

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2016 7.30PM AT THE ST JAMES SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present:	Cllr G Nelson	Chairman
	Cllr S Hewer	Vice-Chairman
	Cllr T Burr	
	Cllr O Dudman	
	Cllr B Maher	
	Cllr J Evans	
	Cllr A Lilley	
	Cllr J Bowler	
	C Cllr Arculus	County Councillor
	D Cllr Clarke	District Councillor
	Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge	Clerk

ACTION

16 / 01.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

16 / 02.00 TO ELECT CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hewer proposed Cllr Nelson as Chairman; seconded by Cllr Lilley; no one else was put forward. Cllr Nelson was duly elected Chairman.

Cllr Evans proposed Cllr Hewer for Vice Chairman; seconded by Cllr Dudman, no one else was proposed. Cllr Hewer duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Clerk distributed copies of the "Acceptance of Office" to Cllrs Nelson and Hewer, which were duly signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

16 / 03.00 COUNCILLORS TO COMPLETE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTEREST UPDATES AND DECLARE ANY DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES TO THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Clerk had distributed Members' Register of Interest Update forms prior to the meeting; these were collected from all those present. The Clerk would contact Cllr Veccari for her completed form.

No declarations were received for this meeting.

16 / 04.00 PARISH COUNCIL YEAR

16 / 04.01 The Council confirmed the current policies; Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Publication Scheme, Members' Code of Conduct.

16 / 04.02 The Clerk reported to council regarding the: Roads, Bus Shelters, Noticeboard, and the Alban Head Play Equipment, the full report is attached as Appendix A.

16 / 04.03 The Council reviewed the current list. Cllr Lilley advised that Lodge Hill no longer have a steering committee. Cllr Hewer advised that she hasn't The revised list is attached as Appendix B.

16 / 04.04 The Clerk advised that of the current bailiffs, Steve Dudman had contact her to confirm that he wished to remain as bailiff. Cllr Nelson confirmed that Colin Smithson also wishes to continue.

Cllr Dudman asked that Colin Smithson, should no longer act as Piscary Bailiff, as he felt Mr Smithson had tried to allow for another fishing club to use the Waltham Brooks. Cllr Burr commented that he although he had spoken with both Colin Smithson and Rodger Poole, when meeting Barlavington Estates, he thought that Mr Smithson and Mr Poole now understood the situation regarding Piscary Rights on Waltham Brooks and are not pursuing the issue for clubs fishing here.

Cllr Nelson directed that this issue should be revisited at the next meeting as Colin Smithson had not yet been approached regarding the issues raised.

16 / 05.00 **TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Viccari. & D Cllr Donnelly

16 / 06.00 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for meetings held; 15th March 2016 and planning meetings held on 22nd, 31st March and 26th April 2016 were accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

16 / 07.00 **FINANCE**

16 / 07.01 **Year End March 2016 Accounts:** A copy of final End of Year Accounts for the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that Rachel Hall had completed the internal audit, copies of both were distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix C & D respectively.

The Clerk noted the council reviewed the effectiveness of their internal controls.

The Clerk advised that she had completed the Local Councils Annual Return, which was signed by the Clerk and the Chairman, after the meeting ready to be sent to PKF Littlejohns by 13th June.

16 / 07.02 **Account Summary:** The Clerk gave all Councillors a copy of up to date accounts for the Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee. These are attached as Appendix E & F respectively.

16 / 07.03 **Payments:** The clerk wished to include a second cheque for Arun Mowers received late, Council agreed the inclusion.

Authorised and signed cheques by the Chairman, and Cllrs Maher & Hewer for;

West Sussex ALC Limited	Annual Subscription	£ 282.22
Arun Mowers	Mower Service & Repair	£ 244.14
Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge	Printer Toners	£ 40.40
RS Hall & Co	Internal Audit	£ 180.00
Arun Mowers	Other Mowers Servicing	£ 459.71

Authorised and signed cheques by the Clerk, and Cllrs Maher & Hewer for;

Mr G Nelson	Paint (AHPF)	£ 16.26
-------------	--------------	---------

16 / 08.00 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Alban Head Chairman Report: Cllr Nelson noted that it had been a very busy time as you are aware, with the repairs to the Pavilion Roof. However, it is now a busy time for Jamie as the grass is growing.

