

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CHANCTONBURY ROOM,
SULLINGTON PARISH HALL,
THAKEHAM ROAD, STORRINGTON,
ON WEDNESDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 2010
COMMENCING AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. R. Dawe in the Chair to Minute No. 205 and Mrs. A. Worthington-Leese in the Chair from Minute No. 206, Mr. D. Atkins, Mr. R. Carter, Mr. A. Head, Mr. R. Jerman, Mrs. G. King, Mr. C. Mason, Mr. A. Mullard, Mr. D. Roper, Mr. J. Sanson and Mrs. L. Wheatley.

In Attendance: Mr. F. Wilkinson (County Councillor) – from Minute No. 206.
P.C.S.O. Carol Boniface (Sussex Police) – from Minute No. 206.

The Press and Public were duly excluded from attendance during the first item due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

204. **ASSET MANAGEMENT.**

205. **MOBILE WASTE SERVICE.** The Chairman had this morning attended a meeting of the Horsham Mobile Waste Service regarding the Sunday collections. As from the 4th April this service was being taken over by Viridor. Currently, the mobile waste service, accepted mixed wastes which could not be recycled. This service would continue on a monthly basis, but waste would in future be accepted at different times to the green and white goods recycling service. The suggestion had been made that they should move this service to the Library Car Park.

This matter would be given full consideration later in the meeting.

Mr. Dawe left the meeting as he had another engagement to attend.

206. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mr. J. Macey (prior engagement), Mr. J. Williams (prior engagement) and Mr. E. Gibbons (ill). The reasons for absence were duly **ACCEPTED.**

207. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.** There were no declarations of interest.

208. **POLICE MATTERS.** P.C. Rolland had sent his apologies, but he hoped to attend the March meeting.

P.C.S.O. Boniface presented her report and provided crime statistics :-

8th to 14th February, 2010 – 1 Theft; 1 Violent Crime (domestic).

1st to 7th February, 2010 – 3 Criminal Damage incidents (all by same person within a family); Fraud and Forgery (drive-off); 5 incidents of Violent Crime (domestics). There had been nothing out on the streets as such.

Whole of January, 2010 – 4 Burglaries; 2 Property Others (garage, shed or outbuilding); 4 Criminal Damage; 1 Drug Offence; Fraud and Forgery (drive-off); 5 Theft and Handling and 1 incident Against the Person. There had been 18 crimes in total.

For the period April, 2009 to February, 2010 for Horsham South area there had been a reduction of crime by 10%. Burglaries were up 3%. Detection rate was up 22%. Vehicle crime reduced by 17%. Criminal Damage reduced 15%; Injury Violence reduced 8%; serious Sex offences reduced by 31.

Regarding anti-social behaviour, there was currently nothing major and there were no real issues with youths at the moment. One person was on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract and they were behaving.

They were hoping to get an office up and running in West Street, Storrington and when they had accomplished this the P.C.S.Os and local P.C., would then book on and off there rather than at Pulborough.

A problem area was pointed out to P.C.S.O. Boniface off the High Street and she said she would build that into their patrols.

P.C.S.O. Boniface then left the meeting.

209. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 20TH JANUARY, 2010.** These minutes were duly **AGREED** to be a correct record of the proceedings thereat and were duly signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING :-

210. **Minute Nos. 21, 105, 134, 172: Planter Troughs.** The planter troughs had not yet been ordered because the Clerk noticed on the quotation that the delivery charge of £70.00 only covered for delivery to Storrington with the customer being responsible for offloading. A quotation had been obtained from the company for delivery and offloading by means of a hiab but the cost was £600.00. Therefore, investigations were being made into the possibility of a local company being able to assist the Council by offloading the planters with a forklift truck. Mr. Carter mentioned that he had spoken with a representative of one local company who may be able to assist, but they had to get confirmation from their insurers that it would be in order to travel with their forklift truck all the way from the trading estate to the High Street. Mr. Carter would keep the Parish Office informed.
211. **Minute No. 83, 106, 135, 173: Public Conveniences** – follow up. Mr. Peter Dawes of H.D.C., had met with Mr. Mason and discussed this matter. Mr. Dawes was to come back by today with a paper which would give the Council the various options and feasibility of actually doing these. This would vary from temporary facilities that would last and see us

through to when Waitrose extend their premises and put in toilets that the public could use, to something more permanent in the car park. The document was to also give costings of installation and maintenance. Unfortunately this document had not yet been received. As soon as any information was received this would be circulated. At the end of the day it would come down to cost, but there was informal agreement that these could be on a 50/50 basis between H.D.C., and the Parish Council.

