**AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2022 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chair - Geoff Uren (GU), Jason Charman (JC), Peter Cozens (PJC), Tim Simpson (TS), Leigh Cresswell (LC), Alex Beveridge (AB), Elizabeth Tooms (ET) and Laura Rawnsley (LR),

**Also present**: HDC Councillor Diana van der Klugt, and 2 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received and noted from WSCC Leader and Councillor Paul Marshall, APC Councillor Hazel Allinson, and the Clerk, Vicky Spiers

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

None.

**3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 January 2022**

The minutes were agreed by councillors and signed by GU as a true record.

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

HDC Councillor Diana van der Klugt updated the meeting on the following issues:

**a)** HDC are looking at the amount of food waste currently being put into landfill. It is estimated that over 42% of non-recycled waste is food, and a Government initiative is expected to mandate that this is used for the production of bio-gas. When this is adopted, food waste collections were expected to be weekly, recycling waste every 2 weeks and garden waste every 3 weeks.

**b)** Cllr. van der Klugt mentioned the Highways England A27 Arundel Bypass consultation. Although the proposed (Grey) route now avoided the SDNP, the Park Authority do not fully support the proposal due it’s the impact on the setting of the SDNP, particularly on views South from Arundel. GU advised that he had completed the consultation on behalf of APC, and had reflected the view that the road would have a positive impact on noise, air quality and traffic on local roads such as the B2139.

**c)** Cllr van der Klugt mentioned the Glover Landscape Review, and the government reaction to the proposals. (This was an agenda item for this meeting). PJC will attend the meeting on 16 March via Zoom, and report to the Council.

**5. Adjournment to take questions or comments from the public**

None.

**6. MATTERS ARISING** **(a) Joint Community Highways Scheme** **(CHS)** – LR advised that there was nothing new to report on this, as we are still awaiting the appointment of a project manager by WSCC. A community engagement event will also be organised once further details of the process are established.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that SDNP/21/02009/PRE should no longer be on this list. APC has objected to Application SDNP/22/00219/REM for the same property. It was also noted that application SDNP/21/04732/HOUS had been refused. APC had supported it.

**b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised (with some relief) that the hedge cutting season had now ended due to bird nesting and would be resumed in September. The new “Houghton Bridge” sign has been erected on the roadside going Westward, the Eastbound sign needs to be placed in an appropriate location.

**(c) Assets and Amenities** – No report.

**(d) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that the application for the discharge of planning conditions had been submitted to SDNPA, and a response had been expected by 10 March. This was received on the day of the meeting, and the Landscape Officer had raised some minor points. TS will prepare a response, which we will submit in the next week to finalise the discharge of conditions, allowing work to start.

**(e) Village Bus** – In view of the steep rise in road fuel prices, councillors suggested that the Village Bus would be a more economical mode of transport to take residents to shops. It was agreed that this positive impact should be publicised in the Wildbrooks Magazine.

**8. To receive and agree bank reconciliations for January and February 2022 and to review and authorise payments on the Financial Statement from 1January to 28 February 2022.**

The January and February 2022 bank reconciliations and bank statements were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period 1st January to February 28th 2022 was agreed by members and signed. The financial statement is as follows:



**9.** **To review and approve the Council’s ASSETS REGISTER**

This was approved by the Council. PJC asked why the valuations were based on purchase price, and didn’t take depreciation into account. This matter will be referred to the Clerk for clarification.

**10. To Review request for donation to West Sussex Mind Charity**

Councillors recognised the support that Mind give to those with mental health issues, many of which have been exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, lockdowns, etc. It was agreed that a donation of £200 should be made. LR also suggested that Sussex Mind should be asked to provide a link for the APC website to assist residents to get help, plus it should be suggested to Mind that they publicise their service in the Wildbrooks Magazine. Councillors supported this approach.

**11. To discuss and agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting**

In view of the difficulties due to continuing Covid levels and the short time available to arrange a meeting, it was decided that this would be deferred until 2023.

**12. To Receive updates on external meetings attended by Councillors**

PJC attended a NALC Levelling Up meeting via Zoom. He reported that the topics were of limited relevance to our area. At present, responsibility for “Levelling Up” is devolved down to District Council level. There was support for further devolving this to Parish Council level.

**13. To discuss and approve a response to the Glover Landscape Review**

It was agreed that a response would be made after the meeting on 16 March with SDNP. This will be attended by PJC, who will report back. GU asked Councillors to look at the links in the Clerk’s email on this subject dated 2 February and forward their comments to either PJC or GU to inform our response to the consultation.

**14. To adopt the revised LGA Model Code of Conduct**

Councillors voted unanimously to adopt the revised Code

**15. Information Items**

GU mentioned that he had reported the damage (falling stones) on the North wall of Amberley Castle to Historic England and to Ms. Anooshka Rawden, Cultural Heritage Lead at the SDNPA. They will be setting up a site meeting with the Castle owners to discuss rectification of the damage. Up until now, the Castle owners had merely said that they were “monitoring the situation”, and when GU asked them what their plans were for repair, it was apparent that they had none.

**16. To note the date of the next meeting**

Noted as 12th May 2022 at 7.30pm. PJC and LR submitted their apologies in advance, as they will be away on that date.

GU closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Geoff Uren Chairman, on behalf of Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Amberley Parish Council

11 March 2022