

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2024 7.30PM

SANDHAM HALL, LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present:

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

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

D Cllr P Clarke
C Cllr C Kenyon

District Councillor
County Councillor

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge Clerk

24 / 27.00

As C Cllr Kenyon needed to attend another parish council meeting, she gave her report before leaving the meeting. Cllr Kenyon updated members

- WSCC currently £35m deficit in the budget, expecting a 4.99% increase, this will still leave a £8.2 million shortfall still,
- linking with Hampshire, East Sussex and Kent to look at cost savings
- Major building works have been cancelled – A27 Arundel bypass
- still chasing on clearing the paths through the village
- no news on the Church Hill
- Check security for shed and vans as there has been a spate of burglaries.

24 / 28.00

TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from D Cllrs Campbell and Ellis Brown and Cllr Stevens.

24 / 29.00

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

No new declarations were received.

24 / 30.00

TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 24th September 2024 was accepted and signed by the Chairman.

24 / 31.00

FINANCE

24 / 31.01

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.

24 / 31.02

Payments: payments were authorised for the cheques and signed by signatories for:

Consentino Outreach	September Post Office Salary	£420.00
T M Mowers Ltd	Mower Service	£194.77
Chichester Farm Machinery	Tractor 75% Balance	£22081.50
Chichester Farm Machinery	Immobiliser	£540.00
Coldwaltham Village Help	Return money paid in error	£1000.00
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	Meeting Fee	£30.00
Microsoft	Annual Subscription	£59.99
Coldwaltham PCC	Annual Donation	£300.00

Hardham PCC	Annual Donation	£200.00
Consentino Outreach	October Post Office Salary	£390.00

24 / 32.00

BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk gave all councillors a copy of the proposed budget for 2025-26 for the Parish Council and is attached as Appendix C.

Cllr Nelson advised that although the Alban Head portion of the precept was increased to £8,500, which the first increase since 2020/21. However, the AH will not receive the other additional £500 increase this year.

Cllr Nelson advised that this budget has been trimmed to try to keep it to a zero increase in expenditure, so that the increase proposed would go towards the cost of maintaining the Post Office.

The Clerk explained the figures in the 2025-26 budget highlighting changes to:

- The Alban Head salaries although the minimum wage rate has not been confirmed, a provisional figure of £12.39 per hour has been reported, an increase of 8.3% has been included this might have to change if the minimum wage is higher than this amount. Although this is outside the PC budget, members need to be aware.
- The clerk advised that the hours for the clerk's role from April will reduce by quarter of an hour to 7 hours a week.
- Cllr Nelson included a 5% increase for the clerk's salary.
- As the income and expenditure has been over £25K this year there will be an External Audit, the fee of £315, higher than usual as income has gone over the £50K threshold, the next band.
- The clerk advised that following the recent budget the PC will need to pay Employers National Insurance contribution, for the portion of the clerk's salary over £5K.
- The clerk advised that Lloyds Bank are changing the type of bank account the PC has from January, and will start charging a monthly fee of £4.25, and 50p for non-electronic items. Members will need to consider more properly moving to on-line banking.

Cllr Evans noted that from the village survey, the responses received were overwhelmingly in support of an additional rise to the Precept to help finance the Post Office.

The clerk advised members the updated figures: total budget £18,175.

Cllr Nelson proposed an increase of 7% in the Precept, an increase of about £1200, taking the amount to £19,288.

The Clerk reminded members how the precept is calculated; the Parish requests an amount, which is then divided by the Tax Base, this will give the amount a Band D household will pay. The Clerk noted that a provisional tax base figure had been received, which is a decrease from last year, the effect of which will make an additional 0.55% on any precept increase proposed. The clerk distributed calculations showing various increases.

Members agreed the increase of 7%. Chairman advised that members could continue to consider this and confirm at the meeting in January.

RESOLVED: Members provisional agreed the Budget of £18175 and a Precept increase of 7% to £19288.

24 / 33.00

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Nelson updated members:

- The Post Office continues to go well.
- Another donation from a resident received for the Post Office

24 / 34.00

TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Cllr Dreger updated members:

- WSCC had sent their Draft Transport plan, which had a distinct lack of any detail on active travel, alternative transport i.e. bus, cycling etc. Also noting that any responsibility for action has been lost.
- Operation Downsway – Sussex Police have issued a survey asking how well residents think that they are doing.

24 / 35.00

PLANNING

The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/24/03433/HOUS, Rosewood London Road Watersfield - Permitted
- SDNP/24/03560/HOUS, Yew Tree House London Road Coldwaltham, - Refused
- SDNP/23/05402/FUL, Land North of Kings Lane, Kings Lane, Coldwaltham, - Refused
- SDNP/23/02006/FUL, Land Southwest Of Hardham Mill Business Park Ingrams Farm London Road Hardham, Withdrawn

Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications and comments.

- SDNP/24/04021/HOUS - The Pest House River Lane Watersfield – Demolishing the existing garage and replacing with a larger one and stabling.
- SDNP/24/03972/TPO - Watersfield Chapel London Road Watersfield – lifting the crown of the two Yew trees.

24 / 36.00 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK

24 / 36.01 Cllr Dudman had advised about some fly tipping along Brook Lane, The Clerk confirmed that fly-tipping should be reported to HDC. Cllr Dudman confirmed that HDC have come and looked at the issue but had advised that the tyres are on Barlavington Estate land, so the PC would need to contact the estate regarding this as it is not public land. Also, the broken wall - HDC advised that the PC would need to contact WSCC Highways to clear the wall which has fallen over the culvert.

24 / 36.02 Cllr Dennis advised that there is a vehicle which is consistently spilling liquid onto the road along Brook Lane., which is leaving it very slippery when the road is damp.

24 / 36.03 The increase in thefts which had been noted by C Cllr Kenyon, Cllr Evans noted that the current information received from the police has reduced drastically and doesn't always convey where the issues are.

24 / 36.04 Cllr Evans also advised that a new coordinator is required for Neighbourhood Watch in Coldwaltham.

24 / 36.05 Cllr Evans noted that a second location has been identified for the speed watch in Watersfield, with continued support, it is hoped to be able to restart this Speed watch campaign in the village.

24 / 36.06 Cllr Dreger has contacted Tenants regarding the Repair to the speed Indicator, but it is waiting to be completed

24 / 36.07 Cllr Dreger and Dennis advised that the footpath from Watersfield towards Waltham Brooks is being fenced off, as there will be sheep with lambs going in next year.

24 / 36.08 D Cllr Clarke updated members:

- Pulborough Transport Group – Cllr Dreger invited to join the group,
- HDC Local Plan inspection is starting in Dec.
- Government is considering the possibility of allowing Parish Councils to hold remote council meetings.

24 / 36.09 Cllr Dreger advised that Louise Brace is holding a meeting tomorrow, looking at opening the railway from Petersfield to Pulborough along the Rother Valley.

24 / 37.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next meeting of Council is on Tuesday 14th January 2025, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall. The Clerk advised that meetings had been booked at the Sandham Hall for next year and had distributed the schedule.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Distributed to those present and Cllr Stevens, and D Cllrs Campbell and Ellis-Brown.