

# **COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD**

**ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017 7.30PM**

**AT THE ST JAMES SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE, COLDWALTHAM**

<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 K Viccari</b>	
	<b>Cllr J Evans</b>	
	<b>Cllr A Lilley</b>	
	<b>Cllr J Bowler</b>	
	<b>D Cllr B Donnelly</b>	<b>District Councillor</b>
	<b>D Cllr P Clarke</b>	<b>District Councillor</b>
	<b>Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>Parishioner</b>	<b>Chris Skinner</b>	<b>Natalie Hunt</b>
	<b>Jim Glover</b>	<b>Marti Stenton</b>
	<b>Mary Scutt</b>	<b>Tim Mather</b>
	<b>Ian Scutt</b>	<b>Ann Hewitt</b>
	<b>Steph Croft</b>	<b>Barbara Kay</b>
	<b>Carl Croft</b>	<b>Caryl Spackman</b>
	<b>Paul Bowler</b>	<b>A Hardy</b>
	<b>Leslie Mitchell</b>	<b>R Hardy</b>
	<b>Sarah Lane</b>	<b>Glen Forrest</b>
	<b>Maggie Macari-Grover</b>	<b>Suzanne Forrest</b>
	<b>Gia Macari</b>	<b>Tanya Golding</b>
	<b>H Ager</b>	<b>Ostarra Langridge</b>
	<b>A Beynon</b>	<b>M Nodding</b>
<b>R J Clark</b>	<b>B Norman</b>	

**ACTION**

### **17 / 14.00    PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Cllr Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting, explain that the council would take comments from members of the Public. Before starting the meeting, members of the public were welcome to stay to the rest of the meeting but could leave if they wish.

Paul Byford – asked about the Coldwaltham Youth Club donation from the PC, Cllr Nelson assured him that Cllr Dudman had requested that future donations to the CYC, were kept on the agenda. This would be revisited in the autumn.

Jim Clark – mentioned that the area shown in the Sussex Local was not correct, and the proposed site occupied the whole of the field. He highlighted five questions he felt needed to be addressed:

1. Why does the National Park Authority want to allow the destruction of this rare and beautiful flower meadow?
2. Why will it allow increased disturbance to the most important area within the National Park for wildlife?
3. Why does it want to allow serious damage to the landscape by infilling the most prominent field between Coldwaltham and Watersfield?
4. Why aren't other more suitable areas at the other end of the village, without any of these issues, being considered?
5. Why doesn't the SDNPA map show the full 8.1ha extent of the site?

Cllr Burr noted that these further changes had only happened last week.

Amanda Hardy – was against the number of houses, being 40 rather more than had previously been mentioned. Also, she was against a car park being built outside her house. The proposed site is not ideal for building, given that it is an area of meadow.

Suzanne Forrest – highlighted the development would destroy the peace of the area, they moved here for the peace and their health.

Robert Hardy – raised concerns regarding the position of the car park for wildlife watchers, access to the car park would be from where? Along Brook Lane and Brookland Way both narrow roads, and the junction of the A29 with the Brook Lane is dangerous.

Tim Mather – noted that the Barlavington Estates have been receiving grants for keeping the field as a meadow, part of the higher-level scheme, which was funded by the EU, this scheme has now been discontinued.

Helen Ager – noted that land is all owned by Barlavington Estates and is held by the Anstruther Grandchildren Trust which owns this field amongst several houses and other areas of land.

Carl Croft – commented that his home overlooks on to the meadow, he is often finding stag beetles and other wildlife in his garden, this habitat would be destroyed by the building of the homes.

He also commented that should these homes be built, there isn't the infrastructure in the area to support this size of development – Doctors surgery, the size of the school, no public transport, therefore greater numbers of cars, for 40 homes expect 80 as a minimum.

Cllr Nelson corrected that the school currently has a low number on role.

Sarah Lane – raised concerns regarding the amount of traffic the new homes would generate using Brook Lane which is already very busy and not suitable for more vehicles.

Chris Skinner – asked why, within the boundary of the village, is this proposed site the only one being considered?

Ann Hewitt – Governor of St James, asked if anything was happening regarding the Development at Silverdale.

