

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at St John's Church Centre on 11th June 2013.

Present: Mr C Bulbeck, Mrs M Bulbeck, Mrs S Cecil, Mr M Everson, Mr A Feltham, Mrs J Grant, Mr R Hayes, Mr J Jennings, Mrs L Leader, Mr R Rolfe.
District Cllr G Hicks.

Apologies: Dr P MacDougall, County Cllr S James, District Cllr B Finch.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members

673. None.

Minutes

674. It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2013 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

675. Min 653. SIDS. Mr Rolfe inquired when a SID would be put up at Hermitage. It was agreed Mr Staker could be employed to assist Mr Jennings to put up the devices.

676. Min 655. County Cllr Comments. Mrs Cecil would provide more information to identify the hole in the verge outside 6 Maybush Drive.

677. Min 657. Footpath on sea wall. The clarification of ownership of the footpath on the sea wall was noted. In general all land above mean high water mark, the sea wall and path along the sea wall, was owned by the landowner of the adjacent terrestrial land.

678. Min 659. Report from SD Playground Services. Mr Bulbeck would arrange for the edge under the play unit in the small children play area, identified in the report, to be made safer if possible.

679. Min 672. Opening of Maybush Copse. Mrs Cecil informed the meeting pictures of the event were on the Chidham & Hambrook website.

Open Forum

680. Jonathan Brown and Peter Hicks introduced themselves as candidates to fill the vacancies on the council. The Chairman warmly welcomed them to the meeting.

681. Mr Rolfe reported the Slipper Mill Pond Association had been investigating the causes of flooding in Lumley Road. It had been established the sluice gates did not cause the flooding. It was agreed the Chairman and District Cllr G Hicks would liaise with the Chairman of the Association.

County Councillor Comments

682. Cllr Sandra James was not present but had sent a report which had been circulated to Members.

It was agreed Cllr James would be asked to continue to closely monitor events at FP212 and press for action with regard to the ditch next to the footpath. It was suggested County

PROW should make the landowner aware of possible consequences regarding public liability as a result of making a new unofficial path.

District Councillor Comments

683. Cllr G Hicks gave the report on behalf of Cllr B Finch.

The new Chairman of Council was Martyn Bell who took over from Peter Clementson after 2 years. The new Vice Chairman was Nick Thomas who took over from Southbourne's Graham Hicks after 6 years notable service.

The two Area Development Committees had been merged into a single Planning Committee. The proposal that Parishes should no longer attend the Planning Committee but instead should engage with an officer dealing with the application. This was not passed at Council on 21 May and the decision had been held over pending consultation with Parishes.

As briefed at the last Parish Council the government had made £7000 per parish council available for work with Neighbourhood Plans (e.g: Environmental area assessments) and £4000 of this was being held by CDC for Neighbourhood Planning work across the District, but £3000 was available on application by Parish Councils.

Council Tax – received a briefing from the Council Officers and Tony Dignum the Treasurer – Council tax collection was 98.2% in year and over 99% of tax was successfully collected (the difference was explained by the time taken to recover those who default which usually runs over the year end). This was better than the national average of 98%.

Better Together – the council had been looking at ways of being more efficient and, by way of example, had signed a 5 year partnership with Arun District Council to share printing services which would allow for efficiencies and possibly a reduction in staff numbers. The senior management structure of the council had been assessed as potentially “top heavy” and there would be a review of posts over the summer/autumn. All of this allowed District to focus efforts on the frontline services.

The Fundraising Hub, an offshoot from Chichester in Partnership, had raised £650K for local charities since 2011 and was being used as a model for social partnership.

West Sussex CC and BT had signed a partnership to bring broadband to 98% of homes in West Sussex in 3 years which would be particularly important to local businesses.

Chichester Rugby and Football Clubs were running football and rugby in the community training in July and August and lots of healthy living activity was going on at Westgate Leisure Centre from NHS clinics to Himalayan sound baths.

Novium totals 31,519 in aggregate, 1762 tourists in April (plus 887 enquiries). Lots of new exhibitions which had garnered good local media publicity.

Cllr Finch's own website www.brucefinch.org.uk, a self-funded political website as a District Councillor, was up and running and he would be developing it to give more information to people in Southbourne, probably through a running blog.

Correspondence

684. A list of correspondence received had been circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

List item 5. It was agreed to rectify a street light column in Gordon Road which was leaning at a cost of £196.69 plus Vat. Street lights requiring attention in Manor Way and South Lane were reported by members.

