

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2024 7.30PM

SANDHAM HALL, LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present:

Cllr G Nelson
Cllr J Evans
Cllr A Davies
Cllr O Dudman
Cllr A Lane
Cllr C Dennis
Cllr K Coughtrey
Cllr I Dreger

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

C Cllr C Kenyon
D Cllr P Clarke
D Cllr L Ellis-Brown

County Councillor
District Councillor
District Councillor

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge Clerk

Parishioner

Fiona Mills

Cllr Nelson welcomed Fiona Mills to the meeting.

Fiona spoke to members about the speed of traffic on the B2138 Fittleworth Road, from Bury Gate to Tripp Hill, she advised that there is unfortunately very little evidence of the issues, only anecdotal comments. She highlighted that there are over 100 horses in the Coldwaltham area, who if they want to access Coates Common, need to cross the B2138 where visibility is very difficult and the speed of cars is up to 60mph. She has been working with Bury PC and Fittleworth PC towards a 40mph TRO along the road. In addition to this she has spoken to Andrew Kinnear of Barlavington Estates – who has suggested a horse path in their field across from the end of Waltham Park Road along to the Horncroft Bridleway. She has the support of Tom Richardson their District Councillor.

Fiona Mills left the meeting after she had spoken.

23 / 50.00 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from D Cllr Campbell.

23 / 51.00 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No new declarations were received. Cllr Nelson noted his trusteeship at Lodge Hill for item 23 / 58.01.

23 / 52.00 TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 16th January 2024 was accepted and signed by the Chairman.

23 / 53.00 2023-24 YEAR END ACCOUNTS

The Clerk advised that she wished to use Jen Smith of Smithe and Co as the Internal Auditor, as Rachel Hall has retired, for the current year's accounts. Jen Smith had quoted £315 for both PC and Alban Head accounts, so £157.50 each.

Timetable, - year ends on 31st March 2024, the Internal Auditor's report is required by the meeting in May, so that the account statements can be signed. The Clerk advised that the Annual Governance Statement documents are due, but that the Parish Council accounts should

be under the £25K threshold for both income and expenditure, so would be exempt from an external audit.

RESOLVED: **Members confirmed the appointment of Jen Smithe of Smithe and Co for the 2023-24 Year End Internal Audit.**

23 / 54.00 **FINANCE**

23 / 54.01 **Account Summary:** The Clerk distributed the accounts for Parish Council and Alban Head Playing Fields Committee to members prior to the meeting. These are attached as Appendix A & B respectively.

23 / 54.02 **Authorise & Sign Bank Standing Orders for 2024/25 financial year:**

Clerk's Salary £410.27 from April - Members authorised instructions to Lloyds Bank to amend the current Standing Order to reflect 2023/24 monthly salary, was signed by signatories after the meeting.

23 / 54.03 **Confirm the Bank Signatures.**

The Clerk advised that ideally another bank signatory should be appointed, Cllr Coughtrey volunteered to be added. The Clerk would liaise with her.

23 / 54.04 **Payments:** payments were authorised for the cheques and signed by signatories for:

HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Jan to Mar	£123.80
Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge	Travel and Sundry Expenses	£37.80
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	Mar Meeting	£30.00
Parish of Bury, Coldwaltham Hardham and Houghton	Local Gov Act 1972 s119 (2)	£80.00.

23 / 55.00 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Nelson thank to the Parish Council for the increase in the Alban Head contribution in the recent budget, the committee is due to meet later this month at which they will set their budget for 2024-25. The additional funding means that they will be able to agree a balanced budget.

Also, at the Alban Head the field is having a problem with too much water because of the unprecedented rainfall and the ground not draining, requesting support from members. Cllr Davies offered to assist.

Cllr Nelson highlighted the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 23rd April, he suggested two items for the meeting, and would like to ask Ken Rowsell, the editor of the Link to attend to answer any resident's questions. Also invite Simon Berr, the chair of the Sandham Hall, to give his ideas on revamping the Sandham Hall's image and ways to expand its position in the community. Members agreed.

Cllr Nelson also highlighted various correspondence he had received on local issues.

