# **AMBERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes from the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th November 2019, 7.30pm at St Michael’s Church Hall.**

**PRESENT**: Parish Councillors; Chairman – Geoff Uren (GU), Jason Charman (JC), Peter Cozens (PJC), Hazel Allinson (HA), Abigail Rice (AR), Tim Simpson (TS), Laura Rawnsley (LR).

Also present: Vicky Spiers (VS) the Clerk, District Cllr Brian Donnelly, District Cllr Diana van der Klugt and 7 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received and accepted from Geoff Conlon, Leigh Cresswell, County Cllr Paul Marshall and District Cllr Paul Clarke.

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

A resident advised that after the heavy rain water was running down the hill on the B2139 and collecting by the bend opposite the Museum, this was partly due to a blocked drain at the end of High Titten. ACTION: Clerk to report blocked drain to WSCC.

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

None

**4. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

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

Cllr Brian Donnelly advised that HDC is currently reviewing its Local Plan, housing needs are being assessed in accordance to a government formula which shows that the Horsham District must provide 965 new dwellings a year, this is likely to rise to 1200 as HDC have a duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities who can’t meet their quota (ie Adur and Worthing due to the sea one side and the South Downs the other side and Crawley).

Cllr Diana van der Klugt has spoken to Trevor Beattie of SDNPA regarding WSCC ending their lease on Kithurst car park from October 2020 and he has confirmed that the SDNPA will not be taking on the management of the car park. Tim Hayward who owns the car park is in communication with the South Downs Trust regarding them taking over the lease/ownership, they have advised that they would charge for any parking but would not enforce this. There are concerns that if the car park is closed then people would park on the road leading up to car park which is narrow with some passing points, the Clerk advised that this road has to be kept clear as it is a designated route for emergency services to access the South Downs Way. GU suggested that APC offer to work with Parham PC to try and find a resolution.

Diana advised that the SDNPA have approved their infrastructure business plan, which includes the new community car park in Amberley, this means that APC can apply for Community Infrastructure Funding (CIL) in 2020/21. Diana advised that out of 111 projects applying to SDNPA for funding in 2019/20 twenty were successful in receiving CIL funding.

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

**(a)** **Ham Piece** – The Clerk advised that in order for APC to register the land we require the original deed which is stored in the archives at county records in Chichester. It has been confirmed by the archivist that we can borrow the document which must be collected and returned by hand, it was agreed for the Clerk to do this in early 2020. The Clerk advised that Mr & Mrs Tester who currently lease the land for grazing would like to continue, Council agreed to extend the lease until 30th November 2020. The Testers are currently repairing some boundary fencing on the land. A resident advised that a plank which had previously been laid to ease access onto Ham Piece between the track and the bridge was now almost covered in mud, after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Mr & Mrs Tester if they could help to improve the access for this section, with APC paying for materials if required and agreed upfront. ACTION: Clerk to write to Mr & Mrs Tester’s agent.

**(b)** **Traffic Road Order on B2139** – unfortunately the TRO application submitted by the Clerk was not successful as WSCC Highways advised that it did not meet the criteria of WSCC’s 2010 Speed Policy, which means that the proposed 30mph route must have frontage development of 30% on both sides or 50% on one side and that existing traffic speeds within the proposed 30mph zone should not exceed a 7 day average of 32.9mph, the September 2019 data from the road shows an average speed of 36.5mph. Residents at the meeting expressed their dissatisfaction that WSCC had not appeared to have taken into account any of the issues raised in the application or the 45 supporting emails from residents. There is a grey box by Castle Lane that measures volume and speed of traffic, the data is available from WSCC, the Clerk to send details on to a couple of the residents who would like to view this.

**(c)** **Speeding along Rackham Road** – JC has met with residents and Cllr Paul Marshall to discuss the speeding along this road, Paul agreed that a Community Speedwatch group would be a good idea, the Clerk has set up a CSW group for Amberley online. JC advised that the majority of the speeding was done early in the morning so at this time of day a CSW group may not be practical so we may need to consider collecting evidence of speeding another way. LR suggested installing speed strips which stay down for 10 days (these have recently been used in Houghton), this way accurate data would be obtained, LR will forward details to the Clerk.

**(d) Traffic on B2139 and Community Speedwatch in Amberley and Houghton –** LR advised that under the CSW group set up by Dr Charles Shaw three sites had been approved and Houghton have 6 volunteers, the group is currently on hold as a fourth site has been turned down as it is within 30 meters of a junction, however Storrington CSW have a site which is less than 30m from a junction so Charles has queried is waiting to hear back from Steve O’Connell the CSW co-ordinator. It was noted that Amberley now have their own CSW set up, the next step is to buy the equipment and ask for volunteers. ACTION: Clerk to apply for a grant from the Police Property Fund to cover the cost of the equipment.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**(a) Planning –**

The list of current planning applications is as follows;



PJC advised that he had spoken to Tim Slaney from SDNPA regarding the planning application for High Titten camp site as APC felt that the SDNPA should also consider the type of application as well as the size when calling applications in. Tim agreed and asked for APC to flag any applications in the future of this nature.

PJC advised that APC would be supporting the Strawberry Villa’s application with a few caveats. The application for No.4 Drewitts Farm is currently being discussed by the planning committee who are minded to oppose as it is outside of the settlement boundary, also the property is currently still under construction and unoccupied but an individual is applying for the extension.