Additional Correspondence

685. WSCC PROW. An officer had visited FP212 on 7th June and found a car parked on the footpath. The land owner was to be contacted by WSCC.

Neighbourhood Plan

686. Mr Hayes reported the Steering Group meeting on 10th June had concentrated mainly on formulating the questionnaire which had been completed, subject to some final amendments.

A list of organisations in the parish was being drawn up.

A revised timetable had been prepared by Neil Homer.

Neil was no longer proposing the second version of his letter to developers should be used.

The meeting had stressed the need for transparency with regard to individuals' interests.

The new parish website was being introduced as quickly as possible.

Changes to the Steering Group meeting dates were being made to avoid clashing with dates of other meetings Rowena from AIRS had to attend.

Attendance by parish councillors at the Steering Group meeting had been low and all members were encouraged to participate.

The Council resolved to approve the questionnaire as drafted by the Steering Group, subject to amendments.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Alice Smith for all the excellent work she was doing as the Secretary.

The Clerk reported the Council had been approved for funding from the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning programme delivered by 'Locality', subject acceptance of the many terms and conditions. Total value of the grant was £7,000. The Council resolved to agree the terms and conditions and accept the grant.

Chichester District Council – Changes to Planning Procedures

687. E-mails circulated by West Itchenor and West Wittering Parish Councils had alerted parishes in the District to proposals by the District Council to enable applications for householder development (suffix DOM) to be determined under delegated powers where an objection was lodged by either a parish, town or city council or Chichester Harbour Conservancy. A recommendation was due to go to a meeting of the District Council on 21st May, giving parishes very little time to comment. West Itchenor, West Wittering and Chichester Harbour Conservancy had sent letters objecting to the proposal.

At the suggestion of Mrs Grant, Southbourne also sent a letter of objection to the Leader of the District Council.

At its meeting on 21st May the District Council had deferred a decision to enable material considered, which had led to the recommendation, to be made available to parish councils.

Cllr Hayes informed the meeting the District Council had considered a number of recommendations from its Cabinet about changes to development management arrangements as a result of a review by a Members' Task and Finish Group. Amongst other things, the Council approved replacement of the two Area Development Management Committees with a single Planning Committee, consisting of 18 members and meeting at four week intervals, starting on 26th June 2013.

With regard to delegation of decisions, District Councillors could still 'red card' applications so they would go to committee and it was envisaged parishes would have greater involvement with their District Councillors.

There would be a move to stop issuing paper copies of plans in the future which would require training by parishes to work without paper.

St John's Church Funding for Youth Projects

688. In accordance with the decision at the May Parish Council meeting, a further letter had been received from St John's Church giving information about their fund raising to ensure

continuation of their existing work and to initiate new projects to support the local community and start off their local Redeeming Our Communities project. It was resolved to give a grant of £2,000 to St John's Church and to ask for progress reports to show how the money has been used in due course.

Councillor Vacancies

689. Three local residents had come forward to express an interest in joining the Council to fill the two existing vacancies. They were Jonathan Brown, Peter Hicks and Bill Ferguson. Mr Brown and Mr Hicks were present and were invited to give some details about themselves. They were asked to confirm their application for co-option, following attendance at the meeting. Co-option to fill the councillor vacancies would be on the agenda for July.

Police Issues

690. This item had been requested by Dr MacDougall who was not present. It was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

Finance - Payments for Approval

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

Internal Audit

692. The internal audit for the year 2012/13 had been carried out on 12th June by Murray McIntosh O'Brien. The audit certificate had been signed off. The Audit Commission Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2013 would now go to Littlejohn the external auditors for the final process.

Matters Raised

693. The Chairman and Clerk had met with Landscape Services to inspect the condition of the recreation ground. However the grass had been too long to see the surface very well and it had been decided to have another inspection after the grass had been cut several times.

694. The Council considered whether to hold the Fete this year in view of the work required at the recreation ground and the time being taken up with the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to hold the Fete on 14th September on the Bourne Community College playing field if permission could be obtained. The Southbourne Lions would be invited to help organise the Fete.

695. Mr Hayes had been sent details of a track instead of a BMX/skate park for the recreation ground. This would be passed to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

696. Mr Feltham passed to the Clerk a list of pot holes requiring attention to be reported to WSCC.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....