

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Apologies: Mrs M Bulbeck, Mrs L Leader, Mr R Rolfe, District Cllr B Finch, PCSO J Lemm.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members

1059. None.

Minutes

1060. It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2014 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

1061. Min 1041. List item 5. Details of the seat at Maybush Copse had been given to Mrs Nolan but she had decided not to donate a seat.

1062. Min 1047. Planning Committee. Mr Everson reported the Film Night at the Church Centre had agreed to change nights which would allow the Council to use the upstairs meeting room as from January 2015.

1063. Min 1050. Operation Watershed Nutbourne. Mrs Grant reported the closing date for a grant application was March 2015. It was not straightforward and there would need to be discussion with WSCC officers.

1064. Min 1055. Christmas tree. The date for switch on of the Christmas tree lights was Saturday 6th December at 5.00pm. Refreshments would be arranged by Mrs Cecil and Mrs Grant. Publicity would be organised by Mrs Grant.

Open Forum

1065. The meeting was temporarily closed for public discussion. Upon re-opening the meeting the comments made by Mr Seabrook regarding drainage matters were noted. It was agreed Mr Seabrook, with the NP Drainage Focus Group, would draft a letter to go from the Parish Council to OFWAT.

County Councillor Comments

1066. Cllr Sandra James attended the first day of the Inspection of the CDC Local Plan and talked on the specific areas of evidence supporting the Local Plan. Points raised on the day included the significant evidence obtained from Neighbourhood Plans which were being called into question by one developer as pre-empting the outcome of the Local Plan. Also raised had been the evidence from Southern Water on the Thornham catchment which had not been presented to the Inspector by CDC. Her concern was to mitigate any additional housing over and above the circa 7k within the Local Plan, where developers were

requesting more homes to be sanctioned. She had also attended further days before the Inspector on 5th and 7th November, the first to discuss specific WwTw issues affecting the West of Chichester, the second date to discuss infrastructure. She raised the need for County Councillors and District Councillors to be in force at each of the Inspector's meetings to mitigate the developer's stance on asking for further housing to be permitted. However only those who had previously made comments were permitted to discuss openly with the Inspector and she was therefore the only county councillor able to make representations. Cllr James had spoken at Westbourne NP Meeting on the inherent problems of the Thornham WwTw and the general state of drainage across Bourne for them to include and had provided an input to Southbourne NP explaining the deficiencies of the existing WwTw and drainage.

Although outside Southbourne, mention was made of the planning decision for Long Copse Lane Westbourne because Cllr James had been dismayed at the response from Southern Water officers in attendance. Their reaction to improving the problems with waste water management was to install an impeller. She had asked for a point of order to be raised at the meeting because there was a bizarre situation where Southern Water officers were asked to explain drainage and took directions from CDC officers. In her opinion Southern Water were in denial on the depth of feeling felt in the Bourne community over the issue and she would continue to lobby for improvements to be made, but needed to be recognised by CDC and acted upon.

Her concerns had been reported that WSCC report on individual planning applications in her opinion failed to aggregate the total effect of cars on an area. This had been seen in the Selsey consultation process where permission to build 100 new homes was granted, here the site access was reported by Highways as having no objection, but no comments were made by Highways on the overall impact of an additional circa 200 plus cars using the road to and from Selsey. The same concerns covered applications made within Bourne generally.

The Lumley River Ems project was on going, which she chaired with Robin Rolfe the Parish Council representative. A voluntary working group was planned for Saturday 22nd November where a risk assessment was needed. A further Operation Watershed application was proposed for a concrete culvert outside Rose Cottage which would become the lynch pin for further works. Opus consultants were to provide costings and the Parish Council was asked to support the initiative in the same manner as the Lumley scheme. The Parish Council was asked to write to the residents about the work being conducted by WSCC week commencing 8th December.

A case had been put forward for improving transport links to the Thorney Army base to improve the situation for Army personnel and their families. Southbourne was asked to consider allocating funds.

WSCC had been asked to review why the cycle lanes between Emsworth and Chichester were not continuous and the cost/viability of making them continuous. A technical report from WSCC was unavailable and this had been raised as a concern with the Leader.

