

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at St John's Church Centre on 11th February 2014.

Present: Mr J Brown, Mr C Bulbeck, Mrs M Bulbeck, Mr M Everson, Mr A Feltham, Mrs J Grant, Mr R Hayes, Mr J Jennings, Dr P MacDougall, Mr R Rolfe. County Cllr S James, District Cllr B Finch, District Cllr G Hicks.
4 members of public.

Apologies: Mrs S Cecil, Mr P Hicks, Mrs L Leader, PCSO J Lemm.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members

832. None.

Minutes

833. It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

834. Min 820. The faulty device had been repaired and returned to Southbourne Farm Shop. New sites for the SIDS would be investigated.

Open Forum

835. The meeting was temporarily closed for public comments. Upon re-opening the meeting the Council noted the request from a resident for another street light in Breach Avenue. (also dealt with under correspondence).
County Cllr S James was thanked for the work she had done to get the ditch next to FP212 cleared.

A resident read out a statement concerning obstructions to footpaths in Prinsted and Thorney Road. Details would be e-mailed to the Council and it was agreed to have an agenda item for the next meeting.

County Councillor Comments

836. County Cllr Sandra James passed to the Council a copy of a report of a meeting held at WSCC Highway Drayton Depot on 11th February regarding Slipper Mill Pond, Peter Pond and Lumley Road flood risk.

A meeting had been attended by Southern Water and the Environment Agency concerning Thornham Waste Water Treatment Works. Cllr James remained concerned the data used by CDC in production of their Local Plan and affecting housing numbers served by the treatment works and was placated by CDC that they had given their assurance that the revised projections on headroom were correct. Her understanding was that with this assurance there came a direct legal responsibility from them to the community. Southern Water were receptive to the suggestion of further storm room capacity being created at Thornham via the building of additional storage tanks, however they were not obliged to provide this additional capacity. She was perplexed at the seemingly relaxed viewpoint the Environment Agency seem to take on this infrastructure issue, given that the Oyster beds in Thornham Channel no longer had permission for human consumption due to infiltration of microbes. She would be holding a future meeting with the Environment Agency on general concerns on their participation in local projects. Additional recommendations from the

meeting were that Southern Water encapsulated data on sewage discharges more precisely and published these more expediently.

At the forthcoming meeting of the County Council to be held on 14th February, a motion had been put forward by the main opposition group at WSCC on a recommendation to push for unitary status. The belief being that huge demands on services legitimised further strategic cost savings which could, in Ukip's view, be delivered from a unitary approach to local government. The Chief Executive position had now gone and was replaced by the combined posts of Transformation Director and Chief Operating Officer.

The ongoing and committed focus on ditches and water drainage was a 'must' for all parishes. Cllr James welcomed the potential appointment of a dedicated person within a parish to check gullies/pits and provide a regular review of their condition to parish councils. WSCC would respond to silted up gullies/pits and in her experience reacted well. However the WSCC contract no longer provided repetitive and automatic checking.

Cllr James had been actively lobbying WSCC Cabinet for the re-instatement of this financial necessity as part of budget deliberations and had been given good indications it would indeed be reinstated.

District Councillor Comments

837. Cllr G Hicks reported at the Council meeting on 28th January the Council recognised the tremendous efforts of staff who worked over the Christmas period by keeping services going and protecting the public during the stormy weather. It included staff from Westhampnett Depot and coastal engineers who continued to repair and maintain the beaches and coastline.

Chichester Careline had their busiest Christmas for years, especially on Christmas Eve when they handled twice the normal call rate. On Christmas day they handled nearly 4000 calls. It had been reported in the press Careline had helped to locate a client with dementia missing on a cliff top walk in Dorset.

District needed to generate additional income and become more efficient in order to protect services. In January the Council exchanged contracts that would enable the redevelopment of surplus residential land and phase 2 of the Barnfield Drive retail park, both important in respect of the Council's financial plan.

Office space continued to be refurbished and realigned under the 'New Ways of Working Project' which overall was making good progress.

The Selsey Works Project was launched at the end of January. It was supported by Chichester in Partnership and provided a host of services for businesses and individuals. The program included Internet Made Easy, Craft and Art Courses, Making Sense of Social Media and Business Planning.

