

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CHANCTONBURY ROOM,
THE PARISH HALL,
THAKEHAM ROAD, STORRINGTON,
ON WEDNESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY 2011,
COMMENCING AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. R. Dawe - in the Chair, Mr. D. Atkins, Mr. R. Carter, Mr. R. Jerman, Mr. C. Mason, Mr. A. Mullard, Mr. D. Roper, Mr. J. Sanson, Mrs. L. Wheatley and Mrs. A. Worthington-Leese.

In Attendance: Mr. F. Wilkinson (County Councillor). PCSO Carol Boniface (From 7:20pm).
20 Members of the Public.

179. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Were received from Mr J Macey, Mr E Gibbons, (ill health), Mrs G King and Mr. A Head (Prior engagements). The reasons for absence were duly **ACCEPTED.**
180. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.** Mrs Wheatley declared an interest in matters relating to the Cricket Club.

With the agreement of the meeting, the Chairman changed the order of the agenda.

181. **VILLAGE ACTION PLAN – UPDATE ON MEETING OF THE VILLAGE ACTION PLAN GROUP.** Mr Roper reported that the Group had now met on three occasions. In the first meeting on 18th January 2011, the terms of reference and timescale for production of the plan were discussed. The notes from this meeting were distributed to councillors in readiness for the meeting of the ICE committee on 2nd February. Members of the ICE committee raised concerns regarding the content of the proposed plan and it was considered that the process was being rushed. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed further by full council. The Village Action Plan Group had met on two further occasions since 2nd February, most recently on 7th February when representatives from AiRS and Horsham District Council had also been present. During this meeting, Mr Les Ampstead (West Sussex Rural Towns County Coordinator) explained to the group that he had been involved in the production of community led plans for 10 years and described a process that had proved to be successful. This differed from the group's adopted format as suggested by Action for Market Towns and Mr Roper expressed his support for the AiRS process to be followed instead as this would help to alleviate some of the fears and concerns raised by members in respect of the topics covered during the consultation stages. Members of the Community Partnership agreed with Mr Roper's comments and this matter will be resolved during the Action Plan Group's next meeting scheduled for 7th March.

Mr Roper commented that it was important that the Village Action Plan Group be allowed to move forward without fear of premature objections from members being raised at all stages and asked that the council commit its support to the project. It was **AGREED:**

That the Parish Council would support the production of a Village Plan based on the AiRS recommended format.

A copy of Mr Roper's full report will be available for inspection from the Parish Office.

182. **POLICE MATTERS.** PCSO Boniface provided details of crimes reported so far for February:
13 incidents reported including;
5 thefts from Waitrose, Tesco and One Stop.
1 attempted Burglary in Sullington Lane.
Several "Drive Offs" from the petrol station.
1 report of damage to a car.

PCSO Boniface reported that 4 new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes had been set up covering Post View, Meadowside and Browns Lane.

Mr Dawe commented that he had attended a meeting of the Crime Reduction Partnership Committee on Friday 18th February where it had been reported that Horsham had the lowest crime rate of 13 districts. Mr Dawe asked where he could obtain the reference material supporting these figures and PCSO Boniface advised that she would enquire and revert back.

183. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY, 2011.** Minute No. 161 – there was no space between the words "two office". With this amendment, the minutes were duly **AGREED** to be a correct record of the proceedings thereat and were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING:-

184. **MINUTE NO. 160: ASSET MANAGEMENT – UPDATE.**

(a) **WCRA Lease.** Mrs Wheatley reported that she had attended a meeting with the WCRA Trustees who were now happy with the content of the lease. The document had been reviewed by several members of the Parish Council and it was therefore **AGREED:**

That the council's solicitor would be asked to produce the final documents for signature and that Mr Dawe and Mrs Worthington-Leese would sign the completed lease on behalf of the Parish Council in their capacities of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

It was noted that should WCRA's proposed venture with Impulse Leisure have any bearing upon the lease then the document would be reviewed and amendments made accordingly.

(b) **Football Club.** The Football Club had acknowledged receipt of the Council's letter regarding the increase in rent and had made enquiries regarding the offer of changing to a fully repairing lease. These enquiries would be answered shortly. The matter of the Deed of Variation for the Floodlights was raised again and members were advised that this matter had stalled because the club had yet to appoint a Chairman. Members **AGREED:**

That the council's solicitor should be asked to produce the final documents for signature and that the Deed of Variation should be signed on behalf of the Football Club by the two existing trustees.

(c) **Cricket Club Rent.** The Cricket Club had received the Council's letter regarding the increase in rent and had sent two letters offering a lower amount. A second letter would be sent to the Cricket Club rejecting the offer and advising that the original decision to increase the rent to £1200 per annum plus VAT would stand.

