

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2020 7.30PM * HELD VIRTUALLY

* The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (Regulation 5)

Those Present:	Cllr G Nelson	Chairman
	Cllr O Dudman	
	Cllr C Dennis	
	Cllr Hewer	
	Cllr J Evans	
	Cllr A Hewitt	
	Cllr A Lane	
	Cllr A Davies	
	C Cllr P Arculus	County Councillor
	D Cllr P Clark	District Councillor
	D Cllr D van der Klugt	District Councillor
	Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge	Clerk

Before the meeting there was an opportunity for members of the public present to speak with council. There were no public in attendance.

ACTION

20 / 17.00 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bowler and D Cllr Donnelly.

20 / 18.00 TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Nelson asked members for nominations for Vice Chairman; no nominations were received. Members were asked to consider this position before the next meeting.

Cllr Nelson nominated Cllr Dennis as planning lead. Cllr Lane also put himself forward to assist in planning. Members agreed to Cllrs Dennis and Lane for the role of planning lead.

20 / 19.00 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No new declarations were received for the meeting.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Davies had completed his forms.

20 / 20.00 TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Cllr Nelson noted a correction to the distributed minutes, the clerk displayed these for members to view.

Cllr Nelson added that Cllr Evans was liaising between the Sandham Hall and the users from St James school regarding the parking issues, Cllr Evans confirmed that he was meeting with Mrs Gibson later in the week.

The corrected minutes for the council meeting held on 15th September 2020 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

20 / 21.00 **FINANCE**

20 / 21.01 **Account Summary:** The Clerk distributed copies of up to date accounts for the Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee to members prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix A & B respectively.

20 / 21.02 **Payments:** Authorised and cheques signed by signatories after the meeting for:

Arun Mowers	Tractor Repair	£57.60
Coldwaltham PCC	Annual Donation	£300.00
Hardham PCC	Annual Donation	£200.00

20 / 22.00 **THE PUBLIC SLIPWAY**

Cllr Hewer updated members, M Davies, WSCC Senior Legal Officer for Highways, has informed us of a definitive answer, that without doubt the slipway is Coldwaltham Parish Councils. However, Cllr Hewer suspects that when the Local Authority Act 1972, enacted in 1976, the then council thought that when our boundary changed, that ownership of the slipway would also transfer to Pulborough Parish, but she believes it had not. Therefore, in her view it is still ours.

C Cllr Arculus advised that it is not as straightforward as it seems, as there still is not any evidence that County originally actioned what they were asked to do, registering the slipway to Coldwaltham. Also questioned, what should have happened, when the boundary changed? Indicating that there must have been some agreement if the slipway remained with Coldwaltham. Mr Davies has advised that there is more investigation required with the Rights of Way legal team. C Cllr Arculus will continue to liaise with him on the issue, especially as he was under the impression that the CPC were looking to retain it, which is not the case, but that Pulborough would be interested it.

D Cllr Clark commented that Pulborough Parish Council believed the slipway did not belong to the Parish but to someone in Pulborough. It is Pulborough Partnership, who are interested in it and are in discussions with various parties to turn it into a local water-sports hub.

C Cllr Arculus commented that the slipway is being promoted as the next access point up river from Littlehampton, by the Coastal Economic Forum supported by Arun District Council, thinking it is on the southern coastal strip, not realising that it is in Horsham District. Arun DC had not consulted either HDC or PPC on this.

Cllr Nelson advised that the main issue was that the Environment Agency had contacted the parish, as lockdown began, advising that, as owners of the slipway, the Parish would be liable for any damaged caused by flooding through the leaking stonework of the slipway, a liability the Parish would not be able to take on. C Cllr Arculus agreed, that as a very small Parish, CPC would be unable to take on this liability.

Cllr Nelson thanked Cllr Hewer for continuing to investigate this.

20 / 23.00 **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

20 / 23.01 Cllr Nelson warned that HDC have now contacted him twice, to hint that the Community Hub may need to be resurrected. This is not definite yet, but HDC are very nervous that the situation will get worse over the next few weeks. Should this be necessary he requested members help and support again. Members confirmed their support.

20 / 23.02 Cllr Nelson also advised members, that Storrington Leisure Centre are endeavouring to restart the leisure facilities. They have much of the funding, however, are asking local parishes for

contributions, roughly based on the number of their registered membership from local parishes, to raise the final funds.

D Cllr Clark noted that PPC had also been contacted, but had advised Storrington Leisure Centre that there were no available funds, as PPC budget was earmarked for developing their own sports and leisure facilities which they are also sourcing extra funding for.

The Clerk advised that the contribution requested was about £1800. Cllr Nelson added that the project needs about £120K, which they have funding for £80K and seeking for the last £40K from local parishes.

