

East Lavington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020
by 'Zoom' video conferencing

Also available at www.eastlavington-pc.uk (This meeting was recorded)

The meeting started at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Charles Britton, Cllr Barry Gosden, Cllr Will Yates, Cllr Patrick Limpus and Cllr Simon Longman.

In Attendance: Amy Harte (Clerk), Cllr. Allan Sutton (District Councillor), Gaynor Sammon

1. Welcome

117/20 Vice Chair, Barry Gosden welcomes all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

118/20 Cllr. David Bradford (County Councillor)

3. Declarations of Interest

119/20 None

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

4.1. Approval of July 2020 Minutes.

120/20 The minutes of the meeting of 20th July 2020 were RESOLVED to be approved. B. Gosden verbally agreed to sign 'draft' copy of the minutes. **(ACTION B. Gosden)**

4.2 Report on action points from the last meeting.

4.2.1. Acceptance of Office, Code of Conduct and Register of Interest forms

121/20 Still required from Cllr. Yates and register of interests from Cllr. Limpus. **(ACTION W.Yates & P. Limpus)**

4.2.2. Website Email Address – activated? 4.2.4. Website Accessibility Statement Update

122/20 The running of the website has been taken over by John Uphill at Graffham Parish Council - Simon will contact John and get the access required to activate the email addresses and to assist with the Website Accessibility Statement and general administration of the site. **(ACTION S. Longman)**

4.2.3. Broadband progress update (S.Longman)

123/20 Cllr. Longman reported that he has 14 responses now but needs more to get any action via Openreach. Gigabit is a possibility being investigated but the funding available will not cover the £4000 required. The New Homes Bonus funding received for the playground improvements in Duncton that are no longer going ahead could be re-allocated and all councillors present RESOLVED to apply to CDC for the reallocation of these funds to this project. **(ACTION S. Longman & A. Harte)**

5. Visitors' Questions:

124/20 Gayna Sammon gave an overview of the reasons behind her planning application for Highfields and the background to the development of the design.

6. County Councillor's Report (Cllr. David Bradford)

125/20 D. Bradford sent his apologies and a report by email. All Councillors confirmed that they had read the report. Attached as Annex A. Cllr Sutton discussed the cycle lanes in Chichester with the council who felt that these lanes were not helpful and contributed to traffic problems. Cllr Sutton encouraged feedback to WSCC about this and said that it was not felt that they had been a success.

7. District Councillor's Report (Cllr. Alan Sutton)

126/20 Cllr. Sutton sent a report by email. All Councillors confirmed that they had read the report. Attached as Annex B. Cllr Sutton summarised his report giving some further detail in terms of support available for B&Bs from SDNP and community project funding availability.

Cllr Sutton left the meeting 6.48pm

8. Planning Issues: New / Recent / Ongoing

8.1. SDNP/20/03743/HOUS Highfields Farm Norwood Lane East Lavington Petworth West Sussex GU28 0QG Removal of existing conservatory and erection of single storey sun room. **Comments required by 13th October 2020**

127/20 The council discussed the application and were supportive of the application, the replacement of the conservatory roof with a solid roof is beneficial, they raised questions about the use of floor to ceiling glass in relation to the dark skies policy. The council RESOLVED to submit a response in support of the application. **(ACTION A.Harte)**

8.2. SDNP/20/01499/HOUS Mainwood Cottage Cathangar Lane East Lavington GU28 0QW Conversion/extension of existing detached workshop/office to East of property into ancillary living accommodation. **Application Approved.**

8.3. SDNP/20/00072/LIS & SDNP/20/00071/HOUS Beech Cottage Beechwood Lane East Lavington GU28 0NA Single storey timber extension. Comments submitted – **Application in progress. Extension of time agreed.**

8.4. SDNP/19/05363/HOUS & SDNP/19/05364/LIS Northwood Barn Graffham Road East Lavington GU28 0QF Proposed single storey rear extension. Comments submitted – **Application in progress. HBA suggested design improvements.**

8.5. **Planning Consultation changes**

129/20 The Council discussed the proposed changes. Most felt that these would not affect the SDNP but it was pointed out that there was no reference to National Parks and the question should be asked. Cllr Britton outlined a few elements of the proposed changes and the Council RESOLVED to formulate their response. Cllr. Gosden will draft a response for circulation. **(ACTION B. Gosden)**

9. Finance

9.1. **Approval of accounts to 21/09/20**

130/20 Accounts were reviewed and RESOLVED to be approved for period ending 21st September 2020

9.2. **Approval of Clerk's Salary and Expenses:**

9.2.1 27 hours @ £15.40 = £415.80 + £40 office allowance £455.80

131/20 Salary and Expenses RESOLVED to be approved

9.3. **Income/expenditure**

9.3.1. Precept from CDC received Sept 11th £1685.00

132/20 All above payments RESOLVED to be approved.