**(b) Roads and Paths** – JC expressed his thanks to Malcolm Pheasey for clearing the pavement along Turnpike Road. JC advised that another lorry has reversed into Turnpike Tollhouse, causing damage – this is the third time this year, the tearooms were also damaged. The Guitar shop has also been hit three times this year and JC has asked for a copy of the emails which the owner has sent to WSCC in order that APC can arrange for a Highways meeting on site to discuss further. JC has photographic evidence which he will forward to GU.

A member of the public advised that there was a broken stile near the railway, JC will let the Clerk know the FP number for her to report to the landowner (Nyetimber).

**c) Assets and Amenities** – HA advised that all the repairs on both playgrounds had now been completed.

HA advised that a new gate had been erected in the football field by a local resident during the summer as on a number of occasions dogs and children had run through the gap towards the road. The resident had not spoken to APC beforehand (who lease the field and have conditions that to be met before any changes can be made). After a long discussion it was decided that the gate should remain, but for residents to be aware that any matters/issues regarding the football field should be brought to APC’s attention before any action is taken.

**(d) Village Bus** – GC had submitted a report prior to the meeting advising that it had been decided to extend the trial routes to Storrington and Pulborough through the winter period to give a clearer view of the usage. The routes have been approved by the traffic commissioner and included on the Permit. The subsidy application to West Sussex County Council has also been approved for the coming year. Phil Greenwood organised a Drivers lunch in the Bridge Public house in September at which Rob Rowe stood down as a driver of our bus. APC would like to record their thanks for the years of service Rob has given the community.

**(e) Amberley Neighbourhood Plan delivery** – TS advised that unfortunately APC were not successful in obtaining a CIL grant from the SDNPA because at the time of the application we did not have planning permission for the car park. We can apply for the 2020/21 CIL funding. Several other streams of funding were also being looked at, including an initial submission to the National Lottery Community Fund. TS advised that approx. £50,000 of funding will be coming from a CIL payment from the Strawberry Villa’s development. The lease for the car park is still with HDC lawyers, GU advised that this needs to be chased up. TS advised that if Kithurst car park does close then this would increase the parking need. GU thought that the loss of the Kithurst car park could strengthen the case for funding of our village car park from the SDNPA community infrastructure funding (CIL).

**(f) Finance** – the Clerk advised that a Finance meeting had been held at the end of October, to discuss the 2020/21 budget (a copy of which had been sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting), the Clerk is still waiting for the revised tax based figures from HDC before a final budget could be submitted to the Council for approval in January 2020.

**8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

All the necessary documents were approved and signed. The financial statement for the period up to 14th November was produced and agreed.

The financial statement is as follows;



**9. WINTER PLAN**

HA had sent a report to Councillors prior to the meeting advising that in September she had completed Amberley’s Salt Bin audit and due to the fact that our bus service had been cut the Clerk checked WSCC Highway’s map to see whether School Road/East Street/Rackham Road were still going to be gritted (although no longer a bus route used by Compass it is still used by the school bus and the community bus), and in September when the Audits had to be submitted to WSCC the map showed clearly that all these roads would still be gritted. Consequently, there was no need to consider extra bins and salt to cope with gritting the road ourselves. In November WSCC announced that it was reducing its gritting routes from 41% to 28% which means that only major bus routes will now be gritted, Amberley along with many other villages will no longer be gritted. Unfortunately, it is too late to order extra salt from WSCC (all requests had to be submitted by 30th September) and too late to order extra salt bins (as these need Highways approval before they can be installed). Following a long discussion, it was agreed to purchase a salt spreader which would help with the additional routes that now need to be manually gritted. APC noted their concerns to this and the impact it would have on the village.

It was also agreed that APC would send a written representation as to why we think gritting in Amberley should be re-instated to the next Chanctonbury Local Committee meeting (being held on 19th November) to be discussed under Item 7 of their agenda (Winter Maintenance). ACTION: email to be sent to Cllr Paul Marshall and to WSCC Highways.

**10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

GU advised that Revd. Gerry Burgess is the holder of vouchers for the Foodbank in Storrington. There was a discussion regarding erecting a community noticeboard in Newland Gardens, it was agreed to take this item forward to January 2020 meeting which hopefully Gerry would be attending to discuss further.

The Clerk advised that at Parham PC’s meeting on 12th November, they had rejected a motion to declare a climate emergency but did acknowledge residents’ concerns about a wide range of environmental issues including climate change and would therefore be producing an information leaflet for their website and noticeboards.

**11. PARISHIONER’S CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

No requests for donations. The Council noted a letter of thanks from the Royal British Legion for a donation of £20.

The current list of parishioner queries is as follows;



**12. EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS**

HA attended a Climate Change meeting in Pulborough Village Hall which was very professionally run and very well attended. One of the speakers was Carrie Cort who has founded Sussex Green Living which amongst other things has a recycling scheme for Single Use Plastics. Thakeham Parish Council and Storrington Parish Council are already collecting and Pulborough Parish Council are in the process of joining. HA has contacted Jon Gilbert (Headteacher of Amberley Primary School) who is very keen for the school to be involved and HA would also like APC to be involved. After discussion it was agreed that HA would speak to the school again to see which recycling bins they would be interested in and GU advised he would ask The Pepper Trust to finance.

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

9th January 202 at 7.30pm.

GU closed the meeting at 9.48pm.

Vicky Spiers – Clerk to Amberley Parish Council

19th November 2019