- 20 / 23.03** Cllr Dennis noted that SMVH Chair was asking for information regarding the parking request at Sandham Hall; the numbers of cars involved, the duration, and frequency. Cllr Nelson reported that there is one car which parks regularly in Arun Vale and two in Silverdale, all associated with the school. Cllr Evans noted that it is a three-way conversation; with the Friends of the School (parents), staff of the school and staff and users of Chuckleberries; to establish the pattern of parking requirements, as some staff are part time, parents use it at various times etc.

Another item, which Sandham Hall are discussing is regarding COVID and what facilities need to be provided and what are the responsibilities of hirers. Lastly, they have stopped the access to the Post Office through the hall because of a few falls using the steps. This access is being reviewed.

- 20 / 23.04** Cllr Evans apologised for the lack of report in the last Link.

- 20 / 23.05** Cllr Dudman advised that there are problems with low branches obstructing the footpath along the old canal. The Clerk advised that she has difficulty raising these issues with the Public Rights of Ways, as the response is; it is owners of land's responsibility to keep them clear. However, she has no way of identifying who the owners are. The PROW Rangers do visit the area but only visit every fifteen months. Also, this particular path starts in Coldwaltham Parish then passes through Parham, before returning to our parish.

Cllr Dudman to clarify where the obstructions are.

- 20 / 23.06** The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications
- SDNP/20/02517/HOUS, 1 Silverdale, Coldwaltham, Permitted.
 - SDNP/19/06098/FUL, Hardham Mill, London Road, Hardham, Refused.
 - SDNP/20/03569/TCA, Parkhill Cottage, Sandy Lane, Watersfield, Permitted.

- 20 / 23.07** D Cllr van der Klugt updated members from the SDNP, who are shortly to put in their response to the Government's White Paper on planning for the future which proposes radical reforms to the system, raising concerns about; the strict time limits for Local Plans being too rigid, the role of Neighbourhood Development Plans being reduced to a design statement, lack of detail in environmental and climate change emergencies, the loss of Section 106 Funds. SDNP are also flagging up the poor internet connection in some parts of the South Downs and the government proposing to digitalise the planning process.

Cllr Nelson noted two proposals which are significant to the parish; the Neighbourhood Plan and Section 106 proposals.

D Cllr van der Klugt advised that in the proposals Neighbourhood Plan become little more than design codes, SDNP are arguing that a large number of Local Neighbourhood Plans, bring forward development sites in their local area and zone these sites, and not just become an instrument for what the houses should look like. The Section 106 funding would be abolished, SDNP argue that this is not desirable, as it provides contributions towards the local infrastructure which cannot be secured by conditions.

- 20 / 23.08** D Cllr Clark updated members with items from HDC:
- New Small Business Grants will run until November – for starter businesses.
 - HDC responded to part of the Government's White Paper on planning, regarding the number of new homes being lifted from 920 to 1715 a year.
 - Andrew Griffith has also responded to the White Paper in a similar vain.

- HDC have also been advised that they will be responsible for self-isolating payments, basically anyone who has to isolate because of COVID who is in receipt of unemployment benefit or family credit, can get a grant of £500 from the council.
- HDC finances continue to be problematic.

20 / 23.09 C Cllr Arculus updated members with items from WSCC:

- County are also in a difficult financial position, increasing the costs for care homes and social care areas.
- taskforce looking at the Healthcare system, scrutinising the effects of the COVID situation, what they have learnt from it and what their winter planning is, alongside what has to be dealt with from COVID
- Impressed with how the Healthcare System has been working.
- WSCC have a new contract for dealing with pot-holes so hopefully there will not be a repeat of the issues seen when the old contract was running out.
- Most staff are working from home.

20 / 23.10 Cllr Hewer noted that in light of the recent power cut, does the parish need to review the list of residents who might require assistance. Cllr Nelson advised that the list, the parish manages, is for weather related issues and was reviewed recently.

20 / 23.11 Cllr Evans brought to the attention of members, and it relates to the last item and connectivity in the parish, that the analogue phone system is due to be switched off in 2014-25, and everything move to digital. This would raise several implications, especially for the older population. No members were aware – Cllr Evans would continue to investigate. This might affect how the parish contacts those who need assistance as they may well not have mobile phones.

20 / 24.00 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Next meeting of Council: is on Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 7.30pm. to include preliminary budget discussions.

Dates for Next Year – The clerk asked if members wished to continue to meet on a Tuesday, and in the same months as currently held?

Cllr Hewer asked if a meeting could be added in the summer and lose one of the winter meetings. Members confirmed continuing to use Lodge Hill for winter meetings and the school for summer ones, when councils can meet again in person.

Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm.

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

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