



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 4th March 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. G. Ruse	Mr. N. Moorey
Mr. K. Monk	Mr. J. Aloof
Mrs. F. Rocks	Mr. D. Stutchbury

Apologies

Mr. P. Simpson, Mrs. R. Jarvis (RFO)

In Attendance:

Mrs. S Mamoany (Clerk)
3 members of the public

269.	Procedural Matters 269.1 Apologies were received from Peter Simpson. 269.2 The Chair declared an interest in items 274.3 relating to his partner making a financial contribution to the Butchers Field Support Group. 269.3 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 4 th February were AGREED and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.	
270.	Matters arising from the previous minutes, not covered elsewhere on the agenda It was reported by PD that she had passed on the information to the resident who had asked about the possibility of a request bus stop in Lindfield Road. The resident was contacting WSCC direct.	
271.	Finance 271.1 The schedule of payments for February had been prepared by the Clerk and circulated; it was AGREED and signed by the Chair.	
272.	Environment and Traffic Committee 272.1 The Chair confirmed that a letter had been sent to the consultant and we are awaiting a response as he is currently out of the country. The Clerk is working on the breakdown of the consultation responses and analysis of the comments.	

	<p>272.2 FR reported that she had met with Adam Bazley from WSCC Highways as he made a site visit to Westhill following a report made by the Clerk concerning the condition of the road. The Clerk advised she had received confirmation that the broken pipe would be fixed; which was the cause of a lot of the issues, following this the debris was going to be cleaned off the road and carriageway works would commence to carry out repairs which would probably involve a road closure. The Highway Officer also met with Mr Holman a resident on the road to discuss the issues and will liaise with him in the future.</p> <p>It was noted that College Road is deteriorating due to the weather and increased traffic and the Clerk was asked to contact WSCC concerning this issue.</p> <p>272.3 The current terms of reference do not allow residents to join the Traffic Committee and it was suggested that we should welcome members of the public to join to assist us in the future. It was AGREED that the terms of reference would be amended to include '2 members of the public, without voting rights'. The Clerk will amend and circulate the revised terms of reference.</p> <p>The Clerk suggested that an article should go in the next Village Voice to ask residents if they are interested in joining this Committee.</p> <p>DS expressed an interest to join the Traffic Committee as it currently has a vacancy.</p> <p>272.4 JA reported that several residents had complained to him about the state of the footpath at Little London, which was caused by several factors, including the NPR, installation of a new telegraph pole and the wet weather. The Clerk was asked to report this to HHTCIC.</p> <p>272.5 The Chair confirmed that an article requesting volunteers for the Community Speedwatch will be published in the spring edition of the Village Voice.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>273.</p>	<p>Hapstead Hall Management Committee</p> <p>NM reported that he had been looking into the current rates that hirers are paying for the Hall and discovered that a high percentage of hirers are paying under the current rate of £16 ph for the large hall and £10 ph for the small hall. This was due to historical charges and rates had not been increased over the years. Further work will need to be done on this issue and NM will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>NM had also looked at other halls in the area. A good comparison was The Ark at Turners Hill, which is a modern hall and currently charges more than Hapstead Hall. Other halls were looked at and the Hapstead Hall Committee will look further into the issue of charges.</p> <p>It was further discussed that it is a difficult balance to try and support groups within the village to continue to run on reduced hire rates bearing in mind that utility costs have increased considerably over the past 12 months.</p>	<p>Hapstead Hall Committee</p>
<p>274.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Committee</p> <p>274.1 The Clerk reported that she had spoken with Mark Bristow at MSDC who had advised her that they hope to be in a position to go to consultation at the end of March, following the completion of the Habitats Regulation Assessment and consultation with external legal advisors.</p> <p>274.2 The Clerk reported that Mark Bristow had requested attendance from Council at the NP Workshop to be held on the 11th March at 6.30 pm. FR confirmed she would attend and the Chair advised he would also try to be available.</p> <p>274.3 The Clerk had drafted statements for the appeals and these had been circulated to all Councillors. FR and MB had made amendments to the draft documents', in addition to this, Neil Homer (rOCH Ltd) had been asked for his advice and had made amendments. All four versions of the statements for both Butchers Field and Standgrove were then circulated to all Councillors for discussion at the meeting.</p> <p>It was confirmed by the Clerk that the final statements would need to be read out at the appeals and</p>	