Tim Mather - asked about Sebastian Anstruther being on the Southdown's Committee and would there be a conflict of interest, Cllr Burr assured that SDNPA Standing Orders would ensure the member would need to leave any discussion.

Carol Scriven – had thought that one of the reasons that the SDNP had been formed, was to prevent this kind of large scale development from happening.

Paul Byford – noted that in the Village Plan in 2004, it was agreed that there wouldn't be more than 4 houses built in Coldwaltham a year. The only thing that has happened

in that time, is that the levels of traffic in the village have increased. There needs to be jobs locally for local people, or they will need to drive to get to jobs.

Mary Scutt – the proposed site is at the bottom of their garden, if 40 houses are built, their views would be removed. There aren't any amenities within the village to support this size of development, no shops etc. These properties would be for people working in London rather than locally. 40 houses would mean a minimum of 80 cars would the new development be accessed via Brook Lane so increasing the traffic on this narrow road.

She also raised concerns about the utilities, our water comes from Bury currently is this sustainable.

Cllr Burr summarised how the process had started over three years ago. SDNPA has an obligation to allocate sites for housing, this Housing Allocation has been reviewed, and SDNPA needs to show provision for 4400 homes over the next ten years, whilst still defending the position that The South Downs National Park should have special consideration.

The original location was opposed by both Natural England and Sussex Wildlife Trust. The location was reviewed in March and has been amended again to this larger area, which is to be considered at the June meeting of the Planning Committee of the SDNPA, with further public consultation in September.

Jim Clark asked if the Parish Council going to send any comment to SDNP for the meeting on Thursday.

Tim Mather advised that there is a water main running through the site.

Paul Byford received assurances that the CPC would be proactive towards the SDNPA.

Cllr Nelson thanked everyone for their comments which council would use to help inform their response, as the rest of the meeting would continue he gave members of the public who did not wish to stay, an opportunity to leave.

**17 / 15.00      TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dudman and C Cllr Arculus

**17 / 16.00      TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Under Chairman's Report: Cllr Nelson confirmed his declaration regards being a trustee for Lodge Hill, as he would be updating council regarding the Lodge Hill Centre's future plans.

Cllr Lilley returned her completed 2017 Update Form. Cllr Evans advised that he is now Vice Chair of St James School Governors and was asked to complete a new update form.

No further declarations were received for this meeting.

**17 / 17.00      TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for meetings held; 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017, and planning meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Continued request for a response by Paul Hubbard regarding the Precept Increase, Cllr Nelson confirmed that council has already responded to this through the minutes.

**17 / 18.00      FINANCE**

**17 / 18.01      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.

Cllr Nelson advised that there are additional cost relating to the mowers still to be invoiced to the Alban Head.

<b>17 / 18.02</b>	<b>Payments:</b> Authorised and signed cheques by the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Hewer for;		
	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Apr to Jun	£205.20
	St James School	Meeting Fees (Apr-Jun)	£60.00
	Graham Phillips T/A Ice Media	Annual Website Hosting Fee	£85.00

#### **17 / 19.00**     **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Nelson gave the following update regarding Lodge Hill. The Lodge Hill Centre will be submitting a planning application. They are holding a Public Consultation evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for local residents, there will be a tour to explain their proposals. These plans are in response to the growth in primary schools using these facilities.

Cllr Nelson advised that, Cllr Dudman had asked that the Coldwaltham Youth Club, need to be kept on the agenda with regards to future funding.

**Alban Head Chairman Report:** Cllr Nelson advised that this is a very busy time of year. The grounds are in good repair. However, the tractor has recently needed to be mended which would lead to a significant invoice from Arun Mowers.

No further feedback had been received with regards to the Job Description for a new Alban Head Manager, this needs to be advertised by the end of June, to enable appointment in the autumn.

The new role is needed to give a better service to hirers, allowing their needs to be managed more efficiently, and have more imagination with regards to better funding.

Cllr Nelson advised that the party held at the field recently, had been a great success, with over 250 people attending, the hirers had managed it very well.

