



ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

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Office: Tuesdays 10a.m - 12noon in Hapstead Hall, Ardingly

Minutes of the meeting of Ardingly Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room at Hapstead Hall

Present:

Mr. W. Meldrum (Chair)	Mrs. P. Dennis
Mr. M. Brixey	Mrs. R. Chalk
Mr. K. Monk	Mr. N. Moorey
Mrs. F. Rocks	Mr. D. Stutchbury

Apologies

Mr. P. Simpson, Mr. G. Ruse, Mr. J. Aloof

In Attendance:

Mrs. R. Jarvis (RFO)
Mrs. S Mamoany (Clerk)
8 members of the public

Public Questions

Neil Kersley asked the Chair why the Council was looking to 'call in' the two appeals to the Secretary of State. The Chair advised that the reasons would be discussed at item 294.5 on the agenda and that the Council had checked the qualifying criteria.

Another resident asked who was paying for the Neighbourhood Plan? The Chair advised that the Council had received grants to pay for the additional costs and consultants fees and the time put in by the Councillors' and residents who had worked on the project was given voluntarily.

Geoff Marshall the owner of Poppits, 13 College Road, Ardingly informed Councillors that his planning application that was on the agenda for discussion. He gave a brief talk about the plans and how the architect had produced plans to be sympathetic and have minimum impact on his neighbours' and thanked the Planning Committee for making a site visit.

289.	Procedural Matters 289.1 Apologies were received from Peter Simpson, George Ruse and Jonathan Aloof 289.2 No declarations of interested were received. 289.3 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 4 th March were AGREED and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.	
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290.	<p>Matters arising from the previous minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>The Clerk reported she had requested a copy of the annual accounts from the Church following the previous meeting, but had not received them.</p>	
291.	<p>Finance</p> <p>291.1 The schedule of payments for March had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated; it was AGREED and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>291.2 Rachel Jarvis (RFO) returned from maternity leave as from the 17th March 2014. RFO confirmed, as agreed, that the Clerk had only been covering the basic cash book whilst she had been away and therefore would need to catch up on the backlog of workload. It was AGREED that she would submit her additional hours on a regular basis rather than accruing them and submitting them at the end of the year. This would be listed on a schedule so that it is clearly documented.</p> <p>291.3 The Chair raised a query regarding Council Tax bills as although the Council had decreased the precept for 2014-15, the Council Tax bills for Ardingly showed an increase of 3.5%. The RFO and Clerk had raised the issue of grants with MSDC prior to the precept being set and had been informed that it would not affect the Parish Council. Following the increase being highlighted to the RFO, she had queried this with MSDC and had been advised that this was due to the fact that in previous years we had received a grant from MSDC which had been removed for this year. The Chair requested that the RFO pursue this issue with MSDC and requested a statement from them that can be put on the website as the Council had been prudent when setting budgets and residents would not be aware of this due to the increase that had been shown on the bills.</p>	RFO
292.	<p>Environment and Traffic Committee</p> <p>292.1 The Chair confirmed that the Council had received a response from the consultant and a reply would be drafted. The Clerk was still working on the consultation response breakdown. A meeting was being set up with WSCC and the project manager at the end of April.</p> <p>292.2 Speedwatch. The Clerk reported two volunteers had come forward to help with speedwatch. One resident had also kindly come forward to offer to do a flyer drop around the village, however it was discussed that the cost of printing needed to be taken into consideration as we had already advertised in the Village Voice, Parish Magazine, website and notice boards. It was AGREED that we would try another advert in the Village Voice to see if that brought in any further interest and not to proceed with the flyers due to the cost implications.</p> <p>292.3 The speed signage in Street Lane was discussed following concerns raised by a resident. Following the discussions it was AGREED not to increase signage as it was felt this would create a more urban feel to a rural area.</p>	
293.	<p>Hapstead Hall Management Committee</p> <p>NM reported that a meeting was to be held the following week. The heating was discussed and NM agreed to ask the caretaker to turn the thermostat down as the weather was getting warmer.</p>	NM
294.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Committee</p> <p>294.1 The Clerk spoke with Mark Bristow at MSDC the previous week to obtain an update as we had been informed the consultation would start at the end of March. MSDC advised that they were still awaiting clarification from outside legal bodies regarding the Habitat Regulation Assessment. It was AGREED that the Clerk should formally write to Mark Bristow to clarify the exact position and ask for a timetable to be provided. Claire Tester, Norman Webster, Miranda Pearce (DCLG) would be copied into the email. It was noted that Hurstpierpoint NP was going out to consultation very shortly, although they are not within the 7km of Ashdown Forest.</p> <p>294.2 FR attended the MSDC Neighbourhood Plan Workshop held on the 11th March. FR reported that it had been a useful meeting to attend and part of the workshop had involved going through the reasons why the Slaugham NP had failed the examination. FR had spoken with an independent examiner and she had suggested the Council should consider 'calling in' the appeals.</p> <p>294.3 & 294.4 The Chair reported that he had read out the statements at both the Butchers Field and Standgrove appeals as agreed at the last meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. He noted that the length of the statement did not matter and it can be as long or short as required in order to cover the points to be made. The Butchers Field appeal was more critical of the Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan than the Standgrove appeal. Both appeals had members of the public present and it was felt by both the Chair and FR who had attended on most days that they did not know what the outcomes would be. The Clerk had been advised it takes approximately 7 weeks for the</p>	Clerk

