

# COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016 7.30PM AT THE LODGE HILL, LONDON ROAD, WATERSFIELD

<b>Those Present:</b>	<b>Cllr G Nelson</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
	<b>Cllr S Hewer</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
	<b>Cllr T Burr</b>	
	<b>Cllr O Dudman</b>	
	<b>Cllr B Maher</b>	
	<b>Cllr J Evans</b>	
	<b>Cllr A Lilley</b>	
	<b>Cllr K Vicarri</b>	
	<b>C Cllr Arculus</b>	<b>County Councillor (Late)</b>
	<b>D Cllr Donnelly</b>	<b>District Councillor</b>
	<b>Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>Parishioners:</b>	<b>Mr Jan Heidstra</b>	

### **ACTION**

#### **16 / 42.00     PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Nelson welcomed Mr Jan Heidstra to the meeting. Mr Heidstra spoke to council regarding the incident in Watersfield, when a tractor and trailer overturned at the crossroads in Watersfield. He noted that although there are numerous 30 MPH signs through Watersfield there does not seem to be any adherence to this limit. Nothing appears to stop drivers consistently speeding along our roads, however he appreciated that there isn't any easy answer to the issue.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, a large tractor towing a trailer full of silage/hay, which overturned causing a significant amount of damage to the property's wall and garden however, there had been no injuries. The witnesses, following, mentioned that the tractor had been travelling over the speed limit. Both the police and ambulance had attended, and the road was closed for a number of hours whilst the load was cleared up. It was now known if any further action was taken regarding the driver.

Cllr Nelson highlighted that council is acutely aware of the issue of speeding through the parish and agree that there is not a simple solution.

#### **16 / 43.00     TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bowler and D Cllr Clark.

C Cllr Arculus advised that she would be late to the meeting, as she was attending another Parish's meeting first.

**16 / 44.00 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No declarations were received for this meeting.

**16 / 45.00 TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for meetings held; 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and planning meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

**16 / 46.00 FINANCE**

**16 / 46.01 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 A & B respectively.

**16 / 46.02 To Review Government Proposals to Require Referendums for Precepts increases by Parish Councils:** Cllr Burr informed council regarding Government proposals that Precept Charging Bodies, who wish to increase their precept by more than 2% would be required to hold referendum. Although this is primarily aimed at larger councils (parish councils which have a precept larger than that of the smallest district council) the consensus is that this would be extended to all parish councils.

He highlighted that over the last few years the average Band D charges had increased by:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Average of all Band D	2.3%	3.9%	5.2%	4.3%	3.3%	6.1%

Cllr Burr suggested that this council, which has made very modest increases over the same time period, not more than 3% in any single year, and should not be punished long term for being frugal each year especially when a larger increase is then needed.

Cllr Hewer asked for confirmation as to when this might start, Cllr Burr noted that the consultation document indicates effective April 2017, but as to whether it will affect us next year, this is still not clear, and this is the consultation document only.

Cllr Evans worst case, what notice would council get if we would need to hold a referendum. It would appear that the changes relate to the financial period 2017/18.

Clerk noted that this issue had been raised at the clerks meeting, where it had been highlighted that the cost of holding a referendum could be greater than the proposed increase in precept.

Cllr Lilley observed that the implications ongoing for councils should councils not be able to increase precept, funding for projects might need to be built up over a number of years.

Cllr Burr suggested that there are enough reasons for the Parish Council to make a comment to this consultation. Cllr Burr would draft a response to the consultation for circulated between members, so that a final response can be sent before 28<sup>th</sup> October.

**16 / 46.03 Payments:**  
Authorised and signed cheques by the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Maher for;  
Lodge Hill Trust Ltd Meeting Fee £ 25.00

**16 / 46.04 Donations:**  
Authorised and signed cheques by the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Maher for;  
Diocese of Chichester Highways Act 1980 ss 43, 50 £100.00

Coldwaltham PCC	Local Gov Act 1972 s215 (6)	£250.00
Hardham PCC	Local Gov Act 1972 s215 (6)	£150.00
Community Minibus Assoc.	Local Gov & Rating Act 1997	£150.00
Royal British Legion	Section 137	£40.00

## 16 / 47.00 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Alban Head:** Cllr Nelson updated Councillors regarding Alban Head

Cllr Nelson distributed a provisional budget for members to look at before the budget meeting next month, in light of the proposals regarding Alban Head and the proposal to employ a manager. Cllr Nelson stressed that this is not a final budget, but only to illustrate how the additional cost of the field manager might impact on other costs.

An initial figure of £2600 has been used for their salary, which equates to 5 hours a week at £10 per hour. Then by reducing the precept portion for to Alban Head by £1000, reducing their funding to £5000 (this still covers the groundsman and caretaker's salaries) and removing the grant paid to the youth club. Total expenses projected to be £15,050.00. Other Saving identified included the Insurance policy and the annual donation to the Youth Club.