The District had 74 new businesses which started up in December 2013, 12 more than compared with December 2012.

The Planning Department had commented on 107 applications in the last quarter of 2013 and supported retention of business use on premises that were proposing to turn residential, with 70% retaining business use.

The Selsey Business Awards were organised by Selsey Business Partnership and held at Bunn Leisure. 130 businesses attended and winners included Campbell Butchers and Royal Naval Association who each received a glass engraved plaque.

Poppy Scott had been appointed Home Energy Visitor and would provide information and advice to local residents, particularly those on low incomes who had problems keeping their homes warm.

The Police had invited the Environment Housing Team to visit properties where it was reported migrant workers were living in substandard accommodation. The purpose was to reduce crime and target the vulnerability of the Eastern European community.

The new year had seen an uptake in membership at the Westgate Centre in response to a promotion in January.

Chichester Community Development Trust in partnership with Pallant House Gallery, Chichester University and West Sussex Records Office had obtained a grant of £99k from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Graylingwell Heritage Project. The project would explore the history of Graylingwell from 1897 to the present day. Graylingwell had played an important role in the history of mental health treatment in the UK and the developing role of psychiatry in the 20th century.

Trade in Midhurst in October had been very poor with November not much better. Some businesses had seen positive growth in December compared with previous years and January had been stronger than expected.

The Enabling Grants Scheme to support local business websites was proving very popular. 45 applications had been received from a variety of businesses across the District. So far 19 had been approved and in excess of £25k had been committed.

The Novium had welcomed 1771 visitors in December including 122 children attending learning sessions. On 23rd January the museum hosted an evening event for Pallant Chambers attended by 125 barristers, solicitors and judges. A new interactive exhibit for the ground floor was being developed which would engage all age groups to discover how the Roman baths looked in their heyday.

In co-operation with the University, postcard size flyers were being designed for students to help them to know what to look for in rental properties. This would help to increase demand for better accommodation and make it harder for poor landlords to rent their properties. The University would only advertise and recommend properties that had met accreditation standards.

The Grants & Concessions Panel had recently awarded £16k to the Canal Trust towards the cost of building works that were needed to provide two new toilets for volunteers and visitors. This was good news for the Canal as they developed their appeal for local and tourist use.

Dr MacDougall enquired what action the District Council was taking with regard to global warming and asked the District Councillors to come back with some information.

Correspondence

838. A list of correspondence was circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

List item 1. Request to move street light o/s 32 First Avenue. An estimate of the cost of moving the street light would be obtained. In the meantime members would view the street light to see if they would be agreeable for it to be moved.

List item 2. CDC meeting with parishes. It was decided to make a comment that the meetings were rather large and might be better if organised as smaller meetings.

List item 6. Request for additional street light in Breach Avenue. It was decided to canvas the views of residents who would be affected before reaching a decision.

List item 7. Local Government Review. It was decided to continue the subscription.

Additional Correspondence

839. Chichester DC. Details of dog fouling notices made available to parish councils. The signs were A4 composite aluminium at a cost of £20 each.

840. Chichester DC. (Received via Mrs Talbot SPNP SG). Neighbourhood information for the Chichester District Council Infrastructure Development Plan. Opportunity for parishes to have infrastructure projects highlighted in their Draft Neighbourhood Plans included in the

District's Infrastructure Development Plan. It was decided to have an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

841. Mr Hayes reported a meeting had been arranged with CDC on 5th February to discuss requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It was understood up to £3000 funding may be available for this purpose. Tenders were being invited from companies that had been used by the District Council. The necessity to produce a SEA would cause some slippage in the timetable.

The last meeting of the Steering Group had taken place on 4th February and the draft minutes had been circulated. Mr Hayes was disappointed by the lack of attendance by councillors at this important meeting and felt strongly members should make every effort to attend SG meetings. At the meeting the first draft of the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan Policies was presented by Brendan O'Neil of rCOH. The SG had approved the draft policy and recommended it to the Council. It was noted sites identified should be treated as confidential at this time.

