# **AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th July 2019, 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall.**

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

Also present: Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk, County Cllr Paul Marshall, District Cllr Diana Van der Klugt, District Cllr Brian Donnelly, Trevor Tupper (Secretary and Treasurer of the West Sussex Rail Users Assoc) and 5 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Geoff Uren, Laura Rawnsley and District Cllr Paul Clarke.

*Item 5 was moved up the agenda*

**5. REPORT/UPDATE FROM TREVOR TUPPER ON THE WORK OF THE WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION (WSRUA)**

Trevor advised that WSRUA has 150 members, 20 residents from Amberley joined last year amidst all the timetable changes and he would urge them to renew. Currently Amberley station sees 50,000 to 60,000 passengers a year, which is a low number of passengers, he felt the Amberley Museum greatly contributed to the use of the station. He advised that the majority of daily users come from Storrington or West Chiltington as there is free parking at the station.

WSRUA are currently trying to secure a half hourly service on a Saturday for Amberley.

Trevor mentioned that there is a Passenger Benefit Fund which is providing funding for amenities at stations such as seating and shelters. WWSRUA have applied for additional seating at Amberley and Rowena Tyler (Community Officer of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership) has put in a request for funding to re-open the toilets at the station, Trevor said that these have been closed for 30 years so will need a complete refurbishment.

A resident asked if the fund could be used to raise the platform at the station, Trevor advised that infrastructure work is not included, this will be down to Network Rail but will be a very low priority for them.

JC thanked Trevor for his informative talk and Trevor left the meeting at 8pm.

**2. PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT TO TAKE COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

No comments

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

None

**4. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2019**

It was noted that on Page 2, paragraph 2, line 2 that ‘county’ should be replaced with ‘district’ the minutes were agreed by Councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

*Item 5 was moved up the agenda*

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

Cllr Paul Marshall advised that he had spoken to WSCC Highways regarding lorries hitting the railway bridge on the B2139, Highways are satisfied that there is sufficient warning signage, so would not take any further action. Paul also responded regarding the re-painting of white lines in the village, (the Parish Council had been trying to get these re-painted and were told categorically by a previous Highways Steward that they would not be done the Traffic Officer for WSCC Highways had confirmed that whilst the re-painting of the white lines fell outside of their ‘Safety Plus-Guidance’ work he felt that a valid safety issue was present and secured the budget for the work to be done.

Paul also mentioned the £28m further budget cuts that WSCC needs to make, a range of options are being considered with the final decision being made in September.

JC asked Paul if Michael Norris was still the Highways Steward for this area as he was waiting a response regarding the cat eyes being re-installed along the B2139, Paul will check with Highways.

A resident asked Paul if anything could be done regarding reducing the speed limit to 30mph by the South Downs Way crossing and along the B2139, several residents have been clipped by vehicle wing mirrors when walking round the bend opposite the Museum. JC advised that the overgrown vegetation on this bend was being cut back by the owner this weekend (13-14th July). The resident asked if average speed cameras could be used or a sign that flashes your speed. Paul advised the Parish Council to consider submitting a Traffic Road Order, it was noted that only a couple of these are agreed for action by WSCC each year, but Paul as County Councillor would back our proposal.

Village gates were also discussed with a difference in opinion by the attending residents as to if they were effective in reducing speed of the traffic.

Cllr Diana van der Klugt stated that the SDNPA Local Plan had been adopted from 2nd July 2019, all planning applications will now be reviewed under policies from this Plan and not the Horsham Local Plan of 2007. Diana is also on the SDNPA board and planning committee.

A resident raised that walkers have said that there are not enough seats on the South Downs Way – it was noted that this needs to be raised directly to SDNPA.

*Cllr Paul Marshall left the meeting at 8.30pm*

Cllr Brian Donnelly mentioned the Mayfield housing development between Henfield and Mid-Sussex which would see approx. 7000 houses being built and potentially a development at Adversane for 3000 new houses.

**7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**(a)** Ham Piece – The Clerk advised that this was now being rented to Mr & Mrs Tester on a 6-month lease by APC. Longer term the Council may look to sell this asset, the Clerk is currently awaiting the title deed documentation from HM Land Registry.