Members commented that the Youth Club had not closed as previously expected, as new helpers had volunteered enabling the youth club to remain open after the summer break.

The clerk highlighted the possible increases to the precept working from these figures, cautioning members that currently the income the parish receives includes a small grant which has been reducing significantly each year and is expected to be phased out completely. A 2% increase to the precept would leave a £781 deficit, 5% increase - £363 deficit, the breakeven point is 8%. But please note that a 5% increase in the precept is not necessarily the same percentage increase in the Band D tax figure.

C Cllr Arculus arrived at this point.

## 16 / 48.00 **CORRESPONDENCE**

**16 / 48.01** The Clerk advised that she had received an email from Jan advising that a petition asking the authorities to improve speed control through Watersfield, would be given to the police at the end of the week.

**16 / 48.02** The Clerk updated Council following the complaints received by Cllr Lilley, mentioned at the last meeting, regarding the verge between Ingrams Farm and the Arun Bridge, the Clerk had received a response via HALC, who had also raised this issue with WSCC. WSCC had advised that there is no flexibility with regard to grass cutting resources for additional cuts.

However, WSCC went on to say that if there is a particular location which is giving rise for concern, these can be reported through WSCC Highways online reporting system, the area will then be inspected to determine if further action is necessary on road safety grounds.

The Clerk had raised a report through this online system, following last month's meeting but hadn't received any response yet.

Cllr Lilley advised that the hedge and grass verge had both been cut by the farmer.

## 16 / 49.00 **PLANNING**

**16 / 49.01** The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications;

- SDNP/16/03996/HOUS, Fulbrook, Kings Lane, Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/16/03248/FUL, Penn House, Old London Road, Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/16/03249/ADV, Penn House, Old London Road, Hardham, Permitted

The Clerk advised that she needs to arrange a planning meeting for the week after next on Tuesday or Wednesday, hoping to have received another application by then.

**16 / 49.02** The Clerk updated the Council regarding Hardham Green House, where entrance gates had been installed after the expiry of the planning permission, Madeleine Hartley investigated the matter, advising: the residents were unsure when they first installed the posts, believe it to be sometime in 2011, but have no evidence. Madeleine thinks the post pre-date the actual gate installation. However, HDC are not pursuing the matter further as previous application had been granted so the likely to be granted again, therefore the file will be closed.

**16 / 50.00** **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

**16 / 50.01** Cllr Dudman updated Council regarding Sandham Hall, they wanted to know if they can interact with our website. Advised that they are unable to change their content themselves, however, if any changes are required to send the changes to the Parish Clerk, who can do so

Cllr Nelson asked if the Sandham Hall has made any arrangements regarding the sustainability of providing a Post Office in Coldwaltham and the potential for finding a replacement for Pauline Streeter, should she decide to retire. Keeping a post office is crucial to Coldwaltham. He asked if this question could be raised at the next Sandham Hall meeting.

Cllr Arculus highlighted that post office licences are awarded to the person(s) who running the post office not to the building.

**16 / 50.02** D Cllr Donnelly updated members regarding the recent changes at HDC.

- The Council is still trying to balance the budget, and looking at the potential of bring in charges at rural car parks.
- North Horsham Development is moving forward will attract business, with the potential to being in increased business rates.
- 2 new Neighbourhood wardens had been appointed in Pulborough.
- District boundaries are under review by the Boundaries Commission.

**16 / 50.03** Cllr Burr commented that:

- the River Lane Path has been put on the website.
- Traffic Camera statistics have not changed much over the last 20 years.
- At the recent HALC meeting they had received a report from the Standards Committee – which highlighted that most disputes are between members, highlighting that we must be amazing in that we are not arguing all the time

**16 / 50.04** Cllr Evans commented that the documents for the SDNP meeting he is attending in November, suggest that there is more land available for development in the parish than currently known about, but this will be explained at the meeting.

Cllr Burr cautioned that it is important to note that this document doesn't stop a landowner developing their land, outside those identified in this document.

**16 / 50.05** Cllr Hewer updated council regarding the land Acre Planning Appeal, noting that the planning inquiry has been delayed again, and is now expected in December.

**16 / 50.06** Cllr Nelson reminded that this weekend is the Jumble sale for Youth Club.

**16 / 51.00** **PARISH MAGAZINE**

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

- Tractor incident
- Petition
- School Fair
- Groups to contact the Clerk with changes of regarding their website content
- Parents help youth club
- Operation Crackdown.

**16 / 52.00      DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**Next meeting of Council:** is on Tuesday 8th November at 7.30pm, at Lodge Hill primarily to discuss the precept and budget for 2017/8.

Meeting Closed at 8.55 pm.

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

Distributed to those present, also Cllr Bowler and D Cllr Clark.