#### **17 / 20.00**     **SDNPA PROPOSED HOUSING ALLOCATION**

Cllr Burr updated council, the most recent proposal had been changed, from those previously circulated in April/May. The SDNP Planning Committee are due to meet on Thursday, when a larger site for Coldwaltham is to be discussed for approval for the pre-submission document.

Cllr Burr advised that the next step is for the Plan to be approved by the National Park Authority. It will then be issued for public consultation in September, before being submitted to the Secretary of State, who will refer it to an inspector for examination. Subject to any issues raised at examination, the Secretary of State will then approve the Plan, bringing it into force sometime in 2018.

Cllr Evans noted that Council had received some very erudite comments from residents here this evening, but warned that the detail of the proposal needs to be read very carefully as not all issues are clear from the plans.

Members agreed to make a comment to SDNPA, it was noted that the consultation process has not been effective, as it had concentrated in major centres, eg. Midhurst and Petersfield. Since the Parish Council presentation, the document had shifted, earlier changes had not changed so much from those Council had previously accepted. This latest proposal is radically different in size and position to those originally presented to Parishes.

Cllr Lilley commented tht SDNP seem very high-handed with regards to planning citing the Ingrams Farm application as an example.

Issues highlighted include:

- The environment – loss of habitat.
- Increased levels of traffic, - CPC need to raise the traffic issue as this has been raised by residents in all previous consultations

- Lack of infrastructure: school space, doctors

**17 / 21.00**      **CORRESPONDENCE**

**17 / 21.01**      The Clerk had received the Ballot Papers for the vacancy for the Parish Member of the SDNPA, and had distributed the Candidates Elections Statements to councillors before the meeting.

Cllr Burr left the room for their discussions – all six members present voted for Cllr Burr.

**17 / 21.02**      The Clerk advised that she had posted the Notice advertising the vacancy on the Parish Council, and one response so far.

**17 / 21.03**      The Clerk advised that 20 items of correspondence had been received regarding the SDNPA Housing Allocation, as mentioned earlier.

**17 / 21.04**      Cllr Evans updated members regarding:

- Greatham Bridge Road Closure – due to start on 17<sup>th</sup> July and expected to be for 12 weeks, a road diversion will be put in place, however, pedestrians will be able to continue to use the bridge.
- Speedwatch – training date has been set.
- Silverdale – no further information regarding then the work will continue.

**17 / 22.00**      **PLANNING**

**17 / 22.01**      **Confirm Standing Orders with regards to Planning Applications and holding of Planning Meetings:** the clerk distributed copies of the adjusted wording for members to adopt. This is attached as Appendix C.

Cllr Burr confirmed that he would review each application, upon receipt from the Parish Clerk, then would notify all members of council regarding each application, noting if am meeting should be convened. Cllr Hewer asked the Council to assurance that in the future, the Councillor leading on planning would continue to notify members of applications.

Members agreed the proposed wording change. The Clerk to distribute the updated Standing Orders to all members and update the website accordingly.

**17 / 22.02**      The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications;

- Nothing to report

**17 / 23.00**      **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

**17 / 23.01**      Cllr Burr updated council regarding River Lane path he had spoken to the agent for Barlavington Estates, who agreed for a kissing gate to be installed as a replacement. He will approach the Barlavington contractor on the council's behalf for a quote.

Both Mrs Winfield and he would be happy to contribute towards the cost, Council have an obligation to maintain the route of the permissive path.

It was suggested that an approach for additional funding from the Wildbrooks Society might not be best as they tend to support more prominent items that are community based projects.

**17 / 23.02**      D Cllr Donnelly asked if any further comments regarding the HDC Car Park Charging scheme had been received – no more received.

**17 / 24.00**      **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Cllr Evans collected items from council for inclusion in the Parish Link for July & over the summer:

- Erudite Comment SDNPA – highlighting the receipt of many evidence based comments,
- AH Manager Position
- Advert for Councillor
- Summer Fayre at St James School

**17 / 25.00      DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**Next meeting of Council:** is on Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.30pm, at Lodge Hill.

Meeting Closed at 9.05 pm.

**Chairman:.....      Date:.....**

Distributed to those present, also Cllr Dudman and C Cllr Arculus.