The Clerk drew attention to the minutes of the SG meetings 7th January and 4th February relating to community facilities, community development trust and registering community assets. The minutes recorded all of these matters had been passed to the Parish Council. Also the minutes of the SPNP Sub Group 15th January, when the SG Secretary had advised the Council that all the items dealt with at that meeting should be managed by the Parish Council. However, none of these items had been discussed by the Council.

Mr Hayes proposed forming an advisory group to make recommendations to the Council and this was agreed.

The minutes of the New SPNP Sub Group 15th January were received. Item 11. Line 4 after 'village'. Add 'The Business & Economy FG believe...'

Timetable 02/02/2014. The full Parish Council meeting 12/08/2014 was deleted. The Parish Council would call an extraordinary meeting if it became essential to do so.

Publicity for 20's Plenty for Southbourne

842. This item had been deferred from the last meeting to obtain samples of publicity material used in Chichester that might be helpful for Southbourne. Material had been received from County Highways and passed to the Chairman but was relevant to later stages in the process when WSCC sent information to residents. In conjunction with County Highways, the Clerk circulated a draft of an article that could go in Clippings aimed at gauging the level of support for a scheme in Southbourne.

It was agreed the Clippings Editorial Team would produce an edition of Clippings which would include publicity for a 20mph scheme in Southbourne.

Operation Watershed

843. A grant of £30,769.61 had been awarded for funding of a project for Lumley Flood Prevention. A copy of Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund Standard Grant Conditions was circulated to members.

Minutes of a meeting held on 11th February were supplied by Cllr Sandra James. Cllr James would be working with Kevin Macknay (WSCC) David Hilton and a representative from the Parish Council to deliver this Operation Watershed.

The next meeting of the group would be on 25th February at Edes House, Chichester.

Parish Boundary with Chidham & Hambrook

844. Formal notice had been received from Chichester District Council of the change to the boundary. The necessary Re-organisation Order had been made on 20th December 2013

taking effect in April 2014 for Council Tax and April 2015 for electoral purposes. A copy of the Order had been supplied by the District Council. 229 properties would be transferred from Southbourne Parish to Chidham & Hambrook Parish.

The Clerk informed the Council 20 Southbourne Parish street lights were in the area being transferred. A list of the street lights affected had been given to Hambrook & Chidham Parish Council. Details would be sent to Southern Electric and SSE Contracting to have Southbourne's street lighting inventory changed.

Annual Parish Meeting 2014

845. The Annual Parish Meeting would take place at the St John's Church Centre at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th March. It was agreed to invite the Director of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and the Manager of the Novium Museum to be guest speakers. The Clippings Editorial Team would advertise the meeting in an edition of Clippings.

Risk Assessment

846. The Chairman had completed a risk assessment for the Council. A copy was placed on file.

Report of Recreation Advisory Committee

847. The Report of the Recreation Advisory Committee 24th January 2014 had been circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

848. Surface repairs to playing field. In accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee it was agreed the Council would aim to have the pitch restored to playable condition by August 2014 ready for the next football season.

849. Liaison with football club. The Clerk reported the Secretary of Westbourne FC was giving up at the end of the season and was not able to say what the future plans for the club would be.

850. Proposals for the recreation ground put forward by the Business & Economy Focus Group.

By a majority vote the Council did not accept the recommendation of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Instead the Council resolved that the Parish Council did not support any development of the recreation ground as part of the Parish Plan but supported the Focus Group exploring other options outside of the Neighbourhood Plan.

851. Lions Club Fete. In accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee it was agreed the Lions Club could have use of the recreation ground free of charge for holding a fete. A meeting of the Events Committee would be held to see how the Parish Council could support the event.

Finance – Payments for Approval

852. A list of payments for approval was presented to the meeting, copy appended to the official minutes. It was resolved the payments be approved.

Matters Raised

853. Mr Hayes reported a number of new sites were being investigated for the speed indicator devices.

854. Members were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Mary Marrs who had been a long serving member and a former chairman of the Parish Council and a District Councillor.

855. The Clerk reported he had been contacted by the Agents for Seawards who would like the opportunity to present some changes they had made to proposed developments in Southbourne. Mr Hayes would deal with this.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....