23 / 56.00 **POST OFFICE CLOSURE - UPDATE**

Cllr Nelson updated members as Simon Berry is leading on this. Simon had written to the Post Office (PO) with an offer to employ Tracy (Bury's Post Mistress) to run an outreach PO, 3 mornings a week, Tracy was happy to do so. The PO didn't respond. However, the PO did contact Tracy directly, then advised that she was not interested. Simon has helped Tracy drafted a letter to the PO counteracting this. Simon is still waiting the PO to respond to this. No time scales have been given by PO for when they might respond.

22 / 57.00 **TRANSPORT ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE - UPDATE**

Cllrs Dennis & Dreger met with Sussex Police, regarding the speeds of the traffic through the village and what options or schemes were available to the Parish Council. Sussex Police advised that the Parish Council need the support of WSCC regarding any scheme. Cllr Dennis, noted that the junction at Brook Lane has become much busier, especially as there is a light industrial area at Quell Farm, which has increased the traffic.

Cllr Dreger commented that he often drives through Hampshire, long stretches of the A272 are covered by average speed cameras. He noted that although the speed limit along the A283

between Pulborough and Storrington has been reduced to 40mph, it appears that speeds have slowed but not to 40mph.

Cllr Dreger has investigated the process that both Storrington and Bury have taken for their speed reduction TRO applications, he suggested that a Traffic Group is set up outside of the Parish Council to investigate three issues, and report back with their findings and actions. He highlighted: 1) what things can be added to the road to reduce speeds 2) a TRO/CHS application to reduce the speed to 40mph from Pulborough to Coldwaltham 3) make the pavements as wide as possible to encourage cyclist and walkers. Cllr Nelson welcomed this.

23 / 58.00

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK

23 / 58.01

The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/23/03787/TCA, Little Fowlers Old London Road Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/23/04801/TPO, Barn Cottage London Road Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/23/03783/HOUS, Ennismore Sandy Lane Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/23/00922/HOUS, Swallowfield London Road Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/23/04879/CND, Swallows End Ingrams Farm London Road Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/23/04550/LIS, Old Priest House, London Road Coldwaltham, Withdrawn
- SDNP/23/03216/HOUS & SDNP/23/03217/LIS, Winters Farm London Road Hardham, Permitted
- SDNP/23/05178/HOUS, 33 Brookview Coldwaltham Refused
- SDNP/23.04823/FUL, Besley Farm, River Lane, Watersfield, Permitted

Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications:

- Oak Cottage - would like to see an Arboriculturist report regarding the work proposed.
- Beacon House – conditions regarding the noise of the air source heat pump
- Kings Lane – proposed erections of stables and sand school, Cllr Nelson recommended that a meeting is held to discuss this.

Cllr Nelson updated members that the Lodge Hill Trust have now sold the land to the developer, who have advised that they are going to hold a public meeting regarding the proposed development on the corner of Waltham Park Road.

Lastly, Cllr Dennis noted that there is an application for a underground zero neutral house on the triangle of land at Bury Gate.

23 / 58.02

D Cllr Clarke and D Cllr Ellis Brown updated members regarding HDC items:

- Action Strategy
- HDC Budget approved – 2%.

23 / 58.03

Cllr Evans noted a conversation with Barlavington Estates, that they are still pursuing the development in the village.

He noted that Sussex Police have recommenced their Sussex Alerts email, which highlighted burglaries and car crimes in the area, in response to Horsham Neighbourhood Watch resigning. These emails are useful in highlighting the locations of crimes, forewarn is to be forearmed.

23 / 58.04

Cllr Lane highlighted that the pavements between Coldwaltham and Pulborough remain and issue and was interested in the remarks in C Cllr Kenyon's monthly report.

He also noted that the village "Coldwaltham" sign had been replaced but was attached to the rotten posts. In addition, Cllr Davies noted that the brown sign at Hardham for the frescoes had also fallen down. The clerk will contact WSCC.

23 / 58.05

D Cllr Clark updated members on the work of the Pulborough Transport and Infrastructure Working Group (PTIWG):

- Looking at the A29 Pavements
- speed limits.
- school crossings improvements.
- paths and footways.

He also noted that there is a group in WSCC working on an A29 as part of their next Transport Plan.

23 / 58.06 The Clerk advised that Local Councils can request a free portrait of King Charles, she suggested applying and putting it in the Sandham Hall. Members agreed.

23 / 59.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next meeting of Council is on Tuesday 14th March 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

Annual Parish Meeting is on Tuesday 23rd April 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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

Distributed to those present and D Cllr Campbell.

DRAFT MINUTES - Not confirmed until the next council meeting