212. **Minute No. 77, 107, 136, 174: Listing of Old School.** Photographs of the inside of the building had now been obtained.
213. **Minute No. 186: Princes of Wales Royal Regiment.** A reply had been received from their Regimental Colonel who suspected that the Council were referring to an article which was published in the Daily Mail some time before Christmas alluding to a report that the Borough Council had turned down a proposal by one of its councillors to offer the Regiment the Freedom of Epsom and Ewell. In fact, shortly after this article was published the Borough invited them to accept the Freedom of the Borough. This would have allowed them to march through the Borough 'with bayonets fixed and flags flying'. They had explained to the Borough that as both battalions of the Regiment were serving overseas (Germany and Cyprus) and also heavily committed to operations in Afghanistan, now was not the right time to accept the Freedom. They would be unable to mark this honour with marches through the towns as they had no available troops in the U.K. They had agreed to adopt a close 'Bond of Friendship' between Borough and Regiment with a view to accepting the Freedom in the future, once their battalions were back in the U.K., and on a slower tempo of operational commitments. They thanked this Council for their very kind invitation to march through the village, but it was simply not possible at this time. Hopefully in the future, when the Regiment was back in the U.K., they might be able to accept the Council's very kind offer.
214. **Minute No. 185: Waitrose.** Mr. Mullard asked whether Mr. Head had discussed this matter with the Minibus Association. Mr. Head reported that the Community Minibus was only licensed to pick up members or associated organizations, so it was not possible.
215. **Minute No. 188: Erection of Sign at the Parish Hall.** This matter would be referred to the Recreation and Property Committee.
216. **Minute No. 147: H.D.C. Clustering of Parishes.** This had been revised and there were now four sectors and this Parish was in the sector that covered Amberley, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, Parham, West Chiltington, Thakeham, Ashington, Wiston, Washington and Storrington and Sullington.
217. **TO RECEIVE AND IF APPROVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:-**
- (a) **Planning and Development Committee held on the 14th January, 2010.** It was reported that the Laybrook application had been turned down by H.D.C. With reference to Mirimar/Lionheart, the fence was now considered by W.S.C.C., to be on County land. These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**

- (b) **Infrastructure, Communications and Environment Committee held on the 3rd February, 2010.** Mr. Jerman reported that the Parish magazine would now be published by Eyelevel Design of Pulborough. Copy for the first edition would be sent off this week.

Mr. Mullard referred to Minute Nos. 52 and 59, Budget overspend. He did not think that a Committee had authority to overspend its budget without first obtaining Council approval. Such possible overspends should be first referred to the Finance and Budget Committee unless it was an emergency. Mr. Sanson pointed out that the works had been due to the pollution of the pond and W.S.C.C., were to provide additional monies towards this, but unfortunately this had not come about. Therefore this caused the deficit.

These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**

- (c) **Recreation and Property Committee held on the 3rd February, 2010.** With regard to the Ravenscroft Ball Court, it was reported that the insurance company had settled the claim. These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**
- (d) **Planning and Development Committee held on the 11th February, 2010.** This Council had been part of the e-consultation trial and were not overly impressed with the system. Problems had been explained to H.D.C. An e-mail had been sent out stating that this system would be rolled out to everyone from 1st March, however, this had now been withdrawn because they had not sorted out the problems. The application for four flats on the car park on land east of Sawyards had been granted on appeal. The talk by Will Jones of H.D.C., had been well received and the Pinewood application where over 60 trees were to come down was the largest number of trees that he had agreed could be felled, but this was due to the fact that they were on a sandy bank and they were unsafe. Whenever T.P.O. trees were felled, by law they had to be replaced. He was very reliant on the Parish Council and public to advise if they were not replanted. These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**

218. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.** Mr. Wilkinson explained that County had come under criticism over their arrangements during the snow. He considered they had done an excellent job keeping all the main roads open in such severe weather. They did not have the resources to do the side roads or pavements. There were 2,500 miles of roads and double that amount of pavements. W.S.C.C., were to hold a Summit working on an emergency plan, but they could not invite all 190 Parish Councils. County went into the winter with superb stocks of salt and they still had enough to sustain another episode of similar weather despite giving supplies to other authorities. The government instructed them to reduce salting by 40%. They did have an extra load coming from Morocco by ship, but this was commandeered by the government, but that saved them money because this would have been very expensive compared with the supplies from Cheshire. They would get back either the salt or money in kind.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that they were being plagued with potholes and an extra £5 million had gone into the Highways budget. They were repairing 350 potholes a day.