	<p>the Chair asked if any Councillors were available to carry out this task. FR agreed to attend the Butchers Field appeal and the Chair agreed to attend the Standgrove appeal on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The Chair briefly described that the version MB had put forward was more concise and had less detail on the basis that the detail was in the NP document that would go with the statement. The version FR had put forward went into more detail, in particular local connections and was written in a more firm manner. Neil Homer's version had pulled in additional information on regulations and evidence base.</p> <p>Discussions were held on a general basis as to what was important and it was generally agreed that the local lettings which we had achieved under the NP was important. It is difficult to get the right balance, as the statement will need to be read out and therefore should not be too involved. The Clerk confirmed she had been advised the Inspectorate was duty bound to read any documents submitted to him, therefore he would have to read the NP in full. The statement needs to give factual evidence and clearly highlight how important the NP is to the community</p> <p>Following these general discussions, the Chair left the room prior to the voting taking place.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that Neil Homer's amendments was the version that should be used. Some minor alterations were made and it was AGREED unanimously that the Council would use this version for the Butchers Field appeal.</p> <p>The Chair returned to the room.</p> <p>274.4 Following discussions held above, it was AGREED unanimously that the Council would use Neil Homer's version with some minor amendments for the Standgrove appeal.</p> <p>FR mentioned that she was aware some appeals in nearby Parishes had been 'called in' by the Secretary of State and perhaps this was something the Council could look to do with these appeals.</p>	Clerk
275.	<p>Planning Committee</p> <p>275.1 The Planning Committee had met prior to the Parish Council Meeting and applications and decisions were dealt with in this meeting. A copy of the minutes will be sent out to all Councillors.</p> <p>275.2 PS was not available to provide a suggested response as was discussed at the last meeting.</p> <p>Therefore a general discussions was held and the Council AGREED unanimously to object to the application and asked the Clerk to put together a response to include mention of concerns about environment, close proximity to Ardingly reservoir and AONB. Responses need to be received by the 6th March 2014.</p>	Clerk Clerk
276.	<p>Recreation & Open Space Committee</p> <p>276.1 NM confirmed that he had attended the site meeting at the Pavilion with KM, representatives of the Football and Cricket Clubs and a builder. The purpose of the meeting was to put together a wish list of work that needs to be done to the building, as it is desperate need of maintenance and repair works to stop it from deteriorating any further.</p> <p>Two quotes have been obtained for the works and the total costs if everything was completed would be between £11,000 and £12,000. The main costs were for the external and internal painting, new heaters and new extractor fans for the showers, which are currently not powerful enough. The building suffers from damp and the lack of efficient heating and extractor fans is not helping the situation.</p> <p>The Clerk will attend the Finding Funding event to be held next week to see if she can find any grant funding sources available to assist with these costs. Currently reserves available are £4,000. The next Recreation Committee Meeting will be held on the 3rd April.</p> <p>The Clerk will complete the necessary paperwork for the storm damage to the pavilion.</p>	Clerk

