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**Minutes from the ordinary Parish Council meeting held at St Michael’s Church Hall at 7:30pm on Thursday 13th March 2025**

**PRESENT** : Parish councilors ; Jason Charman, ( JC ), ( Chairman ), Elisabeth Tooms, ( ET ), Hazel Allinson, ( HA ), Graham Smith, ( GS ), Tim Simpson, ( TS ), Fraser Wheeler, ( FW ), Ian Corcoran, ( IC ) and Leigh Cresswell, ( LC ).

**ALSO PRESENT** ; Steve Trott, ( ST ), ( clerk ), HDC councillor Len Ellis Brown, 19 members of the public and a likeable dark grey dog.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies noted and accepted from : Paul Mustow, ( PW ). Apologies also noted from Paul Marshall ( WSCC councillor ), Paul Clarke & Jon Campbell ( HDC councillors )

**2. To receive declarations of interest from councillors for items on the agenda**

Jason Charman and Graham Smith item 8, millennium Green

Graham Smith and Jason Charman planning at 24 Newlands gardens

**3. To approve and sign the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025**

The minutes were agreed by councillors and signed by the chair and resolved as a true record.

**4. Updates from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Len Ellis Brown, ( HDC ), updated the council that HDC had now completed their office move, he spoke on the devolution process that is happening at County and district council levels and referred to a meeting that Pulborough PC are holding on Monday 17th March at the URC hall in Pulborough when the leader and CEO of Horsham District Council will be speaking about the devolution process. The HDC budget / precept has been agreed with the maximum allowable percentage increase. Parking fees have been increased in Horsham.

**5. Current Matters**

The Clerk reported that Nyetimber have purchased a large plot of land on the south side of Amberley rise and erected a 2 m high chain link fence along the South Downs Way which spoils the views to the south and is extremely unsightly. Having investigated there is little that APC can do, however the Clerk is to arrange a meeting between the PC, the SDNPA ranger responsible for the area, and the estate manager for Nyetimber to discuss the situation.

The ladies bicycle that was found in the car park in January is to be offered in exchange for a small donation to the Church hall, say £ 25.00. Clerk to organise.

Signed …………..………………………….. Dated 8th May 2025

**Committee Reports**

**Planning**



The retrospective planning permission applied for by the Black Horse PH regarding the use of an integral garage as accommodation. ( currently in use as accommodation ), Application withdrawn, a new application is expected to be submitted.

24 Newlands Gardens APC submitted a partial objection to the proposed garage but no objection to the porch or single storey extension.

Willow Cottage, No objection from APC.

Swan Meadows compliance issue re surface water and drainage. SDNPA planning compliance are looking at the issue, the developer has fitted a non-return valve to one pipe by the new bridge, general feel by residents of the site is that things are moving in the right direction but slowly.

**SDNPA revised Local plan / proposed planning application**

Clerk spoke of the process after the public consultation period has ended.

LC read out the council’s proposed response. It was stated that the response to SDNPA was based upon the results of the survey previously carried out by APC.

Survey results and proposed APC response were distributed amongst the council by LC.

Signed …………..………………………….. Dated 8th May 2025

**Assets & Amenities**

The 2 coppiced willows adjacent to the village pond have been removed along with a fallen tree.

The Clerk is preparing a submission to SDNPA for a grant for the works to the village pond as discussed at the PC meeting on 16th January.

The Clerk is preparing a submission to HDC for a shelter on Rackham Road opposite The Sportsman PH for children waiting for the dial bus.

**Roads & Paths**

The hedges at School Road / Ruffs path and Cross path have been cut.

The Corner cottage at the junction of School Road / B2139 where the hedge needs trimming back for visibility of traffic, the Castle, who own the Corner Cottage, are awaiting permission for WSCC Highways traffic partial closure to carry out the works.

JC confirmed that the collapsed drain at the Chalk pits is work outstanding**.**

The presence of pneumatic traffic recording cables on Rackham Road and the B2139 was discussed. The Clerk had already spoken to WSCC highways who had no knowledge of them Clerk to investigate further.