185. **TO RECEIVE AND IF APPROVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:-**

(a) **Infrastructure, Communications and Environment Committee held on the 2nd February 2011.** Minute No. 94 – Parish Council Website – Mr Sanson reported that this matter had been progressed and Sinclair Design would be meeting with representatives from the Parish Council on Friday 25th February to begin the process of designing the website. These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**

(b) **Recreation and Property Committee held on the 2nd February 2011.** Minute No. 108 – Friends of Meadowside – Mrs Wheatley highlighted the progress made by the Friends of Meadowside and Members congratulated the group on its achievements so far.

(c) **Planning and Development Committee held on the 10th February 2011.** Minute No. 97 (c) – West Sussex Golf Club – Mrs Worthington-Leese reported that a site meeting had been arranged for 24th February 2011.

Minute No. 97 (k) - HDC Draft Interim Statement - Mrs Worthington-Leese advised that she had read this draft statement and had been interested to note that the document stated that there were no infrastructure issues in Storrington & Sullington. The Planning Committee would be submitting comments in this regard.

Mrs Worthington-Leese Proposed, Seconded Mrs Wheatley; 7 in Favour; 3 Abstentions (Mr Dawe, Mr Mason and Mr Sanson). These minutes were duly **ADOPTED.**

186. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.**

(a) **WSCC Spending Review.** Mr Wilkinson reported that there were to be a large number of redundancies within County Council which would inevitably impact upon the provision of service and response times from WSCC. Efforts had been made to obtain information relating to the formula for calculating the grants awarded by government to county councils but these efforts had so far proved unsuccessful.

(b) **Transport Issues.** Mr Wilkinson advised that he had written to the Minister of Transport extending an invitation to visit Storrington to experience first hand the traffic issues and to seek funding for highlighted signage on strategic roads directing HGVs to the designated routes. Members would be advised of any progress made.

(c) **Manley's Hill.** This area had recently undergone road patching works in readiness for resurfacing and members were advised that the original plans for these patching works involved the closure of the A283 between Water Lane and School Hill between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm on Friday 18th February 2011. Mr Wilkinson intervened to advise the Highways department of the chaos that such a closure would cause and the plan of works was changed and completed instead during the evening of Thursday 17th February. In response to a request that this area be resurfaced using a silent running tar surface material, Mr Wilkinson had undertaken some research and had found that this material would cost £35 per square meter. As the cost of standard tar and chip surfacing would cost £2.50 per square meter, it was most likely that the request would be declined. It was reported that approximately 80 signatures had been collected in support of the request and whilst Mr Wilkinson asked that these be forwarded to him, he made clear that petitioners should not be given false hope as he could not see that the cost of the silent running material would be justified.

Mr Wilkinson left the meeting.

(d) **District Matters - HGVs Using Local Roads.** Mr Mason reported that he had drafted a letter on behalf of the Chantry Parishes to Nick Herbert MP regarding the problems experienced as a result of HGVs using local roads as an alternative route to the A27. The letter which would be signed by every parish councillor within the Chantry area, questioned why the power to restrict trucks using these roads had not been made available to County Councils. It was hoped that this direct approach to Nick Herbert would result in the subject being referred to the Secretary of State or at least the Minister responsible for roads. Mr Mason would report further developments.

187. **PARISH HALL FIRE SAFETY – TO RATIFY COSTS FOR AUTOMATIC DETECTION DEVICE IN KITCHEN AREA AND AUTOMATIC DOOR RELEASE SYSTEM.** Following a recent Fire Inspection, the need for these Fire Safety devices had been identified. Kestrel Alarms had provided quotations as follows:

For supply and installation of Automatic detection device in kitchen area - £138.00 plus VAT.

For installation of Automatic Door Release System - £1,000.00 plus VAT.

These costs were **RATIFIED.**

188. **ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR COUNCILLORS TO READ.**

(a) NHS Service Re-design for Quality in West Sussex. – This document was passed to a member of the public.

189. **CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE.**

(a) West Sussex Mediation Service – A letter of thanks had been received for the council’s donation.

190. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were no announcements.

191. **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS.** There were no requests.

192. **BANK RECONCILIATION FOR JANUARY 2011.** This document was duly **NOTED.**

193. **TO REVIEW AND AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID.** Payments for the sum of £6,604.95 plus VAT, were duly **AGREED.**

194. **ADJOURNMENT.** A member of the public had raised the matter of a planning application that had been commented upon during the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee on 10th February 2011. Disappointment was expressed at the committee’s decision to object to this application.

195. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** – Wednesday 30th March 2011.

The press and public were duly excluded from attendance for the next item due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

196. **STAFF MATTERS.**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:25pm