From the 4th April the mobile waste situation in the car park would change for the better and they were going to concentrate on recycling. This service would be taken over by Viridor. The 'gobbler' would no longer be used, but there would be a large container for green waste and a cage for white goods. Any paint needed to go to recycling sites because this was now recyclable. Household waste would only be accepted once every two months. They were hoping to have a feature in the Parish magazine. This service may have to move to the Library Car Park.

The County Council had recently passed a motion to make every village in the County accept a 30 m.p.h., speed limit, even if it did not meet the criteria relating to house frontage or lighting. The sting in the tail with this was that the County Local Committees give permission and recommend/prioritise Traffic Regulation Orders and as each committee only has three Regulation Orders a year, it would take a long time to get it across the County. There were fourteen Local Committees so that would mean 42 a year. Traffic Regulation Orders covered speed, lining, disabled bays, traffic calming, road closures, etc.

Laybrook would be going to Planning at County on the 27th July, but they were still gathering information from Cory who had been given a deadline of 5th March to provide this. This would then have to go out to consultation.

Mr. Wilkinson left the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Mr. Mason (District Councillor) reported that the Lloyds Chemist application for stickers in the window had been turned down and the stickers would have to be removed. The Wisborough Lane (Brook End House) application had also been refused.

219. **ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR COUNCILLORS TO READ :-**

- (a) Action in rural Sussex Newsletter No. 17. Mr. Jerman took this to read.
- (b) South Downs Focus October – December, 2009. Mr. Jerman took this to read.
- (c) Partnership News, January, 2010. Available in the Parish Office.
- (d) Sussex Local, February, 2010. Available in the Parish Office.

220. **CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE.**

- (a) H.A.L.C. Training Survey – Members were encouraged to complete this.
- (b) West Sussex Snow Summit – W.S.C.C., were organizing an event to discuss the impact of the recent severe winter weather on West Sussex and how they can do better together in the future. They were limited on space which precluded them from extending invitations to everyone that they would like to hear from. They would like comments submitted to the County Local Committee, by e-mail or post. This event would take place at County Hall on the 11th March. The Summit would result in a published report recommending how the authorities and agencies working in West Sussex can better tackle any future snow. The following comments should be submitted :-

Lack of delivery to shops.
Could not get out of the side roads.

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Elderly people could not get out for eight days.
Medical care.
Collection of rubbish.

- (c) H.D.C., Street Parking Working Group 2010. A Working Group had been set up by H.D.C., as part of the Scrutiny and Overview process, to review parking on pavements and verges in the Horsham District. The Working Group wanted to learn about experiences, thoughts or suggestions that might assist their review. The problem of Spierbridge Road and Fryern Close should be pointed out to them.
- (d) New Power – The power to bestow the honour of a “Freedom” has recently been extended to all Councils, including Parishes. The power is contained in section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The title of Freeman/Freewoman can be granted to “persons of distinction” and to “persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area”. To exercise the power you need a meeting of the Council called especially for the purpose, and the resolution to grant the Freedom has to be approved by not less than two-thirds of the Members of the Council who vote on it. The Council can also spend “such reasonable sum as it thinks fit” to present a freedom scroll (including a casket to contain the scroll) to the person receiving the Freedom.

221. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS** and any urgent matters.

- (a) Horsham’s Mobile Household Waste Service – The suggestion was that this service should move to the Library Car Park. The following proposition was put to the meeting :-

As the Mobile Household Waste Service took place on Sundays, in order that it did not disturb the Sunday services in the Chapel, that provided it was as far away from the Chapel as possible it could move to the Library Car Park.

Vote on this proposition: **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

- (b) Storrington and Sullington Parish Design Statement. The proposal was to put this document forward to the Strategic Planning Committee at H.D.C., and then the Cabinet. It would have to go out to consultation to various people with the aim of this being adopted and then become a supplementary planning document which would require H.D.C., to take it into account when considering planning applications. Following discussion Mrs. Worthington-Leese Proposed; Seconded Mr. Roper and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

That the Storrington and Sullington Parish Design Statement was agreed by this Council and should be submitted to H.D.C., for adoption.