There was an opportunity to tap into grants from WSCC, principally OW funds and CLC funds from South Chichester CLC, plus the Quick Fix grant for small projects.

A daffodil planting scheme was being actioned by a resident Christine Pilington-Miksa from Pagham Close.

A visit was being made to the Southbourne Men's Shed on 20th November.

The Parish Council was asked to progress the DMMO for the footpath at Thorney Road. Attention was drawn to a complaint by a resident in Nutbourne following a Main Road street light being repositioned as part of the WSCC street light replacement scheme.

A motion by UKIP on 17th October to change from cabinet to committee decision making at County Hall to reflect electorate voting prompted a lively exchange. Whilst the motion failed it did identify the lack of transparency that UKIP as the main opposition party felt was occurring at County Hall, an example of which was deep concerns on the changes to the Fire Service et al. Decisions at County Hall would continue to be made by a Cabinet (most

often in closed session), their decisions would be permitted to be scrutinised but rarely in Cllr James' experience were any decisions overturned.
The next formal County Council meeting would be on 12th December.

In response to the report, the Council agreed to make another Operation Watershed application for a culvert outside Rose Cottage, Lumley Road.
A letter would be sent to residents to notify them of the works to be undertaken by WSCC at Lumley Road, the letter to be delivered by volunteers.
Parish funding for transport improvements at Thorney would be considered by the Finance Advisory Committee.
The Parish Council would donate a supply of daffodil bulbs for planting at Lumley.
The Parish Footpaths Co-ordinator would examine the papers given to the Parish Council and draft an application for a DMMO to be made by the Parish Council.
The Council noted the complaint by a resident regarding the WSCC street lighting replacement scheme but since this was a County Council scheme considered it was not a matter the Parish Council could resolve.

District Councillor Comments

1067. Mr Hayes reported the Local Plan hearings had commenced on 30th September. During the hearing on 8th October the Examiner had indicated she had not seen up to date evidence to support the proposed housing figure of 410 new homes per year over the 15 year plan period. The Council had subsequently agreed to initiate an audit and review the evidence.

Consultants brought in to look at leisure centres had confirmed the services provided were excellent. The Council would be looking at other models of how leisure centres were managed by other organisations and a Leisure Procurement Members Group had been established to do this.

A Task and Finish Group had been set up to look at the future size of the Council. The group would carry out an electoral review and present its findings to the Council in March 2015, following which recommendations on the size of the Council would be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Novium had welcomed 3763 visitors in September, including the Guildhall and TIC services. Free entry to the museum was being introduced from 17th November.

The Department for Work and Pensions had announced further expansion of Universal Credit starting in February 2015. It would affect all single claims previously eligible for Jobseekers Allowance including those with existing Housing Benefit claims. The roll out would be by geographical area and it was not known when Chichester would be included.

Dr MacDougall commented the number of complaints made to the District Council each year had increased. The average number of days to deal with complaints was 32 which exceeded the 28 days target.

Correspondence

1068. A list of correspondence had been circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

List item 3. Slipway access. The Council agreed to provide the materials if the Sea Scouts were able to mark the access to the slipway to discourage parking of vehicles blocking the access.

List item 4. Cycle route Emsworth to Chichester. It was agreed to invite the writer of the report to attend the next Council meeting to give a short presentation.

Additional Correspondence

1069. CDC Dog Control Officer. Junior School design a street sign competition. Mr Everson and Mr Hicks agreed to attend the school to award the winners certificates and prizes on a date to be arranged. The prize winners to be chosen in conjunction with the school and CDC Officer. The Council agreed to donate two £25 gift token prizes.

1070. SSE Contracting. New quotations for moving the street light outside 32 First Avenue at the request of the resident. In total £749.16 plus VAT replacing the previous figure of £700 plus VAT. The Council decided the resident would be asked to pay the full cost if he wanted to have the street light moved.

1071. Mrs J Watt-Smith. Condition of footpath 211 East of Prinsted Square. To be referred to WSCC PROW.

Neighbourhood Plan

1072. Mr Hayes reported the Steering Group meeting on 4th November had debated whether or not to delay the referendum. There was much uncertainty surrounding the housing numbers in the Local Plan and the risk the Plan might be changed by the Inspector. Developers were also challenging the Local Plan.

