**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 28th March 2019, 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors – Geoff Uren (GU) Chairman, Jason Charman (JC) Peter Cozens (PJC) Hazel Allinson (HA), Leigh Cresswell (LC) Geoff Conlon (GC), Tim Simpson (TS), Abigail Rice (AR)

Also present HDC Cllr Jim Sanson (JS), Emma Wills Facilities Manager Nyetimber Estates and approximately 50 to 60 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr Paul Marshall, Laura Rawnsley and The Clerk Vicky Spiers.

**2. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

The only questions residents had were regarding Nyetimber or car parking and it was agreed they would be answered after the reports. Malcolm Pheasey also had a report about GTR but it was requested this would be done later.

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

JC on item 7(a).

**4. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2019**

Minutes were agreed by Councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**5. INTRODUCTION TO NYETIMBER VINEYARDS BY EMMA WILLS**

Emma Wills (EW) introduced herself as Facilities Manager for Nyetimber Estates and the contact for anyone who has questions. EW said that at the moment the business plans were being worked on and she didn’t have any information regarding them. However, EW showed a map of where the vines were to be planted on the south facing slopes. Their plan is to use the rest of the land for grazing cattle and sheep but not for farming or for keeping pigs. They are aware of their responsibilities as landowners and are keen to be good neighbours to the village. The following are a selection of questions from residents:

Q: GU *asked if they could consider growing the hedge higher along B2139 as a resident believes it shields noise pollution.*

*A: A* resident, was not convinced that higher hedges helped with this.

*Q: David Lyon responded by saying that he believed the hedges were cut low previously so that the farmers were able, with binoculars, to keep an eye on the cattle. He also asked whether Nyetimber would walk the boundaries to understand boundary hedges and ditches*

*A:* EW responded that they have an Estate Team in place who have started an inspection. In response to another question regarding whether they were in touch with SDNPA. EW said that Simon Mockford was liaising with them.

Q: *Are any buildings planned for wine production*

A: EW said there are no plans at the moment as they already have two pressing centres.

Q: *A resident asked to see map of where vines are to be planted*

A: EW promised to email a digital copy of the map.

Q: *Would plot 7 – the field used as a second car park for events such as Gardens Open be available for sale.*

A: EW said that currently there was no appetite to sell any of the land until the business plan was completed. EW said that she is already taking requests for parking for these events.

Q: *Would the farm be used for visits*

A: EW said that Gay Street Manor is used for visits. She also said that all residents would shortly be receiving an invitation to visit Gay Street Manor.

GU thanked Emma Wills for coming and EW left at 8pm.

**6. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

JS said that this was his last meeting as Amberley was now going to be in the Pulborough district together with Coldwaltham. GU thanked him for all his work.

JS left the meeting at 8.05pm.

**7. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

a) Newland Gardens – GC advised that he would contact Saxon Weald regarding the fence on the site, some repairs are still required.

b) New Website. GU explained that we had changed providers and that the new website would be more useable. He said that he would put on Listserve information on website and when it goes live which would also include details of all councillor’s new email addresses as personal email addresses are no longer to be used for APC business.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Planning** - PJC said that they have had two meetings with SDNP about Strawberry Villas who have now called it in. The main focus was to do with insufficient provision of affordable housing. Also, SDNP have requested landscaping plans now rather than after planning has been granted.

Also Planning application for Pickwick has been called in by SDNP on request of APC because of the plan for several dwellings on one site.

The current planning applications are as follows;



**b) Roads and Paths** - JC reported that they have now found a home for the beehives and thanked AR for her help in relocating them. The potholes remain a problem in the village although they have been marked but some of them are beginning to get bigger. A resident from the floor mentioned that the large pothole outside Wisteria Cottage was now beginning to collapse into the ditch. JC also mentioned that we are currently without a Steward at Highways as he has left.

GU thanked JC for all his hard work clearing ditches and verges.

**c) Assets and Amenities** - HA advised that Watersfield Football Club has requested use of the Football field pitch on Saturday afternoons – after Storrington Vipers have played in the morning. She is to have a meeting on 9th April with Keith Dalmon and Watersfield FC and hopefully Storrington Vipers to discuss this. HA also said that after inspecting the roller in the football pitch, Barry Hunt who was going to roll the football field had said that it was not heavy enough for the job and that it would be a waste of money – so it was decided not to proceed. HA mentioned that Jeremy Graver has a contact who may be able to help with the rabbit problem in both the cricket and football fields. HA advised that Ham Piece which was rented to the Strudwicks for additional grazing is now getting overgrown and would be looking for someone who would like to use it for grazing.

