

# COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD  
ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2017 @ 7.30PM  
AT THE ST JAMES SCHOOL, CHURCH LANE, COLDWALTHAM**

<b>Those Present:</b>	<b>Cllr S Hewer</b>	<b>Vice - Chairman</b>
	<b>Cllr O Dudman</b>	<b>Cllr T Burr</b>
	<b>Cllr J Bowler</b>	
	<b>Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge</b>	<b>Parish Clerk</b>
	<b>Paul Clarke</b>	<b>District Councillor</b>
	<b>Patricia Arculus</b>	<b>County Councillor</b>
<b>Parishioners:</b>	<b>Chris Yeardsley</b>	<b>Audrey Holman</b>
	<b>James Miles</b>	<b>Carole Forster</b>
	<b>Marc Forster</b>	<b>Ann Hewitt</b>
	<b>Tim Scriven</b>	<b>Angela Scriven</b>
	<b>Victor Rose</b>	

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting

**1.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Evans, Vicarri and Lilley. Cllr Nelson advised he would be late.

**2.00 TO APPROVE AS CORRECT THE RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21st APRIL 2015.**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016, were signed as a true and correct record.

**3.00 MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

**4.00 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman report is attached as Annex A to these minutes, and was read by Cllr Hewer.

**5.00 REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRMAN OF ALBAN HEAD PLAYING FIELDS**

The full report from the Chairman of the Alban Head Committee is attached as Annex B to these minutes, and was read by Cllr Hewer.

**6.00 FINANCE**

The Clerk to the Parish Council presented the audited accounts for the Parish Council and audited accounts for the Alban Head Committee; her report is attached as Annex C to these minutes.

**7.00 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sandham Hall** – Cllr Dudman thanked parishioners for their continued support, and are keen to preserve the hall for the future.

**Speedwatch** – Cllr Bowler read an update on behalf of Cllr Evans asking for more volunteers, any

training required will be given, drivers identified by the campaign are sent a warning by the police, the campaign in other villages has brought a change in attitude, both Storrington and Loxwood are very pleased with how it has reduced the level of speeding in these villages.

Residents highlighted the speed of motorbikes on Sunday as being of concern.

Also, asked how effective these campaigns had been against the time spent by volunteers.

**Dark Skies** – Cllr Burr gave an update. SDNP Dark Skies policy was adopted, and is enforced through the SDNP Planning Authority.

SDNP Office had visited Alban Head and inspected the 360° view available which meets the requirements for inclusion, and hoping to set up Alban Head area as a great viewing spot. Great news for the village.

**Planning** – The Parish Council met and made comment on all application brought before them, thanks were given to Cllr Hewer for her 15 years covering planning on behalf of the Parish Council.

**SDNP Allocation** – Cllr Burr summarised the current situation.

The local Planning Authority since 2011 is South Downs National Park Planning Authority (SDNPA), and although HDC cover the case work, SDNP can still call in an application if they think it is needed.

In 2015, the SDNP started the process for identifying sites available for housing. Options Consultation Document set out the plans for the whole park, and sites were identified. Large conurbations like Lewis, Midhurst and Petworth were expected to receive the larger developments. However, some rural parishes asked for some housing allocation rather than no allocation. In our parish, the proposals identified the site at Brooklands Way for about 20 homes deliverable over the next 15 years. This was discussed by the Parish Council, to which members were broadly in favour. In January this year, a professional planner reviewed all the sites in the allocation for SDNPA, he determined that the site at Brooklands Way was not acceptable being too close to an AONB and SSSI area, not having enough circulation or play area, and downwind of the sewage works. In its place, he suggested the site at Brookview, for to 40 homes, advising that the site is further from the AONB and SSSI area, is larger so can be better arranged to give more play and circulation areas.

Past sites, previously identified in the village, for housing were also dismissed; Bridge Nurseries, similar reasons to Brooklands Way, its proximity to the AONB and SSSI area, Glebe Wood close the historical core of the village and would destroy woods.

These proposals have still to be adopted by SDNPA, after another public consultation in September. The Parish Council is seeking resident's thoughts to enable them to give an informed response.

Cllr Hewer asked for comments from residents:

Victor Rose – noted that the Brooklands way site had been strongly opposed by Natural England, Sussex Wildlife Trust and the South Downs Society. But highlighted that the site is owned by Barlavington Estates.

A resident asked about Neighbourhood Plans, would the parish be having one, Cllr Burr noted that the signals from the SDNP were that SDNPA weren't interested in putting housing in small rural communities with few amenities. A formal Neighbourhood Plan would not achieve anything, perhaps the Parish Council had been misled with this advice.

Cllr Burr confirmed that approval of the SDNPA Housing Allocation is expected in early 2018, after a further round of Public Consultation in September. Then it is sent to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate.

The Parish Council acknowledged the need for additional housing and had deemed 20 homes to be acceptable, and had taken into consideration, that the school numbers are very low just 47 pupils and numbers need to increase to 75 to ensure it remains. Is 40 too many?

C Cllr P Arculus highlighted any development needs to consider the wider amenities available: access to roads not just locally but from the village, number of houses, access to healthcare,

education etc. This area is strategically placed with major links and the railway station at Pulborough.