There were potential disadvantages of both options, but on balance the SG had come down in favour of proceeding with the original timetable.

The Council decided to proceed with the referendum according to the original timetable.

Three Examiners had been considered and Mr J Edge had been chosen. This Examiner had been appointed for the Fishbourne Neighbourhood Plan, which was now on hold having been challenged by a Developer.

The recent major planning applications for Breach Avenue and Cooks Lane had been discussed at the SG meeting.

County Cllr Sandra James reported she had spoken forcibly about her concerns about the inadequacy of drainage and sewage systems at a recent Local Plan meeting.

Report of Recruitment Panel

1073. The Panel had decided to use the services of SSALC to recruit a new Clerk. This would enable their standard model job description, person specification and vacancy advertisement to be used. The estimated cost for the service was £230. Additionally the Panel had decided to advertise locally in the Observer series newspapers using the SSALC job advert at a cost of £840.

The closing date for applications was 21st November, with the planned date for interviews 1st December.

Report of Recreation Advisory Committee

1074. The report of the meeting held on 31st October was received.

1075. Fence erected on Parish Council land. When seen by the Chairman and Clerk on 3rd November the occupier of 11 Park Road had made clear he did not intend to take down the fence. The Council decided to write to the occupier again to give a deadline date by which time the fence should be removed and after which the Council would instigate legal action to secure removal of the fence if necessary

1076. Hedge adjacent Bourne View Close. The Clerk had written to the Secretary of the Bourne View Management to ask if the occupiers wished to have the hedge cut before proceeding with the work. Quotes for the work to be obtained from The Green Men and Lloyds Tree Services.

1077. Safety surface under cradle swings. A quotation to replace the safety surface had been received from DCM Surfaces in the sum of £2106 plus VAT. The Council resolved to accept the quotation.

1078. Ground maintenance. In accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee the Council resolved to accept the quotation from G Burley & Sons Ltd for maintenance of the recreation ground.

Report from Maybush Copse

1079. Mrs Cecil reported Maybush Copse continued to flourish. The grass that seemed so long in growing had now done well. A seat knocked down in storms had been replaced by a similar design. To maintain the site regular working parties were held that met at the Copse on the first of the month at 10.00am and more volunteers were welcome. Activities taking place were guided nature walks, community picnics and a working party thank you gathering. Last year in October an 'Apple Day' was celebrated with apples collected and donated but due to the poor apple crop this year the event had to be cancelled. It was hoped next year would be a good year for apple juice again.

The wildlife in the Copse was quite varied and apart from the rabbits there were slow worms and grass snakes and it was a haven for birds with buzzards, cuckoos in the Spring, and an array of other birds such as goldfinches, greenfinches, blue tits, coal tits, great tits and the more common robins, blackbirds, thrushes and sparrows. The birdlife was helped by bird boxes donated by the Chidham Primary School and last year children from the school had nature walks and lessons in the Copse in Spring and Summer, so they could spot their own bird box and see what birds were using it.

The next meeting of the Friends of Maybush Copse would be on Wednesday 19th November at 8.00pm at the Barleycorn Public House.

It was suggested Southbourne schools should be included because Southbourne had made a very large contribution to the purchase of the Copse. Mrs Cecil agreed to take this forward with the Friends.

Police Report

1080. The report from PCSO Jason Lemm circulated to Members was noted.

Finance – Payments for Approval

1081. 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

1082. Mr Hayes commented the Remembrance Service with the 68 crosses donated by the Parish Council for those who had died was very moving.

1083. Mr Brown reported he had attended the CDC All Parishes Meeting on 21st October with Mrs Cecil and Mr Everson. Presentations had been given on Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester, preparations for the 2015 elections & electoral review, international terrorism

severe threat advice, new antisocial behaviour legislation, South Downs National Park Local Plan, planning update, community right to bid/assets of community value and gypsy traveller transit site/unlawful encampments.

1084. Mr Everson had been approached by a resident enquiring about a public seat in Stein Road. The resident had not found a new WSCC replacement street light in Stein Road an improvement.

1085. A Finance Advisory Committee meeting would be held at 2.00pm on 16th December at the Village Hall.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....