

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Twenty Sixth Annual Meeting held at 7 pm on 16th May 2011

Present: Mr R Salisbury (Chairman), Mr K Gregory (Vice-Chairman), Mrs R Macintyre, Mr C Mercer, Mrs A King, Mr S Blanch, Mr A Burton, Mr P Harrison, Mr N Page
In Attendance: Mrs F Jones (Clerk)

1 Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously resolved that Mr Salisbury be re-elected as Chairman and Mr Gregory be re-elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

2 Public Question Time: Annette Jones asked, following the elections, what the situation was regarding the adoption of the Power of Well-Being as 80% of councillors were required to undertake the training. The Chairman replied that a training course for councillors would be organised by the Sussex Association of Local Councils. There were changes included in the Localism Bill but it was likely that the criteria for the adoption of the power would follow the current requirements.

3 Apologies for Absence were received and accepted from Mr Bradbury and Mrs Bourne.

4 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest regarding any matters on the agenda.

5 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the meetings held on 9th March, as previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

6 Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute 294/10 The Chairman reported that it was unlikely that the Bridge Club would go ahead with a new building at Warden Park School until 2014. With regards to Bylanes, any discussion regarding the transfer of the land to the Parish Council was awaiting the resolution of the drainage issues.

Minute 295.3/10: The clerk reported that repairs to the skatepark would be undertaken but the contractor did not consider the damage made the bowl unsafe for users. A Rospa inspection would be undertaken in June. A quote had been received for the verge markers and would be considered by the relevant committee

Minute 303/10: The clerk reported that holiday records for all staff were being kept on file.

Mr Burton and Mr Harrison arrived at this point of the meeting. The meeting was closed to enable the new members to sign their Declaration of Office. The meeting was then re-opened.

7 Nominations for Parish Council Representation

7.1 Cuckfield Youth Club: The Chairman stated that this was a very important issue for the community and outlined the background to the current situation. If the Youth Club building was sold by WSCC this would give rise to serious problems for the other users including the Playgroup. However, if the building was handed over to the Parish Council or a community group, the costs could be high. Piers Harrison agreed to be nominated as the Parish Council's representative. It was understood that Mrs Revell would continue in her role as Chairman of the Youth Club and work with the new representative.

7.2 Cuckfield Museum Trust: Mrs Burgess was nominated as the Parish Council's representative.

7.3 Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils: Andy Burton and Nigel Page were nominated as the Parish Council's representatives. Representatives were asked to make a brief note of any meetings attended

8 Standing Committees for the Year 2011-2012:

Planning:: Stephen Blanch, Colin Mercer, Andrea King, Andy Burton, Nigel Page
Environment: Ken Gregory, Stephen Blanch, Sue Burgess, Nigel Page, Andrea King
Roads & Traffic: Colin Mercer, Piers Harrison, Sue Burgess, Andy Burton

Queen's Hall: Andrea King,, Sue Burgess, Nigel Page
Finance: Chairman of the Council and each Committee Chairman (to be decided)
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members on all committees

9 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that, together with the clerk, he had attended a meeting at Warden Park School with Haywards Heath Football Club to discuss the possibility to the Club moving to part of the land that is currently for sale at Laines Farm. The proposals were only in a very draft form and there would be significant issues that would need to be addressed. The Club was proposing to hold an Open Morning shortly at the Queen's Hall to publicise the plans and receive comments from residents. It was also probable that a planning application would be received for one new dwelling on the field north of Riseholme.

10 District & County Councillor Reports

Mr Salisbury reported that he would be taking an active role in planning at the District Council as a member of the Better Environment, Central and District Planning Committees as well as a member of the Licensing Committee. A written report had been submitted by Mr Bradbury and this had been circulated to members.

11 Schedule of Payments: The schedule of payments, previously circulated, was approved by the Council.

12 Appointment of Internal Auditor: It was unanimously agreed that Andrew Sturgeon be re-appointed as Internal Auditor to the Council.

13 Committee Reports

13.1 Planning Committee: The minutes of the meetings held on 17th March, 7th April and 28th April were noted by the Council. Mr Blanch stated that at a recent meeting the Committee had objected to the principle of the development of the land to the south of Lucastes in Haywards Heath but had fewer concerns with regard to the proposals for the land to the west of Beechurst. These comments would form the base for comments on the planning applications when these were submitted.

13.2 Roads & Traffic Committee: Detailed plans were being drawn up by the Traffic Consultant, a meeting would be arranged shortly and this information would be discussed at the next Committee Meeting in June. Mr Mercer reported that the Speedwatch Group was now operating successfully in London Lane and the Police had also been in attendance.

13.3 Finance Committee: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March were noted by the Council. The Chairman stated that the finances of the Council were strictly controlled, all payments were authorised by two councillors and regular meetings were held with the clerk to check the accounts. Following Mrs Revell's decision not to stand at the elections, it was agreed that Mrs King be an additional signatory to the Co-operative Bank account.

13.4 Environment Committee: Mr Gregory asked members to note that he was the Main Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch in Cuckfield.

14 Forthcoming Meetings

The list of dates for forthcoming meetings were noted and had been circulated to members for information,

Signed _____