

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2025 7.30PM

SANDHAM HALL, LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM

Those Present: Cllr G Nelson Chairman
Cllr J Evans Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Davies
Cllr O Dudman
Cllr C Dennis
Cllr K Coughtrey
Cllr I Dreger
Cllr A Lane
Cllr J Stevens

D Cllr P Clarke District Councillor

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fudge Clerk

24 / 38.00 **TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

24 / 39.00 **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 / 40.00 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2024 was accepted and signed by the Chairman.

24 / 41.00 **FINANCE**

24 / 41.01 **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 / 41.02 **Payments:** payments were authorised for the cheques and signed by signatories for:

Consentino Outreach	November Post Office Salary	£360.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd	Additional Premium	£693.52
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	Meeting Fee	£30.00
Bury CE Primary School	White Line Marker	£200.00
Consentino Outreach	December Post Office Salary	£300.00
IONOS Cloud Ltd	Domain Biannual Fee	£23.98
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	£110.00

24 / 41.03 **Online Banking:** The Clerk informed members that following the letter from Lloyds Bank advising that charges would be levied on all non-electronic payments, she had investigated setting up of on-line banking for the Lloyds accounts. The Clerk noted that the current cheque signing mandate is chair and two others from the five signatories.

The Clerk recommended that the option for three to authorise each payment as this best reflects the current signing mandate. By needing three authorisations that after setting up a payment it could be authorised by that person but would also need to be authorised by two other signatories. However, this would mean that each signatory would need to be set up for online banking.

Resolved: Members agreed for three people to authorise each online payment.

The Clerk to update the Financial Code of Practice to reflect this change. The Clerk would arrange for each bank signatory to complete the registration.

24 / 42.00

BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Clerk advised that there were no changes to the previous budget figures.

Cllr Nelson asked members to confirm the Budget of £18,175 and Precept increase of 7% to £19,288. Members agreed.

Cllr Dreger confirmed that the recent survey indicated that the responses received were in favour of supporting the post office from a precept increase.

Cllr Evans noted that if the Post Office Ltd refuses to increase its level of funding towards the hours, and if the PC can't increase the funding, then the number of hours that the Post Office is open would need to reduce.

Cllr Nelson indicated that as the rest of the PC budget had been cut to the minimum, this level of support could not be maintained in future years and the funding would need to be sought from other sources. This will be clearly expressed to the wider community through 'The Link'.

The precept request was signed by the chair after the meeting.

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

24 / 43.00

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Nelson updated members:

- Alban Head field is very wet currently but seems to be holding up, and the equipment is working well.
- Former Councillor Tim Scrivens passed away on the 31st December.

24 / 44.00

POST OFFICE UPDATE

Cllr Evans updated members:

- Following a recent Post Office Committee meeting, at which they discussed the need for a locally trained member of staff. However, the committee believes that the position is more than just a part-time voluntary role, and therefore the prospective candidate may need to set up a company and take out insurance cover for the financial risks involved.
- The funding raised in the precept increase and reduced budget would last to June/July 2025. The Post Office Ltd advised that funding for a similar size Post Office would be in the region of £6K a year, the Post Office Ltd have confirmed that they are unlikely to increase their level of funding. Therefore, there is a shortfall of about £4K a year to maintain the service.

24 / 45.00

TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE

Cllr Dreger updated members:

- Last July we submitted a Community Highways Scheme Application (CHSA) for speed-reduction measures in the parish. WSCC Highways advised that we should hear the outcome within a month. WSCC has recently installed traffic data strips - now removed. Cllr Dreger noted to WSCC that the locations of recently installed monitoring strips might not be the best positions to record excessive speeds. Also to point out the survey period coincided with very wet and then very cold weather with icy conditions and so speeds would not have been representative.
- WSCC has issued its draft road safety strategy for 2025-36. Cllr Dreger has responded to the online survey, with extensive comments. These were copied to Joy Dennis (WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways) and to Matt Harvey (WSCC Director of Highways). Also noting that we submitted a CHSA in July 24, with little response from WSCC. We need a widespread response from parishioners to the online survey, Cllr Evans has publicised on local Facebook page.

- Update on the Northbound SID – Cllr Dreger raised this and has been advised that it is an electrical issue rather than a problem with the sign which is proving more difficult to solve quickly.
- Contacted Highways regarding a missing drain cover in November.
- The Footway clearance appears to have started along Coldwaltham towards Watersfield, however does not appear to be complete yet.
- Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP). ID noticed fewer attendances by the speed monitoring van since October/November '24. It has recently reappeared a couple of times. This may be because Sussex Police has stated it will withdraw from the scheme (currently a joint WSCC/Sussex Police operation). This is a shame, as SSRP provided useful data (in response to a FOIA request) of high volumes of speeding offences – 845 in 48 measurement hours over a year AND a maximum recorded speed of 63mph in the 30 zone.
- A Bury Parish Council member advised Cllr Dreger that a Traffic Regulation Order had been submitted to WSCC to reduce the speed limit on the B2138 between Bury Gate and Tripp Hill to 40 mph (from the National Speed Limit). This is outside our parish but certainly within earshot

24 / 46.00 **PLANNING**

The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/24/01677/HOUS, Sandrock, Old London Road, Coldwaltham, Permitted
- SDNP/24/04021/HOUS, The Pest House River Lane Watersfield, Permitted
- SDNP/24/03972/TPO, Watersfield Chapel London Road Watersfield, Permitted

Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications and comments.

- SDNP/ 24/05066/HOUS – 33 Brookview Coldwaltham – 2 Storey Side Extension and a 1 Storey Side/Rear Extension. – the side extension is not as far forward as the previous application leaving sufficient parking space in front of the property.
- SDNP/24/03972/TPO – Yew Tree Cottage, London Road Hardham – to render the south wall, unseen from the road, the Conservation officer involved.
- SDNP/25/00059/LIS - The Old Post Office – replacing windows like for like double glazed units.

24 / 47.00 **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

24 / 47.01 Cllr Nelson noted that Church Hill had been closed today, D Cllr advised that this had been for a survey which had been completed by lunchtime.

24 / 47.02 Cllr Lane advised that the 30mph sign along Brook Lane by the allotments has gone – the post appears to have rusted away, - the Clerk will advise WSCC Highways.

24 / 47.03 Cllr Dennis noted that there the amount of litter has increased along the pavements, wondered if there were signs which could be added at the entrance to the villages, similar to Storrington “loving their village” sign.

24 / 47.04 Cllr Stevens advised that the Public Footpath sign at the entrance to Silverdale is at head height – wondered if could be raised.

24 / 47.05 D Cllr Clarke updated members:

- Abolition of District Councils in Sussex – 3 unitary authorities, with a mayor over the whole of Sussex
- Local Plan – Planning Inspectorate hearings for this have been cancelled
- Scrutiny Committee – in the next municipal year to review the parishes possibly to amalgamate them

24 / 47.06 Cllr Nelson advised that the Annual Parish Village meeting is in April – requested suggestions for speaker at this meeting to encourage residents to attend.

24 / 48.00 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Next meeting of Council is on Tuesday 11th March 2025, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

Distributed to those present and C Cllr Kenyon and D Cllrs Campbell and Ellis-Brown.