**(b)** Lorries hitting railway bridge on B2139 – see item 6

**(c)** Re-painting of white lines in the village – see item 6

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC stated that where APC have asked for conditions to be added to Decision Notices that HDC were taking notice and in the majority adding these in.

PJC advised the original application for Pickwick was withdrawn and a new application has been submitted to demolish the existing building and replace with 9 new dwellings, the application has been called in by the SDNPA. PJC said APC need to be even handed reviewing this application as we are supporting the Strawberry Villas development, there are however some issues over access, drainage and design – he will be discussing with SDNPA.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC advised most of the current issues had already been mentioned. The pothole outside Southdown House in the High Street has finally been repaired. He has cut some large brambles down opposite the playground entrance, this overgrowth is coming from a field owned by Nyetimber – the Clerk has notified them. JC reminded that WSCC only cut paths on a 15-month rota and he tries to keep them passable in between these cuts. Homeowners reminded of their responsibility to cut back any overgrowth that is overhanging path, roads or pavements.

**c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised that we are down 27 rabbits in the cricket field, the pest controller is out again tonight. However, the vacant burrows are being filled by rabbits from neighbouring fields (owned by Nyetimber and the UKPN) – Clerk to write to both to see if they will work with us.

The Nursery Rhyme unit in Hurst Cottages playground has been repainted. Following the annual inspection of both playgrounds there is some further maintenance required which will be done shortly.

**(d) Village Bus** – GC had submitted a report prior to the meeting advising that both income and expenditure had eased down over the year. The Monday bus trial journey to Storrington and Pulborough is going well with residents using the route (the trial is due to finish in August), the number of passengers travelling to Bognor is down slightly.

**(e) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that the main area of focus is the village car park, on the verge of getting the planning permission approved. The archaeological survey showed no archaeological features which means an excavation is not required. The two water vole surveys undertaken by an ecologist showed no evidence of water voles. Next step will be finding the funding, £75,000 has already been applied for via SDNPA CIL funding – currently still waiting to hear the outcome.

**9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

All the necessary documents were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period up to 11th July 2019 was produced and agreed.

The financial statement is as follows;



**10. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – TO BE NOTED BY COUNCILLORS**

Councillors noted the report.

*Cllrs Brian Donnelly and Diana van der Klugt left the meeting at 9.05pm*

**11. UPDATE ON SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC ISSUES IN THE PARISH**

Laura Rawnsley (LR) could not make the meeting but had sent a report, advising she is liaising with Dr Shaw who runs the Houghton Parish meeting, there is the possibility of a joint Community Speedwatch (CSW) with Houghton and Amberley but a suitable place for volunteers to stand needs to be found and assessed by Sussex Police first.

A resident asked if Crossgates was included in this issue, JC advised that LR was focusing on the B2139. The resident advised that she has very serious concerns regarding speeding through Crossgates, certain times of the day are worse – the morning (work start time) and after the pub shuts, she feels it is predominantly residents who are speeding. She asked the PC if anything could be done, JC advised that unfortunately CSW would not be an option as there are no pavements for the volunteers to stand on. The installation of traffic calming methods such as pinch points or sleeping policeman were discussed. It was agreed that the resident would speak to her neighbours to see if they would be in agreement to either of these. JC will also meet with the resident to discuss further.

**12. DISCUSSION ON LOCAL BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT** AR advised that she would like to run a local business event to look at any issues local businesses have and to get them to collaborate to resolve them, she will look into in more detail and have a report to bring to the next PC meeting.

**13. RISK ASSESSMENT – TO BE NOTED BY COUNCILLORS**

Councillors noted the risk assessment.

**14. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Clerk advised that SALC have issued training passports for Councillors, each time a Councillor attends a SALC training course they receive a stamp, the PC with the most stamps at the end of the year will win SALC vouchers to put towards further training, it was agreed that the Clerk would keep the passports until they were required.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUESTS FOR DONANTIONS**

There have been no donation requests.

The current list of parishioner queries is as follows;



**16. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

PJC attended a HALC meeting where there was an annual update on GDPR.

**17. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

12th September 2019 at 7.30pm.

JC closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Vicky Spiers – Clerk to Amberley Parish Council

16th July 2019