	<p>Inspectorate to make her decision.</p> <p>294.5 The Chair explained the reason why the Council could look at 'calling in' or 'recovering' the appeals as they had now been heard is that they could be of 'national importance' due to the fact that the government wish to support localism and part of this involves putting together Neighbourhood Plans. The sites in question are relatively small, but also located in the AONB. The Chair informed that if we proceeded down this route and were successful the Secretary of State would look at the reports produced by the Inspectorate at the appeals and make a decision, this being the final decision. The advantage of this is that it would delay the final decision by approximately 6 months and therefore give the Council more time to take the Neighbourhood Plan through the consultation and examination stage, thereby giving it more weight.</p> <p>A discussion was held with Councillors regarding the reasons for and against calling in the appeals. This was then put to the vote and it was AGREED not to proceed with 'calling in' the appeals, 5 members voting not to proceed and 3 members voting to proceed.</p>	
<p>295.</p>	<p>Planning Committee</p> <p>295.1 Planning applications and decisions were discussed at the Planning Committee Meeting held prior to the Parish Council Meeting. It was AGREED that as Planning Committee Meetings were held on a monthly basis it was not a requirement to have this item on the Parish Council agenda in the future.</p> <p>295.2 MB reported that the Planning Committee had held a site meeting at Poppits, 13 College Road on the 15th March and members of the Planning Committee were split in their views. MB felt that the two issues relating to this application were (i) setting a precedent of building in back gardens and (ii) access onto College Road.</p> <p>The meeting closed for the owner to explain the plans to members who were not on the Planning Committee and then reopened.</p> <p>Following a general discussion regarding the plans it was put to the vote – 3 voted to object the application, 3 voted with no objection and 2 abstained. It was therefore AGREED that the Clerk would respond to MSDC raising the Parish Council's concerns relating to setting a precedent for the acceptance of building in back gardens in a rural setting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>296.</p>	<p>Recreation & Open Space Committee</p> <p>296.1 NM reported that the insurance company had accepted the Parish Council's claim with regard to storm damage at the pavilion. The moss had been removed from the roof and underneath 20 cracked tiles were discovered, which have since been replaced. The building is now watertight.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had been informed by WSCC that we could not look for funds from the Members Big Society as the Parish Council owns the pavilion. However, Helen Card from WSCC had offered to meet the Council on site to discuss other possible funding sources and the Clerk would arrange a date.</p> <p>296.2 MSDC had again confirmed that they had no further capacity to empty more dog bins therefore this means that the parish council are unable to install any further bins at the current time.</p> <p>NM confirmed that a Recreation Meeting would be held on Thursday, 3rd April and the Committee would be discussing the possibility of having a caretaker check the pavilion on a regular basis, in order to avoid any issues with maintenance becoming a problem in the future.</p> <p>296.3 The Clerk reported she had received a request from a resident as to if an additional rubbish bin could be located at Hett Close. The Council felt this was a good suggestion and the Clerk was asked to investigate the location and cost in more detail.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that he was hopeful to collect the item of play equipment the following week from the MSDC depot and would make contact with Foster Playscapes to do so.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Chair</p>

