



The Queen's Hall
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Parish Clerk: Sam Heynes
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held at 7.30pm on 13th October 2022

Present: Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mr P Ceccherini, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore, Mrs C Potts, Mr M Sheldon, Mr A Symonds, and Mrs J White

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk) and Mrs N Ripert-Forrest (Communications & Admin Officer)

Public Question Time: None

FC076 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Dickie and King offered their apologies, which were noted.

FC077 To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it
None.

FC078 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 28th July 2022 and the EGM meeting held on 8th September 2022.

The minutes of the meetings held on 28th July and 8th September 2022 were approved and signed.

FC079 To receive a presentation from Community Energy South regarding the proposed formation of a Community Energy Cooperative for Cuckfield and Ansty & Staplefield

Georgina Griggs made a presentation to the Parish Council regarding an initiative to try and establish a community energy project incorporating Cuckfield and Ansty & Staplefield residents with a view to ultimately generating their own renewable energy. Before this could commence, an urgent need to improve household efficiency within the community was seen as a priority. To do this it would be required to engage with the community to look at their individual needs and provide help and guidance to support them to make improvements in a simple and easy to understand way, finding a way to live in a more environmentally supportive way with the planet. The next steps were to become trained to give advice to residents to help them reduce their costs, and to offer direct and personalised advice.

The Council would like to support this initiative and requested a presentation of priorities and costings be put together and submitted to the Parish Council for consideration.

FC080 To receive reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Bradbury provided the following update:

- A planning decision to reject the latest planning application from Cuckfield golf course had been issued, enforcement from MSDC would follow.
- Pleased to confirm that the Cuckstye site had been removed from the District Plan.
- Many roadworks were taking place around the district at the moment. A summit meeting with the Highways officers and Mims Davies took place last week however it was not possible to prevent utility companies from completing essential works. It had been suggested that a policy be implemented to try and reduce the impact of multiple works taking place at the same time. Unfortunately inconvenience to road users was not a planning consideration for these works, and WSCC had very limited control over the contractors completing their works.
- To address local concerns regarding fracking, a motion at WSCC would point out the Weald Basin geological survey had shown commercial fracking was not possible and planning for oil and gas exploration would remain within the control of WSCC.
- The community governance review to consider moving the Northern Arc into Burgess Hill (out of Ansty) had been approved however a further review would take place in 2025 for residents of the new housing site to decide whether they wished to remain in Burgess Hill or form their own Parish Council.
- The Parish Council expressed thanks to Pete Bradbury and Mims Davies for their support against the inclusion of Cuckstye within the District Plan.

The following written report had been provided by Cllr Salisbury:

District Plan

The Scrutiny committee for Planning, Economy Growth and Net Zero had met on 5th October 2022 and the proposed policies, amended by 4 cross party working groups, were considered and recommended to go forward to Council.

That document, together with the site allocation proposals, will go forward to the next Scrutiny Committee; which would meet Tuesday 18th October.

Recommendations from that Committee would go to Council on 2nd November for Council to consider as the draft document to go out to Reg 18 consultation. That process would probably start on Monday 7th November should Council agree.

The Scrutiny papers for 18th October were published on Monday 10th October. In addition to information on the proposed sites, you would have received a letter from the Leader of MSDC noting that the Ansty site was not being included.

The reason for this was that during the "Pause", additional work was requested by the Scrutiny Committee on, amongst other pieces of work, Highways. This would normally have been done between the Reg 18 and Reg 19 consultations. The detailed Highways work showed that 4 junctions on the network would be severely impacted by the site at the proposed housing level. The evidence could then not support its inclusion.

Outside WI-FI provision

A trial is being considered on the provision of Wi-Fi in outdoor areas. The Worsley

Recreation Ground had been mentioned as a suitable place.

The Clerk was instructed to ask whether the outside WIFI provision would be better suited to the High Street.