222. **TO COMMENT UPON THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL, CORE STRATEGY FOR THE MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK.** Mr. Mason and Mr. Sanson (District Councillors) left the meeting during this item.

This document included potential future sites for sand extraction and landfill. There was a proposal for Chantry Lane to put a new road going across fields in the middle of the A.O.N.B., to the proposed extension to that site. The Council's Planning Committee had produced a list of reasons why this should not be included. It was important to try to get this site excluded at this stage because the further down the line this goes, the less likely it is that we would be to be able to accomplish this. It was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

To submit the objections/comments of the Planning Committee.

Mr. Mason and Mr. Sanson returned to the meeting.

223. **STORRINGTON AND SULLINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP** :-
- (a) **Impact of Economic Recession on Villages** – Summary. This confidential document had been circulated to Members and was duly **NOTED**.
 - (b) **Storrington Area Transport Information Project**. This document had been circulated to Members and was duly **NOTED**.
224. **TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS** :-
- (a) **St. Mary's Church, Sullington – Flower Festival**. Following discussion Mr. Sanson Proposed; Seconded Mr. Carter and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

To donate the sum of £100.00. (Local Government Act 1972, S.137)

- (b) **West Sussex Association for the Blind – 4SIGHT**. Following discussion Mr. Sanson Proposed; Seconded Mr. Carter and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

To donate the sum of £50.00. (Local Government Act 1972, S.137)

225. **RAVENSCROFT ALLOTMENTS**. Mr. Mason advised that the allotment holders had now formed themselves into a properly constituted Allotment Association. He and Mrs. Wheatley had held a further meeting with their officers to go through some queries that the Association had on the draft lease/license/agreement that the Council offered to them based on the Amberley Road agreement, but with modifications to take account of the special situation that existed, i.e., that the land was not owned by this Council. Notes of the meetings had been circulated to all Members. Since these meetings the Clerk had managed to obtain copies of other Councils' leases that did not involve Trustees, which had been a sticking point as the Association were vehemently opposed to being Trustees and they had received legal advice that they should not be Trustees. The Council's solicitor had advised that there should be Trustees, but it would be possible for the liability of the Trustees to be limited to the assets of the Association, which could be zero. The Recreation and Property Committee were concerned that this could leave the Council exposed. Mrs. Worthington-Leese felt that to go through all the queries at this meeting would take a very long time and

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therefore suggested that Mr. Mason, Mrs. Wheatley and the Clerk should be delegated to look at the new information and be empowered to deal with this matter in order to come up with a firm agreement based on what another Council does. This was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

226. **LEASE WITH WEST CHANCTONBURY RECREATION ASSOCIATION**. Mr. Head, Mrs. Worthington-Leese and the Clerk had compared the new draft lease received from the Council's solicitor with the original lease and had come up with a very long list of queries/omissions. Following a question from Mr. Mullard, Mr. Mason advised that the Director responsible at H.D.C., was looking at the way that Leisure Centres throughout the district were run, because three were heavily subsidized and H.D.C., could not afford to keep that up. It may be at the end of the day that they will all resemble Storrington. A question was raised about the finances of the Association and it was pointed out that their problem was that they did not have enough reserves. The subject of the joint bank account that was set up back in 1988 was raised and Mr. Roper advised that he thought this was with the Alliance and Leicester Building Society. It was proposed that Mr. Head, Mrs. Worthington-Leese and the Clerk should be delegated to refer the queries to the Council's solicitor and progress the matter. **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

227. **BANK RECONCILIATIONS FOR JANUARY, 2010**. The Clerk pointed out that there was a problem with this document, because two Football Club amounts that had been paid during January were shown as zero on this document, whereas on the system their account showed the correct amounts. It was **AGREED** :-

To defer consideration of this document until the Clerk had sorted that problem out.

228. **ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID** in the sum of £9,330.11 plus V.A.T., were duly **AGREED** :-

229. **ADJOURNMENT**. There were no members of the public present.

Mrs. Wheatley reported that she had attended a meeting with Mr. Ray Driscoll who was heading up Splash after school provision for children. They were looking at the possibility of using the Social Club. Mrs. Wheatley had advised them that she was happy to help and be the representative of the Parish Council, but pointed out that the Council did not have any funds available. They were looking to cater for 13 to 19 year olds. Mr. Roper pointed out that the Guide Hall was built for youth purposes and felt that it should be used for that purpose.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.