	<p>276.2 FR suggested that perhaps a Working Party could be put together to carry out some of this work, however, it was generally felt that most of the work had to be carried out by professional tradesmen. It was possible items such as pressure washing the pathways could be done in a working party.</p>	
277.	<p>Emergency Planning The Emergency Planning Liaison Group will meet on the 26th March 2014 at 11am. FR agreed to attend and the Clerk advised she would also try to attend..</p>	
278.	<p>Youth Management Committee 278.1 FR confirmed that Action for Children had written to confirm they are withdrawing the Streetmate service as from the 31 March 2014 due to lack of funding.</p> <p>The Clerk had confirmed with the London Community Foundation that we could still use the grant money to continue the service, provided that we had a qualified Youth Worker.</p> <p>278.2 FR reported she had spoken to the current Youth Worker and he had provided the Clerk with costs for him to carry on as the qualified Youth Worker together with a paid assistant. The costs quoted were cheaper than we are currently paying to Action for Children, although other costs of insurance, training, etc would need to be considered.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that Balcombe had their own Youth Worker and that WSCC were providing the insurance and training that is required. FR to contact WSCC to see if they can provide us with assistance.</p> <p>It was unanimously AGREED that the Parish Council would delegate decision making with regard to service providers to the Youth Management Committee due to the timescales involved.</p>	FR
279.	<p>Training and Events 279.1 KM/MB/NM and the Clerk attended a meeting on the 14th February with Andy Jackson at Wakehurst Place. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the Council that with much regret Wakehurst were going to have to bring in car parking charges. No money is received from the National Trust from visitors who gain entry using National Trust membership due to current arrangement in place with Kew and the NT. An article will be put in the Village Voice to explain to residents the reasons for the charges coming into effect. It was mentioned that visitors might try and park in the village and walk down to Wakehurst. This will need to be monitored when the charges commence in April. In the meeting Andy Jackson offered to meet and discuss this should it become an issue for the village.</p> <p>279.2 The Chair and the Clerk attended the meeting held at The Ark in Turners Hill on the 20th February to discuss Ardingly Parish Council participating in the South of England Show – ‘Parish Fayre’ together with Turners Hill and West Hoathly. It was agreed that Ardingly would show case as much of the work the Parish Council do as possible, rather than focus on one specific area. FR and DS agreed to attend the meeting on the 20th March at Southwater and will report back to the next PC Meeting.</p> <p>279.3 Nothing to report as GR was unable to attend the MSALC meeting held on the 5th February.</p> <p>279.4 The Clerk and FR will attend the Finding Funding event on the 12th March 2014 to see if they can find any sources of funding for the Youth Club and Pavilion works.</p>	FR/DS Clerk/FR
280.	<p>Highways Cluster Group 280.1 The Clerk advised that she had received a number of reports concerning potholes, of which she had passed to HHTCIC.</p>	
281.	<p>Churchyard Donation 281.1 The Clerk had received a request from the Church for a donation of £350 to go towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It was unanimously AGREED that the Parish Council would donate £350. The Clerk was asked to request a copy of the annual accounts prior to sending the donation.</p>	Clerk

<p>282.</p>	<p>Defibrillator 282.1 The Clerk reported she had met with a representative from Sussex Heart Charity who was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. It was suggested that the equipment should be put outside so it was accessible at all times and Sussex Heart Charity would assist us with locating a waterproof casing to enable us to do this. The Clerk will liaise further with Sussex Heart Charity and following the defibrillator being put on the wall outside Hapstead Hall an article will be put together for the Village Voice so residents are aware of the location of the equipment.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>283.</p>	<p>Metrobus 283.1 It was noted that the 'Children Crossing' sign had gone missing from one side of the road. The Clerk was asked to contact South East Water to inform them.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>284.</p>	<p>Street Lighting 284.1 Councillor Bill Acraman had recently commented on the lack of street lighting within the village centre. It was unanimously AGREED that to put further lighting into the village would be expensive and also make the village more urban and was therefore not appropriate. Although, it was suggested that perhaps in the future additional lighting could be looked at in the Recreation Ground.</p>	
<p>285.</p>	<p>Consultations 285.1 The Clerk had circulated the copy of the Draft Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan. It was requested that a response was sent by the Clerk to Haywards Heath Town Council to acknowledge receipt; no comments were made on the contents of the plan.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>286.</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Email from Mr Bishop regarding traffic on College Road and representation by the Council at the appeals – noted.</p> <p>Email from Mr Day regarding speed of traffic in Street Lane – noted and will be put on next agenda for discussion</p> <p>Letter from Network Rail informing the Council about the Railway Communications System and that they will be erecting a new mast on a site east of Borde Hill Lane in Ardingly which falls under Permitted Development Rights – information only, no action required.</p> <p>Letter from Hedleys confirming the completion of the lease to Southern Gas Networks with cheque for £750 regarding the Gas Governor Site.</p> <p>Letter from Councillor Gary Marsh inviting the Council to join the Gatwick Airport Town and Parish Liaison Group. The Council agreed that we should be involved and the Clerk was asked to accept the invitation, the first meeting will be held on 4th April at 2pm at Oaklands.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>287.</p>	<p>Matters arising or for future inclusion on agenda It was agreed that we would provide refreshments at meetings in the future. FR and the Clerk agreed to arrange this for the next meeting.</p> <p>Additional dog bins were requested to be added on the next agenda.</p>	
<p>288.</p>	<p>Future Meeting Dates Tuesday, 11th February 2014 – Recreation and Open Spaces Committee Meeting Tuesday, 25th February 2014 – Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting Tuesday, 4th March 2014 – Parish Council Meeting Tuesday, 25th March 2014 – Youth Management Meeting</p>	

MEETING CLOSED 9.40 pm