- FC081 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman**
Cllr Burton referred to the letter received from MSDC confirming Cuckstye had been removed from the District Plan, but cautioned that the developer would not be walking away, and therefore the Parish Council needed to continue to support efforts to build the evidence base.
- FC082 To note the Full Council Action List**
Actions were reviewed and noted.
- FC083 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust, NS&I and CCLA accounts for July, August and September 2022.**
The bank reconciliation statements were reviewed and approved.
- FC084 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2022-23.**
The Clerk reviewed the budget and explained the difficulties identified so far; the major issues were the increased gas and electricity forecasts for the remainder of the year as this had seriously impacted the budget. However, with careful management the Clerk was optimistic the current £20,000 forecast overspend (related to the Cuckstye grant awarded from reserves) could be managed by the end of the financial year. The next review would consider the Precept requirements for 2023-24.
- FC085 To note the return of the signed 2021-22 Annual Return with comments from the external auditor and acknowledge that the Clerk will correct the matters raised during the completion of the 2022-23 Annual Return.**
Council noted the annual return and acknowledged the feedback provided.
- FC086 To note the update received from Mid Sussex District Council regarding the District Plan and the proposed Cuckstye site.**
This item had been covered by Cllr Salisbury's update in item FC080.
- FC087 To ratify the instruction to create a full site survey of the land at Courtmead Road, the Observer Field and the Cemetery at a cost of £1,250+VAT in order to complete official registration of this land with the Land Registry.**
Council ratified the costs of the full site survey.
- FC088 To consider whether to remain opted into the SAAA sector led auditor appointment regime for the next 5 years until 2026-27.**
Council resolved to remain opted into the SAAA sector led audit regime.
- FC089 To consider the quotation to proceed with the architectural design for the proposed redevelopment of Cuckfield Village Hall.**
Council resolved go out to tender for 2 additional quotes due to the level of costs involved. Cllr Symonds would prepare the scope document.
- FC090 To consider the quotes received to complete a Topographic survey of the Village Hall site.**
Council reviewed the quotes and resolved to proceed with Quote A. The brambles

at the Village Hall needed to be cut back prior to survey taking place.

FC091 To consider the proposed names of Hanlye Park and Hanlye View for the 13 new dwellings being developed at the Court Meadow School site, Hanlye Lane, Cuckfield

Council considered the proposed names of Hanlye Park and Hanlye View and resolved to propose Horsgate Close and Turners View instead. This was due to local connections within the immediate area.

FC092 To consider the adoption of the following policies:

Policy 53 – Councillor Parental & Extended Leave Policy

Policy 54 – Menopause Policy Guidance for Managers

Policy 55 – Metal Detecting Policy

Council resolved to adopt all policies which would be added to the website.

FC093 To review progress made against the Business Plan for 2022.

Council resolved to delay this discussion to the next meeting.

FC094 To receive a progress update on the Angela Fox Nature Garden.

The plans for the next stage of development were due, and significant planting had taken place over the past month. A second espalier tree had been damaged and subsequently had died. Consideration of an acoustic fence was raised, and the Clerk was instructed to check the boundary ownership.

FC095 To receive an update from the Village Centre Action Plan Working Party.

The first meeting had taken place and a village flag design had been completed. Prioritisation of the items proposed would take place and consideration presented at the next full council meeting. The suggestion to take on the responsibility of the Broad Street Car Park was driven by the idea that this was a central space in the village where events could be held for the community. The Clerk would write to MSDC to establish whether this was something they would consider.

FC096 To note the application for a temporary road closure for the Cuckfield Mayor's Procession on Saturday 15th October 2022

Council noted the road closure.

FC097 To consider the replacement of three litter bins located on the High Street and Church Street

Council resolved to proceed with the litter bin replacements, the Clerk was instructed to make the purchase and arrange installation.

FC098 To consider improvements to the Queen's Hall fire exit doors and the fire exit doors leading to the decking in the garden

Council resolved to proceed with the installation of the magnetic locks on the fire exits.

FC099 To consider a further grant request of between £20 - £2,000 on behalf of Family Support Work to help contribute towards the purchase of essential items for families in Cuckfield struggling with the rising living costs. The offer to include Cuckfield families in the Christmas Hamper scheme was rejected.

Council resolved to donate £200 to the charity whilst continuing to focus on the

Christmas Hampers for residents.

- FC100 To consider the offer of free membership of the Rural Market Town Group for a trial period of 6 months**
Council resolved to accept the 6 months free trial and review at the end of that period whether to continue.
- FC101 To consider the High Weald AONB Management Plan Consultation 2024-2029 & Biennial Review**
Councillor Podmore resolved to review this and complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.
- FC102 To consider the planning application DM/22/0678 Development at Upper Sparks Farm and what representation to make to MSDC**
Council noted that this application had been rejected and MSDC enforcement would commence. Council acknowledged the efforts of prominent local residents in highlighting the issues at the golf club.
- FC103 To note the Clerk attendance at the 50th anniversary SLCC National Conference on 2nd – 4th November 2022**
Council noted the attendance.
- FC104 Confidential Business**
To consider whether to resolve to exclude the press, broadcast media and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be transacted:
- To consider the proposed changes to the Burial Registrar contract.
- Council resolved to accept the recommendations and the Clerk would write to the Burial Registrar to confirm the arrangements. The Council was very pleased with the handover of the management of the cemetery back to the Parish Council.
- FC105 To note items arising after the preparation of this Agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only.**
- Cllr White requested the Asset, Community and Environment meeting be swapped with next week's Roads & Traffic meeting as she would be unable to prepare data in time for the meeting.

Meeting closed at 10.30pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting: 24th November 2022