Cllr Nelson thanked members for their responses to his consultation so far. Cllr Burr noted that with the parish becoming an increasingly elderly population, was the playing field best meeting these needs. Cllr Nelson commented that most of the clubs using the Fields bring people in from outside the Parish, even dog-walkers often come from outside the parish.

16 / 09.00 **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Cllr Vecarri had made available the current version for checking. The clerk to send this on to all councillors for their comments.

**Cllr
Veccari**

Minor changes still required, and there is still content required from outside groups, but Cllr Vecarri suggest that council go live with what is available, as anything else is just delaying the start date.

Council agreed for this.

16 / 10.00 **RIVER LANE PATH**

Cllr Burr summarised that there remain three options:

1. To agree a Permissive Path offered by Barlavington Estates, route still to be agreed.
2. To make an application for a ROW for a route to Waltham Brooks from River Lane, with such evidence that we have.
3. Do nothing.

Option One - Cllr Burr spoke, as a user of the path, which recently has been delightful, that residents in Watersfield do not currently have a path directly to the River from their hamlet. He doesn't think that discussions with Barlavington Estates have been exhausted, as the route hasn't been finalised; the original route proposed does not take you to the river and is also not passable in places; and highlighting the issue of maintenance, which he feels that the Parish Council should not be forced to take on.

Option Two –Cllr Burr reiterated that should the Parish Council make an application for a PROW, two members of the council would need to take on this, and stay with it and be ready for a long time frame. However, the fact remains that WSCC have advised that is likely to be a very lengthy process, C Cllr Arculus – acknowledged that there is a lack of resources.

Option Three – to do nothing and leave things as they are with no permissive path and no application made, and wait and see what should happen. Cllr Hewer noted that an improvement to the existing route had already been achieved as a gate along the track which had previously been kept locked, is now unlocked, so access was improving.

Cllr Nelson confirmed that this issue has been discussed for a number of years.

Cllr Burr can appreciate why the Barlavington Estate would not wish to have the route designated a PROW, as this would make it open to anyone, not just a few local residents but potentially many more; rambling associations etc, also as the Estate manage their own commercial activities raised concerns regarding poaching of fish and wild fowl.

Cllr Lilley recommended that the PC should put an application in, on principle, questioning, is our evidence is flimsy? How would Council know for sure, until an application is made.

If a suitable Permissive Path route can be agreed, it would provide direct access for Watersfield residents to the Parish fishing rights, and a route for walker along the river bank, which current Rights of Way don't give access to.

Cllr Burr asked, what is the Parish Council's goal – is it a path for the use of local residents, or is it for a path which could be used by the world's rambler's association. If the first than maybe a Right of Way is not necessary. Barlavington Estates would want to protect the route from being a PROW.

Cllr Burr proposed that he would like to be able to say to Barlavington Estates that a ROW would be best, test their flexibility regarding a Permissive Path: where the Estate took on more responsibility for any maintenance, and remove a lot of the legalistic wording in the previous licence.

Council resolved for to continue liaising with Barlavington Estates regarding a more suitable agreement for a Permissive Path. Cllr Burr would bring any proposal before the Parish Council before any agreement is confirmed.

16 / 11.00 **CORRESPONDENCE**

16 / 11.01 Passing Places in Sandy Lane – Cllr Nelson had received a form John Stapleton, Cllr Nelson to talk with John Stapleton regarding the situation.

16 / 11.02 Manhole – Cllr Dudman read the minutes from the recent SMVH Committee, noting that they believed that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the footpath. But as the manhole is on theirs they would agree to repairs. This has never been the case in the view of the PC. The Issue of the future maintenance needs to be addressed, and as the route was part of the Safer routes to School the Parish Council would like to see this responsibility taken on by WSCC Highways.