**Village Bus**

A new bus has been purchased but has no wheelchair ramp. The bus is currently being sign written.

The Village bus committee is looking at alternative parking options after the previous theft from the village car park.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

Lights in car park now working.

Damaged fencing rails, WiP, materials ordered.

**Village Bus.**

Parking within the car park a big improvement, steady stream of passengers.

**Climate Action & Nature Recovery Working Group**

FW asked if the APC public liability insurance would cover ‘Greener Amberley’ attending a Stork presentation in Storrington. The Clerk stated that in his opinion the APC PL insurance would not cover Greener Amberley. Clerk to take advice and confirm.

FW asked in Ham Piece could be registered with the conservation group ‘Wealds to Waves’, the RSPB and Sussex, reviewed by council and agreed. Clerk to arrange registrations.

**7. Finance**

To receive and agree Bank Reconciliations for November and December 2024; to review and approve the Financial Statement from 1st January to 28th February **AGREED**

Signed …………..………………………….. Dated 13th March 2025

**8. To review a donation request from the Millennium Green trust.**

The request was to cover the trust’s PL insurance costs. This has previously agreed at £ 300.00, the trust have tendered an invoice for £ 352.17. The council decided that they would only cover the original agreed cost of £ 300.00. Clerk to advise the trust and arrange payment of £ 300.00.

**9. Additional CCTV Camera at Car Park.**

Reviewed, council decided not to proceed with this.

**10. Adjournment – to take questions or comments from members of the public**

The sole subject of the public comments was the SDNPA Local plan proposals ;

A Member of the public ( MoP ) thanked the council for it’s hard work on this matter

A MoP queried whether the existing or proposed Local plan was referenced in the APC response, Clerk confirmed that the proposed plan was referenced.

A MoP asked whether the APC could influence anything during the SDNPA period of revision of the plan. Confirmed by Clerk no, unless we are approached.

MoP asked if we could challenge the long time extended for the SDNPA to revise their plan. Confirmed by Clerk as no. HDC Cllr Len Ellis Brown supported the Clerk.

A MoP commented on the high percentage agreed opinions in the report.

A MoP asked that if a limited planning proposal was proposed by SDNPA that APC would be open to discussion. Council confirmed that the APC preferred option was the bottom field only.

A MoP asked if the PC were representing the Village and challenged the APC position / survey. Council confirmed that their response was based upon the community survey results.

A MoP pointed out that the bottom stream is a water course and would drain into the Chalk Stream in School Road. JC confirmed that at this point it was not a chalk stream.

Cllr Len Ellis Brown suggested liaising with HDC to obtain the fields & suggested a compromise of a smaller number of houses on the bottom field only.

A MoP asked when the public would be able to see the APC response. Clerk confirmed that it would be placed on ‘Gaggle’ once it had been submitted to SDNPA and placed on the APC website when the meeting minutes were completed.

A MoP asked why other groups i.e. Amberley Society, Showstoppers, were not being represented in the APC response. It was confirmed that these groups had made their own submissions and would have been able to take part in the APC survey as residents of the community.

A MoP asked why APC had not carried out its own study of the Chalk Stream. Clerk explained that the reference to the chalk stream was in the APC response and that the classification of the stream would no doubt be tested by SDNPA.

A MoP who prepared the chalk stream report evidence process

Len Ellis Brown suggested that the importance at this time was to submit.

Signed …………..………………………….. Dated 13th March 2025

**11. Response to SDNPA proposed revised local plan**

Proposed response reviewed by Council and proposed submission agreed unanimously.

**12. Clerk’s update and Information items**

Nothing to report.

**13. To review the Parishioner’s correspondence list and agree on any necessary action**

No outstanding parishioners correspondence.

**14. To receive any updates on external meetings attended by councillors**

JC, LC and ST attended a meeting arranged by Storrington PC regarding the devolution process. The possible amalgamation of PC with Parham PC was briefly discussed

**15. To note the date of the next meeting 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm - CONFIRMED**

The Chair closed the meeting at 22.00

Stephen Trott – Clerk to Amberley Parish Council

Signed …………..………………………….. Dated 13th March 2025