D Cllr Clarke commented that the population in the south is getting older, and will need access to carers, nurses and doctors etc, no younger people no need for a school, need to look at the sustainability of the community, as a whole. Communities need to grow. HDC had to increase their allocation, Mid Sussex had their LDP thrown out, Arun/Brighton because of their location by the sea some of their allocation was transferred to the next area.

Cllr Hewer concluded that those who had attended had responded with many comments. Following this meeting the Parish Council compile a series of ideas for residents to comment on.

But in the meantime, urged residents to come forward with their own suggestions which they would like the Parish Council and residents to considered.

**Other Items raised by residents included:**

- Silverdale - Ann Hewitt asked if there was any date for the completion of the Silverdale Development – the works are currently waiting for power cables to be re-positioned on the other side of the railway, and any work involving Network Rail time scale are difficult.
- Local Connection – how is this determined, by having parent here or working here?
- Transport – Tim Scriven highlighted the Compass Bus route which leaves Coldwaltham at 10.00 am Wednesdays, now goes more directly to Chichester allowing more time for shopping, now 2 hours.
- School - Congratulations to St James School, just received a Good OFSTED rating.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Chairman's Notes for Annual Parish Meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**

As with last year your PC continues to be a very committed group of local volunteers whom I wish to personally thank for all their work on behalf of the village – not least representing many aspects of local life such as the Sandham Hall, our School and Wild Brooks.

As I said last year and is clearly in the Village Plan we still need new people to volunteer for things – anything – in the village including to stand for their PC

Thank you to all members of the PC for their contribution. I am grateful to all.

This year we have continued to implement the Village plan. The website is up and is good work – thanks to all especially Cllr Kersti Viccari for all her work on this. It also makes us fully legally compliant with the expectations on PCs over publication of minutes etc.

Thank you to Brian Maher who has just retired from the PC for all his work on behalf of the village especially his work on the winter plan.

We continued to support a number of local organisations although this is going to be less next year due to our implementing of the village plan to improve the Alban Head. This means, as you will know, that to support the development of the Alban Head, to raise (in the longer run) more revenue from hirers and to because the current commitment by volunteers is unsustainable, we are aiming to employ a manager of the field in the near future. This led to a once only large rise of 9% in the precept: although our average over recent years has been well below national averages. We received many statements of support and tried to address the two challenges in our minutes on our website.

The key driver for us continues to be our excellent clerk – we continue to owe a huge debt of gratitude and thanks to our Clerk Dona.

Our village plan identified, without surprise, traffic as a continuous concern. Although it is difficult for any PC to intervene on this issue: we continue to have close links with our local Police and Cllr John Evans is leading on a 'speedwatch' campaign with Bury.

We continue to receive a lot of guidance from HDC and enjoy close links with our District and County Councillors.

From 27th March we learnt, (+ from a phone call from a neighbouring PC member of the SDNP) that there is a proposal to change the land allocated for potential housing in the village, doubling the number and moving the area close to the A29 next to Brook View. There will be a formal consultation on this in the autumn and we would like to hear the community views.

We continue, as volunteers, to work hard for our community and I hope we can now start to consider sustainability of the PC over the next few years. We need to consider how we recruit new members of the PC and new volunteers for the future of the village.

Thank you again for all your work and support this year. Guy Nelson Chairman

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Alban Head Playing Fields Report 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

We continue to support this key village asset The Alban Head continues to be a wonderful asset for our community and as its custodians we take good care of it. We believe the money spent on it is of good value

Following the review of the Alban Head and consultations with Fields in Trust we are now about to advertise for a new Alban Head manager. This role will be key to the future development of the AHPF.

One sign of the future, fully supported by St James, is the 1:1 football coaching which is now a regular part of the field.

The groundsman Jamie and caretaker Gordon continue to provide an excellent service.

We are conscious that our groundsman has to cope with a significant amount of aging kit; this needed expenditure, from next year, will not lead to a precept rise.

Once again, the finances of the Alban Head have been kept in good order by Dona and we are grateful for all her work on behalf of the playing fields.

Guy Nelson  
Chairman

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Finance Report for Annual Parish Meeting April 25<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Copies of the audited Receipts & Payments Schedule and Reconciliation for the Parish Council for the end of 2016/17 year have been circulated and from this you can see that the Parish Council has ended the year with reserves of £8435, this brings the accounts into a healthier position.

The Parish Council agreed a slightly reduced budget of £14,000 for the year a decrease of about 2.5% on the previous year. Also, setting a Precept of £14,205, an increase of 1.4% on the previous year, allowing the parish to continue to benefit from this increase in the future years. The Parish has also managed to make savings this year, to bring their reserves back up to about half their annual expenditure.

The Council continues to maintain as large balance as possible in a deposit account, although with the current financial climate this doesn't generated much income.

A copy of the unaudited accounts for the Alban Head Committee has also been circulated. This shows a very modest surplus, however there is one significant invoice outstanding for a, new to us, piece of machinery.

Dona Sherlock-Fudge  
Clerk to Coldwaltham Parish Council