16 / 11.03 Stonewater had asked if the Parish Council would like to make any suggestions regarding a Road Name for the new development at Silverdale, as

Councillors proposed:

- Jimmy Secombe; as he had been a long-time resident in the parish and it is adjacent to Piers Secombe his uncle.
- Shackleton, as the wife and daughter of Ernest Shackleton had both lived in the Parish and are buried in the Coldwaltham Graveyard.

Council resolved to put forward Shackleton Close.

16 / 12.00 **PLANNING**

16 / 12.01 The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications;

- SDNP/15/06298/FUL, Penn House, Old London Road, Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/16/00377/HOUS, Fort Hill Colebrook Lane Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/16/00455/FUL, Studios 7 And 8 Hardham Mill Business Park London Road Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/16/00731/HOUS, Old Priest House, London Road Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/16/00956/FUL, 2 New Cottages, London Road, Hardham, Permitted.
- SDNP/15/05014/FUL, Church House Old London Road Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/15/05964/LIS & SDNP/15/05963/HOUS, Quintins, Sandy Lane, Watersfield, Withdrawn
- SDNP/16/01286/TCA, Bardsley Cottage River Lane Watersfield, Permitted

Cllr Burr reviewed the planning applications discussed last year. In the year, Council considered 22 applications, the majority of these, neither the PC nor the Planning Authority raised any objection, in further two although the PC had no objection one was refused and the other withdrawn. Another two where the PC objected the application was granted anyway.

The last five applications, it appears that the PC comments influenced the decision; two applications the PC comments were reflected in the decision, a further two were the PC objected to the application these were withdrawn, one being replaced by a more modest proposal which has been approved.

16 / 13.00 **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

16 / 13.01 C Cllr Arculus highlighted two consultations:

- Household Waste Recycling Sites - Proposals to change opening hours and implementing charges at local amenity tips – she raised her concerns that this could increase fly-tipping especially rural areas.
- West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan – Proposals are being discussed for sites – closest being the site at Mare Hill, Pulborough.

C Cllr Arculus left to attend another meeting.

16 / 13.02 Today SDNP announced a Dark Sky Reserve, which consists of a core area surrounded by a two-mile buffer zone. Hardham & part of Coldwaltham is in the buffer zone – the rest of Coldwaltham and Watersfield being wholly in the reserve.

The Parish Council has supported this through the Village Plan.

16 / 13.03 Passing Place along Sandy Lane – Cllr Nelson to contact John Sprackman to arrange a meeting to discuss the resident's needs.

16 / 13.04 Cllr Evans request that PC agree for him to write to PCSO Boniface regarding the situation the continual noise and disruption from the very large number of bikes along the road the last two Sundays. Members agreed to this.

16 / 13.05 Cllr Nelson had received leaflets from the Pulborough Dementia Group leaflet detailing events and groups they run in Pulborough.

16 / 13.06 Cllr Nelson asked for agreement from members to purchase a commemorative coin for all the students at St James School. In previous year the Council has organised a Street Party, and in the past coins for local children. Members gave their agreement – The Clerk to finalise numbers required.

**Cllr
Nelson &
Clerk**

16 / 13.07 D Cllr highlighted that HDC need to find more savings as currently there is a £3.5 million deficit. There are two areas being looked at; charging for parking in rural villages and a review of bin collections.

It has been noted that should charging be introduced at village car parks this would discourage people to use their village communities, which are struggling as many supermarkets offer free parking, so drawing people away for small village centres.

16 / 14.00 **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Cllr Evans collected items from council for inclusion in the Parish Link:

- Waltham Park Road
- Silverdale building
- Dark Skies
- Football club
- Speeding
- Website
- Coins

16 / 15.00 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Next meeting of Council: is on Tuesday 14th June at 7.30pm, at St James School.

Meeting Closed at 9.00 pm.

Chairman:..... **Date:**.....

Distributed to those present, also Cllr Viccari and D Cllr Donnelly.