

COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2023 7.30PM

SANDHAM HALL, LONDON ROAD, COLDWALTHAM

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

C Cllr C Kenyon
D Cllr P Clarke

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge Clerk

Before the meeting there was an opportunity for members of the public present to speak with council. No members of public present.

22 / 46.00 **TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hewer, and D Cllr D van de Klugt.

22 / 47.00 **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS, AND ANY CHANGES SINCE THEIR LAST DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No new declarations were received.

22 / 48.00 **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES**

Minutes for the council meeting held on 17th January 2023 was accepted and signed by the Chairman.

22 / 49.00 **2022-23 YEAR END ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk advised that she wished to use Rachel Hall as the Internal Auditor again for the current year's accounts.

Timetable, - year ends on 31st March 2023, the Internal Auditor's report is required by the meeting in May, so that the account statements can be signed. The Clerk had not yet received the Annual Governance Statement documents. The Parish Council accounts, being over the £25K threshold, would require an external audit.

RESOLVED: Members confirmed the appointment of Rachel Hall for the 2022-23 Year End Internal Audit.

22 / 50.00 **FINANCE**

22 / 50.01 **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.

22 / 50.02 Authorise & sign amendments to Bank Standing Orders:

Clerk's Salary £399.68 - 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.

22 / 50.03 Payments: payments were authorised for the cheques or payment instructions signed by signatories for:

Travis Perkins	Paint for Pavilion	£106.16
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Jan to Mar	£144.80
Mrs LD Sherlock Fudge	Salary Arrears	£323.86
Alban Head Playing Field	Precept portion due to Alban Head	£962.00
Mrs LD Sherlock Fudge	ravel & Expenses	£ 79.38
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	March Meeting Fee	£10.00

22 / 51.00 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Nelson reminded members that elections for District Councillors and Parish Councillors are on 4th May, and to get the message out that voters will need photo ID to vote in person on the day.

Cllr Nelson noted that there are some cases of COVID in the village, it is still around and to remember to be safe.

The trees at the Alban Head have been cut back with the use of a hired cherry picker, thanks were expressed for the volunteers who had assisted in this notably Richard Charman.

Plans for the Street Party to be held on 7th May are moving forward. A HDC grant has been applied for and granted, to cover most of the insurance and printing costs. Cllr Nelson highlighted that there are other events are happening over the weekend, an event is also being held at the Alban Head over the weekend, along with some small ones, and others on the Sunday too.

Cllr Nelson advised that the local vicar, Rev Peter Mallinson is retiring in April. There will be a period of interregnum before the position is filled.

22 / 52.00 A29 CLOSURE AT CHURCH HILL, PULBOROUGH

C Cllr Kenyon, updated members on this difficult situation. WSCC considered two options: the first and the best way is to enter into voluntary agreements with the landowners, so with both embankments being owned by private parties this has necessitated two agreements. The second option is to proceed by enforcement, this comes with problems of its own, and WSCC lawyers have advised against this.

At the meeting in Pulborough on 27th February, the officer advised that the road could be opened with the aid of traffic lights in the next week or so. C Cllr Kenyon is as disappointed that the situation has not been resolved further than it has been. WSCC are still waiting on the agreements with the landowners. Following comments from some residents, it isn't possible to 'just' clear the road, and then open the road up.

C Cllr Kenyon reported to members, following her trip with Highways Officers, highlighting all the signage which are frustrating residents.

In recent months there have been several embankment landslides in the county, not just this issue on Church Hill. This has highlighted concerns regarding the stability of embankments in the future and how to ensure this type of situation doesn't cause similar disruption.

Cllr Coughtrey was appalled with the lack of communication regarding the situation for local businesses and residents on this. She highlighted that at the meeting on 27th February, WSCC expected to start work in the next week, but still nothing has happened. Cllr Nelson had made a request to the WSCC newsletter, that updates be included, however was advised that it isn't a county wide issue. He felt that the human element has been missing in the statistics of the situation.

Members asked why any police presence about Pulborough has not been seen, there was no answer.

C Cllr Kenyon is wanting to set up another public meeting.

Cllr Dennis advised that local speculation that the issue holding it up is finance. C Cllr Kenyon advised that this was not the case.

Cllr Nelson commented that currently this issue is putting many vulnerable residents at risk because of their difficulty in accessing essential medical services. It was time for someone in authority to take a risk and get the road open.

Cllr Nelson had also approached Lord Dholakia who had agreed to ask a parliamentary question over the road closure.

22 / 53.00

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY BID

Cllr Evans advised members that on the basis of nothing ventured nothing gained, he has made a bid to the CIL for a grant of £16K.

The first part of the bid, is to purchase a set of flashing signs which indicate a road users speed, acknowledging when a road user is driving well with a smiley face and an unhappy face when the road user is above the limit, followed by a thank you when they reduce their speed. It goes somewhere between punishment and acknowledging careful road users. These are £4K each.

The second part of the bid is for a pair of village gates to help drivers to recognise that this is a village situation to encourage good driving, with additional signs.

He noted that at a recent meeting with police it was felt that there would be no reason why the police wouldn't support these initiatives.

C Cllr Kenyon noted that West Chiltington parish clerk would be able to help, as West Chiltington had had a similar project.

22 / 54.00

ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK

22 / 54.01

The Clerk updated the Council regarding recent applications:

- SDNP/21/06382/HOUS, Rosemary Cottage London Road Watersfield, Conversion and extension of existing garage to annex, erection of double garage and replacement of summerhouse. Permitted

The Clerk advised the Enforcement Notice received regarding 26 Brookview, had been resolved without any action taken.

22 / 54.02

Cllr Dennis updated members: no comment had been made for Sandy Lane Cottage, Colbrook House and Applegarth. However, an application for an extension at Ingram Barn in Hardham would need to be discussed at a meeting.

22 / 54.03

Cllr Dennis updated members following the Sandham Hall meeting: the committee are trying to promote the use of the hall; the electric car points is taking time to arrange; the school pay for the use the car park however some other users are making this difficult at times.

22 / 54.04

C Cllr Kenyon highlighted that WSCC approved the budget with an increase in precept of 3% with the additional 2% for Adult Care.

22 / 54.05

D Cllr Clarke updated members regarding HDC:

- Energy Bills Support Scheme - Alternative Funding
- Energy Bills Support Scheme - Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Fund

The Government launched both schemes on 6th March, closing date for applications is 31st May.

22 / 54.06

A caravan has appeared on Brook Lane, no number plates. It has been reported.

22 / 54.07

Cllr Davies advised that the tree to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee is being planted on Friday.

22 / 54.08 Cllr Nelson noted that the Link Magazine is having a revamp, however the editors are looking for some help funding it from the parish, and suggested that the new council considers this following the elections once we are clear over what is being requested.

22 / 55.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Next Meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting set for Tuesday 25th April 2023, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

Next meeting of Council is the Annual Council Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2023, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall. This will be the first meeting for the new council.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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

Distributed to those present, also Cllrs Hewer, Coughtrey and D Cllr Donnelly, and C Cllr Kenyon.

DRAFT MINUTES - Not confirmed until the next council meeting