**d)** **Village Bus -**  GC said that as from 15th April Compass Buses are withdrawing the twice-daily (Mondays to Fridays) No 74 service between Amberley and Storrington despite efforts by APC to maintain the route. The Village Bus will now offer a four month trial on a Monday morning before Bognor to Storrington and then to the Health Centre, Tesco and Sainsburys at Pulborough. The drivers have done a trial run for timings and the timetable has been published in the April edition of the parish magazine. GU also mentioned that he had requested help from Nick Herbert MP regard in relaxing rule regarding drivers over 70.

**e)** **Neighbourhood Plan -**  TS reported that activity has focused on completing and submitting the Planning Application for the car park.  This was submitted to SDNPA on 15 March, following a huge effort from many volunteers, among whom Phil and Adrienne Greenwood have contributed their expertise and time unstintingly.

The initial result has been to encounter a bureaucratic hurdle – we mis-titled one of the (12) documents (on our lighting scheme conforming to the SDNPA Dark Skies policy) – and need to do a small amount of further work to complete this.  But once this is done, residents will be able to view the application and supporting documents on the Planning Portal.

GU also thanked the Greenwoods for all their help and presented them with a bottle of Nyetimber wine. The Greenwoods also thanked Russell Coates for all his help with the car park landscaping

**9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

All the necessary financial documents were signed. The financial report for the period 10th January 2019 to 28th March 2019 is as follows;



**10. CAR PARKING IN PARISH**

GU officially launched the Amberley Parking Watch project but warned that it was imperative that we welcome visitors to Amberley who are important to all our businesses, but we do need to encourage them to park sensibly and legally**.** Both the BH pub and the Tea Rooms have said that because people are unable to park they are turning around and leaving. There are currently 11 cars parked on the roads just from the BH staff who will be encouraged to park in the car park when it is built. GU read out a letter from a resident who does not have any off-road parking and lives close to the Black Horse, her preference was for notices to be put up requesting people to park considerately and the consideration of a yellow line system on the house side of the street.GU handed out Amberley Parking Watch packs which contained guidance notes and notes for cars to the sevenvolunteers.

Questions were then taken from the floor:

Q: *Will car registrations be logged.*

A: No this could contravene Data Protection

Q: *Will the problem areas be logged*

A: It was agreed that we should note hot spots

Q: *A few residents had not seen a request for volunteers and thought that everyone who requested them would be given stickers to put on cars*

A: Email went out about 10 days ago – however this is a trial to see how it works and more volunteers should this be successful will be needed in the future

Q: *Nobody wants to receive one of these notes – we must take care doing this*

*A:* Noted

Grahame Joseph mentioned that parking by a junction is now not enforceable. It was agreed that there would be a meeting of all co-ordinators in a couple of weeks.

**11. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

GU briefly mentioned that the APC councillors were all up for re-election on 2nd May and currently we were not aware of anyone else seeking election

**12. AMBERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

Ray Jackson, Governor of the school and Glenys Rowe told the meeting about wanting to establish an eco-friendly outdoor learning area to enable pupils to experience direct interaction with their environment. They requested the support of Amberley Parish Council as a partner in this project either financially or in kind. GU said that the school was very important but this year there are no finances available. APC voted to support the project and Glenys Rowe requested a letter be sent to Jon Gilbert to confirm this. Ray Jackson said that there would be a summer fair and it would be nice if APC had a stall. He said that the school is keen to forge closer relationship with the village

**13. INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**14. CORRESPONDENCE LIST AND REQUEST FOR DONATIONS**

James Tolson, from the floor, said that he had applied for a kissing gate at Houghton Bridge near the bee farm.

JC said that he had cleared the debris from the pavement opposite museum. And also said that the two lorries which had become stuck under railway bridge had taken the wrong turning. Claims that there were no signs to indicate a low bridge were dismissed.

**15. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

GC attended the HALC meeting and reported that Sussex Safer Roads had commented on the motorbikes on B2139 at Amberley. GU said that Charles Shaw had taken over the chair of Houghton Parish Meeting and had requested that LR liaised with him and try to do an analysis of speeding

GU said he attended a PAT training course and was now qualified to certify electrical equipment and offered to do this for any community electrical equipment. JC mentioned that this is needed at the Cricket Pavilion

Peter Cozens attended a police open day at Lewes where speeding issues were discussed

GU closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Minutes taken by Cllr H Allinson

3rd April 2019