bolnore, Haywards Heath had requested a governance review but Cuckfield was not included in the consultees. The clerk to follow this up. Plans for Tentercroft were now available and would be submitted to the Planning Authority shortly. The site would be sold by WSSC with planning permission. The merging of the Special Schools would be going ahead but it was a major project that would take some time to implement. The Parish Council had been concerned to learn of the additional costs being faced by the Sports Clubs at Whitemans Green for the new car park. Mr Bradbury stated that the

full terms and conditions had been included in the original documentation but had not been picked up by the Clubs. It was agreed that it would be useful to meet with WSCC to discuss their charges for works.

## **167 Report from the Chairman**

The Chairman had attended the SALC and AIRS Conference when presentations had been made by Nick Herbert & Serena Tierney. It should be noted that AIRS could provide information on grants for village halls. Information had also been received as to how to manage reserves and this would assist with future financial planning. A recent MSALC meeting regarding the Charter had not been very constructive. Regular financial meetings were ongoing with Mrs Macintyre and the clerk and these enabled a clearer understanding of the financial position of the Council. A positive meeting had been held with the Admin Assistant who would now be placed on permanent contract.

## **168 Committee Reports**

**168.1 Planning Committee:** The minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November were noted by Council. Mr Salisbury reported that a letter would be sent to the Inspector regarding the Appeal at Chatfield Road.

**168.2 Roads & Traffic Committee:** The minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> October were noted by Council. Mrs Revell reported that the Bluebird Bus was now running again but as the service had not been available throughout the year a smaller payment would be due. It was anticipated that the service would continue next year. No comment had been received from Warden Park School with regard to the cycle track and this needed to be followed up with the school. Following the comments at public question time, consideration should be given to making the traffic issues at Whitemans Green a priority. Concerns were expressed as to whether the Parish Council should make a contribution to re-surfacing works in Church Platt as this could lead to demands from other parts of the village. These matters would be discussed at the next Traffic Meeting.

**168.3 Environment Committee:** The minutes dated 5<sup>th</sup> November were noted by Council. Mr Gregory had attended a Police Neighbourhood Panel meeting with Mr Gilboy but attendance had been disappointing. There had been a review of crime figures but there had been nothing too serious to report. Mr Gregory had also attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting and again they were still looking for a Chairman and Secretary. The NW newsletter would be published shortly and the website was regularly updated.

**168.4 Finance Committee:** The minutes of the joint meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> September were noted by Council. Mrs Macintyre agreed with the Chairman that the monthly meetings with the clerk were useful and stated that the reserves were currently in the region of £48,000, slightly down due to the unforeseen expenditure on sewerage at the public toilets.

**168.5 Queen's Hall Committee:** The minutes of the joint meeting dated 17<sup>th</sup> September were noted by Council. Mrs King reported that, after considerable delay, the new chairs were now on order.

## **169 Schedule of Paid cheques**

The schedule of paid cheques, previously circulated, was approved by the Council

## **170 Production of the Newsletter**

The clerk reported that for the past three years the newsletter had been produced at no cost to the Council with the printer taking the revenue for the advertising. Unfortunately, the production of the newsletters had become increasingly unreliable with only one edition having been delivered this year - current copy had been sent out in September but publication was still awaited. The cost of producing the newsletter in-house

would be in the region of £2000 per annum, including delivery. This could be partially offset by obtaining some advertising. After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the production of the newsletter in-house without further delay. Mr Salisbury and Mrs Burgess would attend meetings to take this forward with the office staff.

**171 Section 106 Report from the District Council**

The clerk had forwarded a summary of the S106 funding remaining from the development at Meadowlands. This included funding for sports facilities apparently earmarked for the Ansty Cricket Club as well as funding for re-cycling. The clerk would obtain further information about the funds, particularly as there was a need for improvements to the youth facilities in Cuckfield which could be funded from this source.

**172 Transfer of Assets from the District to the Parish Council**

Following the meeting the Chairman and Clerk had attended at the District Council, no further information had been received from officers regarding the transfer of the Glebe Road Allotments and the land at the end of Courtmead Road. The clerk to follow up this matter with MSDC.

**173 Holy Trinity School's 'Vision' for the Future**

The Chairman asked councillors to note that the Primary School was currently undertaking a visioning project looking at how education could be delivered in the future.

**174 Publications**

The following publications were available from the Clerk: Local Council Review; GACC Newsletter; High Weald Review; WSCC Special Schools Consultation; MSDC Council Minutes, Housing Strategy, Leisure Strategy, Affordable Warm Strategy & Better Young Lives Plan

**175 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

It was agreed to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting due to consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in accordance with Section 100a of the LGA Act 1972

**176 Admittance of a Member of Staff the Pension Scheme**

**177 The Queen's Hall - Commercially Sensitive Matter**

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