9.4. **Other Financial Issues**

9.4.1. Salary Scales from SALC

134/20 Cllr. Britton suggested that the Clerk's Salary increase in line with SALC scales from April 1st 2020. It was RESOLVED to increase the rate to £15.78 back dated to 1st April 2020. This is salary scale 26. **(ACTION A.Harte)**

9.4.2. Insurance policy

135/20 The Zurich renewal of the Parish Council Policy was £324.77 and other quotes have been obtained, one of which is £234.08 per year if taken for three years. The Council RESOLVED to ask Zurich if they can match the reduced renewal price and if this could not be significantly reduced then the Council would take out the alternative policy provided the cover was comparable to the existing. A.Harte to investigate and act accordingly to ensure the best outcome for the Council. **(ACTION A.Harte)**

10. **Correspondence & Invitations received since the last meeting**

136/20 10.1 All Circulated by email. No comments on any of these.

11. **Reports re: attendance at meetings etc.**

137/20 Nothing to report.

12. **Parish Matters**

12.1. **Rights of Way & Highways.**

138/20 Cllr Gosden informed the council that the removal of Ash in the parish nest Westerlands had caused problems on the footpath surfaces. He has informed the relevant office and hopes that this will be rectified.

139/20 Highways surfaces are still very bad near Fitzlea Wood Road area but believes that this may have been scheduled for resurfacing following his complaint.
Beechwood lane is also in a state of disrepair and needs resurfacing and he has reported this.

13. Date of next Meetings –

Monday 16th November 2020
Monday 18th January 2021
Monday 15th March 2021
Monday 17th May 2021

The meeting finished at 7.30pm

I confirm this is a true record of the meeting:

Chairman, 16th November 2020

Annex A

Parish Council Report For September 2020

From WSCC Cllr David Bradford

The latest Coronavirus Report from WSCC states that, over a 14 day period to August 23rd, the overall rate per 100,00 population in West Sussex remains BELOW the England rate at 10.2 cases compared to 22.5 for England. No need for complacency of course. You will be aware, schools are ready for the new term; if you have any queries then there are frequent reports on the WSCC website; a special video made by our students and teachers is there to reassure children.

There is a new temporary cycleway scheme in Chichester; I went past last week but couldn't see any cycles! Still, there is a survey to take part in if you so desire. Separately, if you are part of the Blue Badge concession scheme, note that after 30th September they will start to get tough again, so make sure you renew at the right time! Go online or call 01243 777653.

More importantly, looking after mental health in lockdown is very important and details are noted on the 'NHS Every Mind Matters' website.

Although we are primarily a rural community in Rother Valley, we still have particularly with those that use Haslemere Station, people that go all the way to London. The present situation has exposed how potty we all are going on EXPENSIVE trains and overcrowded tubes etc. Most are now working from home all or part of the time – the big question is: "is this temporary or permanent?". Personally, I hope we don't go back to the old way. I have two little grandchildren who now see their Mum and Dad far more than before, and where the family saves a lot on travel. I don't agree with the Government trying to force people back to the workplace – we have the chance to make a lifetime 'stepchange' so let's grab it!

The planning laws need amending so that redundant retail can further convert into much needed housing much more quickly.

I am very excited by the opportunities before us. Out of tragedy some good may arise!

I can't wait to see you all face-to-face again but will have to wait a little longer!

Annex B

Parish Council Report For September 2020

From CDC District Cllr. Alan Sutton

Some of you may be aware that I had major open heart surgery a few weeks ago following a sudden illness in July. I am recovering well although it will be a few more weeks until I am fully physically recovered. However I have now resumed my duties as a councillor and cabinet member on a phased return to duties. I will of course continue to support the parish council in any way I can. I am unable to attend face to face meetings at present but as almost all meetings are virtual this does not present a problem.

I resumed the last of my suspended duties last week, returning to the planning committee. The District Council has been quiet but staff are starting to return to work 2 days a week. I have continued to sit on the Housing and Communities and the Economic and High Street recovery teams at CDC. These have started working and it has become clear that the need for more flexibility on the approach to high streets has become more important. It is vital to get the message out that high streets and town centres are open for business across the District. Trends have shown that people are continuing to shop locally and rural farm shops are continuing to do well although footfall has shown that a younger demographic are going into Chichester. Events are crucial going forward and the Great Sussex Way (formerly Visit Chichester) under the chairmanship of Francis Hobbs will soon be marketed with a view to advertising events and opportunities throughout Sussex. The National Park has a grant aimed at supporting anyone in the visitor economy. CDC also has open applications for grants for both business and community based projects affected by Covid 19. The District Council want to continue to encourage entrepreneurship from business that have worked in innovative new ways, such as pubs that have started takeaway businesses and we wish for them to continue without unnecessary hindrance. The District Council is in negotiations to receive a substantial grant to plant trees in the District which in light of the ash tree die back will be welcomed.

Alan

Alan Sutton

Cabinet Member for Housing, Licensing, Communications and Events