

# COLDWALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 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

Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge Clerk

**24 / 19.00** TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from D Cllrs Clarke, Campbell and Ellis Brown and C Cllr Kenyon.

**24 / 20.00** 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 Stevens signed his Declaration of Office in the presence of the clerk, and also completed his Register of Members' Interest, the clerk will put this on the website.

Cllrs Evans and Lane signed new Register of Members' Interest.

**24 / 21.00** TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES

Minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the planning meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Evans made a clarification to the minutes Item P 24 / 07.01 that the safeguarding issues raised were with regards to Lodge Hill over the boundary to the development site.

**24 / 22.00** FINANCE

**24 / 22.01** **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. The Clerk noted that the balance looks very healthy, however advised that this figure included £22K of ringfenced funds primarily for the new tractor, but that the second precept payment would be received on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**24 / 22.02** **Insurance Premium:** The Clerk advised that the insurance renewal premium for the renewal date 1<sup>st</sup> October, is £2279.78. The broker suggested that as the renewal date is next week and cover needs to be maintained, that the PC pays this premium now and an additional premium is calculated for the tractor. So, this premium does not include any premium for the new tractor, and the clerk is still waiting for clarification whether the previous tractor has been removed from the asset list.

There have been many requests for additional information following the theft of the tractor, and the imminent purchase of its replacement.

**24 / 22.03** **Payments:** payments were authorised for the cheques and signed by signatories for:

Consentino Outreach	July Post Office Salary	£480.00
Chubb Fire & Security	Fire Extinguisher Rental and Service	£178.76
T M Mowers Ltd	Murray Ride On Repairs	£171.24
Mark Streeter	Church Lane to Sandham Hall hedge	£250.00
Chichester Farm Machinery	Tractor 25% Deposit	£7,360.50
Consentino Outreach	August Post Office Salary	£360.00
Sandham Memorial Village Hall	Meeting Fees +2 planning	£90.00
Mrs LD Sherlock-Fuidge	Sundry Expenses, Wreath and travel	£215.22
Mark Weston	Village Sign Maintenance	£180.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd	Insurance Premium	£2,279.78
Mr G Nelson (Burgess & Randall)	Drive belt for Mower	£61.96

24 / 23.00

### **POST OFFICE UPDATE**

Cllr Nelson updated members regarding the Post Office, the post office is going well, the six hours a week is working. The Sandham Hall has received very good feedback from users. Also, as part of the agreement a local person has agreed to be trained up to run the post office, it is hoped that this will work out. Clearly, the numbers using the post office is key currently they appear to be variable but need to be in the region of 60 transactions per day.

He encouraged members to support his request to the Village Help Scheme (VHS) for a grant towards the post office running costs. As the VHS also owns a quantity of mobility equipment, which is loaned to residents, however, when not on loan this equipment requires storage.

The committee organising the Post Office is considering seeking residents' preferences regarding future funding for the Post Office, explaining the ongoing cost to support the Post Office would be about £6,000 a year to maintain the current service. The Committee is also looking at other sources of funding: PC, Sandham Hall themselves, local businesses or gifts/donations. If money is to be raised from the precept this would need to be discussed at the next meeting during budget discussions.

Members noted that currently SMVH are only donating the rent back to the post office. The post office has contributed to improvements in the technology at the Sandham Hall.

24 / 24.00

### **TRANSPORT ISSUES UPDATE**

Cllr Dreger updated members the Community Highways Scheme Application (CHSA) had been submitted to WSCC on 31<sup>st</sup> July, with its supporting documents, but have only received verbal confirmation that it has been received. Copies had also been sent to C Cllr Kenyon, Andrew Griffith MP, Lord Dholakia and SDNPA Transport team.

Following submission, WSCC Highways verbally stated GPS-based average speed measurement for the A29 from Watersfield to Pulborough to be 31.9mph – clearly wrong (especially as it includes the <60mph section)! Members of the transport committee have challenged this and requested more accurate road strip measurement be carried out.

In addition, Sussex Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) recently advised that Coldwaltham had received 31 camera van visits in past twelve months – total 48 hours. 845 speeding offences were recorded – average of one every three minutes. Maximum speed recorded in 30 zone was 63mph. Data shared with WSCC, Andrew Griffith MP and C Cllr Kenyon.

The above data will be shared with parish via an update in The Link - with a request for parishioners to report antisocial driving including speeding online via 'Operation Crackdown'. Main CHSA documents to be uploaded to the PC website.

Pulborough PC's Transport and Infrastructure Working Group shared its July meeting minutes. Items of interest included:

- discussion on village gateway signs,
- road marking removal and possible speed limit changes (to be discussed with WSCC);
- a review of A29 usage between Swan Roundabouts and Stane St Close roundabouts;
- ongoing issues at Church Hill (tree safety and water flow);
- possible funds surplus from the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Cllr Dreger to contact D Cllr Clarke to seek participation in their future meetings.

24 / 25.00

### **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL / PARISH CLERK**

24 / 25.01

The Clerk updated Council regarding recent applications decisions:

- SDNP/24/02164/NMA, Field Prospect Hardham Green, London Road, Hardham, PERMITTED
- SDNP/24/03352/PA13A, Hardham Water Treatment Works, London Road Hardham, not required.

**24 / 25.02** Cllr Dennis updated Council regarding recent planning applications and comments.

- SDNP/24/03433/HOUS, Rosewood London Road Watersfield – no comment to be given
- SDNP/24/03560/HOUS, Yew Tree House London Road Coldwaltham – comment to be submitted

**24 / 25.03** Cllr Dennis advised that a tree had fallen over the footpath along by Arun Vale, the clerk will report to the PROW rangers.

**24 / 26.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

**24 / 26.01** Next meeting of Council is on Tuesday 12th November 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Sandham Hall.

**24 / 26.02** Cllr Nelson suggested that Tuesday was working, and to repeat a similar schedule for next year. Members agreed. The Clerk would look at booking the Sandham Hall accordingly.

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm.**

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

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