	previous month. The Clerk requested that other members come forward if they are available to attend outside meetings.	
300.	<p>Highways Cluster Group 300.1 The Clerk reported potholes are still being reported and that they were being passed on to HHTCIC.</p> <p>The Clerk had been chasing WSCC Highways for any further news on progress on West Hill repairs and College Road and Copyhold Lane. She had not had a response to her queries.</p>	
301.	<p>Defibrillator</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that Sussex Heart Charity had assisted the PC with the provision of an outside waterproof cabinet for the defibrillator and it was now located outside Hapstead Hall. The Charity would be happy to offer training at a later stage for anyone who is interested. The Clerk suggested that although this was offered for free, it would be nice to make a donation. KM proposed that a donation of £50 was made to thank them for the assistance they had provided and this was unanimously AGREED.</p> <p>The Clerk agreed to produce an article for the Village Voice to promote the location of the unit and also contact the people who donated the unit to try and promote it in the local paper.</p>	Clerk
302.	<p>WW1 Commemoration 302.1 It was suggested that the Council plant poppies on the wild flower area at the top of College Road and it was AGREED that up to £50 could be spent on seeds for this area. It was thought that Mr Altman was happy to tend to this area again for 2014</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to find out how the British Legion and Historical Society were intending on commemorating WWI.</p>	Clerk
303.	<p>Metrobus 303.1 It was noted the 'Children Crossing' sign kept on being moved and this had been reported to South East Water.</p> <p>The Clerk reported the works to Lindfield High Street should be completed by the 21st April and the road diversions would then be removed, together with the temporary bus stop.</p>	
304.	<p>Code of Conduct & Standing Orders 304.1 It was AGREED that the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk would meet to review the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. It was felt this was good practice and they would revert with any suggested amendments to the Council for discussion and approval. One suggestion was that they should include the policy that the Council should not respond to anonymous correspondence. A meeting would be held in advance of the May Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	Clerk
305.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>There were no consultations.</p>	
306.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Email from SEAS inviting representative to attend Traffic Arrangement Meeting to be held on the 10th April at 11am – RC will attend on behalf of the Council</p> <p>Action in Rural Sussex sent a promotion for a 'Free Future Services Event' to be held on the 28th April. It was agreed the Council would not attend.</p> <p>A number of emails had been received from V Hamilton covering different subjects. Some members of the Council had been copied in and FR apologised for sending an inappropriate response. Funding for a Youth Project from the Safer in Sussex Community Fund – the Clerk had investigated</p>	

	<p>this and the PC could look at this to purchase equipment such as portable skate ramps; the next closing date was the 30th June 2014. The dog bin in the Recreation Ground (by the playground) was reported as overflowing. The Clerk reported this to MSDC and it was emptied although the PC cannot obtain additional bins as mentioned in item 296.2. The condition of the pathway from the Recreation Ground to the Showground has been reported to HHTCIC.</p> <p>An email was received from Steve Shaw, National Co-ordinator of Local Works regarding a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act that would allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of the local economy. This was discussed and it was AGREED not to support this proposal, 3 voted in favour, 5 voted against.</p>	Clerk
307.	<p>Matters arising or for future inclusion on agenda</p> <p>The Summer Fayre needed to be discussed as no one had come forward to run the 2014 event this year.</p> <p>Cinema to be added to the agenda in order that at least one event is held this year.</p>	
308.	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>Thursday, 3rd April 2014 – Recreation Ground and Open Spaces Committee Meeting</p> <p>Monday, 28th April 2014 – Finance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, 6th May 2014 – Parish Annual Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday, 13th May 2014 – Parish Council Annual Meeting</p>	

MEETING CLOSED 9.59 pm