

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CHANCTONBURY ROOM,
THE PARISH HALL,
THAKEHAM ROAD, STORRINGTON,
ON WEDNESDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER, 2010,
COMMENCING AT 7.00 p.m.

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

85. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mrs. G. King (prior engagement) and Mr. J. Williams (work). The reasons for absence were duly **ACCEPTED**.
86. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**. There were no declarations of interest from Members.
87. **POLICE MATTERS**. No report had been received.
88. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 25th AUGUST, 2010**. The following typographical errors were found: Page 18 last para ... that *the* plan...; page 19 second para. ... that *they* want ...; page 20 last para. thanks should read thanked; page 21, Min. No. 61 recommendations should read recommendation; Min. No. 68 Chanconbury should read Chanctonbury. With these amendments the minutes were duly **AGREED** to be a correct record of the proceedings thereat and were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING :-

89. **Minute Nos. 249, 260, 20, 36 and 62: Lease with West Chanctonbury Recreation Association**. The Council's solicitor had met the WCRA's solicitor. The Council is advised the Lease was virtually agreed and that contact will be received within the next few days. WCRA had requested a meeting with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Recreation and Property Committee and this would be held on the 11th October, 2010.
90. **Minute No. 73: Communities and Local Government – acknowledgement of response to consultation paper**. The Council's comments were being considered.
91. **Minute No. 72: Deed of Variation, Floodlights**. The Council's solicitor had returned the draft Deed but this required a couple of minor alterations.
92. **TO RECEIVE AND IF APPROVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:-**
- (a) **Planning and Development Committee held on the 24th August, 2010**. Mrs. Worthington-Leese Proposed; Seconded Mr. Jerman; 10 in Favour; Abstentions (Mr. Dawe, Mr. Mason and Mr. Sanson), it was **AGREED** that these minutes be duly **ADOPTED**.

- (b) **Infrastructure, Communications and Environment Committee held on the 2nd September, 2010.** These minutes were duly **ADOPTED**.
- (c) **Recreation and Property Committee held on the 2nd September, 2010.** These minutes were duly **ADOPTED**.
- (d) **Planning and Development Committee held on the 9th September, 2010.** Mrs. Worthington-Leese Proposed; Seconded Mr. Mullard; 10 in Favour; Abstentions (Mr. Dawe, Mr. Mason and Mr. Sanson), it was **AGREED** that these minutes be duly **ADOPTED**.
93. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS.** Mr. Dawe (District Councillor) gave a progress report on the Horsham District Council's "Lean" business process review (called Redesign) that was taking place. External consultants were facilitating this process in its initial stages. It had been started in HDC's Development Control Department (Planning) team who will pass on the knowledge of how to go about doing such a review to a more general internal HDC team. This process would then pass onto all other departments within the Council over a two-year period. The process involves the staff themselves looking at and redesigning the way they perform the service. Within Development Control the staff had identified that through more efficient working they could reduce manning levels by up to six people out of a total of 37. There had been a freeze on recruitment of permanent staff of late and so the reduction in staff will be made by a reduction in temporary staff that had been taken on. This process had now moved from the "finding out" stage to the implementation stage. Alongside this, HDC is having another look at the e-consultation process, which as this Council had pointed out, was flawed. There was a need to simplify the system and improve ease of access by Parish staff to applications the Parish Council needs to make comment on.
- Over the next four-year period it will be necessary for HDC to save £4.5 million out of a budget of £30 million. However, in addition, Government Support Grant is likely to be reduced which in HDC's terms meant it could lose maybe £2-4 million of grant income over the coming years. Other than dire warnings, the Government has not yet actually announced what it intends to do but in such a scenario HDC would be in a position of needing to find a total saving of some £6 million over the next 4 years. HDC was however not alone and every Council had to face up to the reality of the economic situation.
94. **ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR COUNCILLORS TO READ :-**
- (a) Worthing & District Samaritans – Mr. Roper took this to read.
- (b) English Rural Housing Association – The Bulletin. Available in the Parish Office.
- (c) H.D.C., Life is for Living Newsletter – Mr. Atkins took this to read.
- (d) Sussex Local. Available in the Parish Office.
- (e) South Downs National Park Newsletter – Mr. Carter took this to read.
95. **CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE :-**
- (a) **SLCC Regional Conference** Thursday, 11th November, 2010. It was **AGREED** :-

That Miss Mockler and Mrs. Read could attend this event at a cost of £130.00. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting
29th September, 2010.

- (b) **Community Resilience Group.** The Clerk had received an invitation to be a member of this group representing the parish councils within the Horsham District. There were to be four meetings a year each lasting two hours. The Council **AGREED** :-

That the Clerk be permitted to attend these meetings during working hours.

96. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were no Chairman's Announcements.
97. **C.C.T.V. – THE RECREATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE REQUEST TO CONSIDER REPAIR/REPLACEMENT.** Discussion took place on the future maintenance of the C.C.T.V., equipment.
98. **TO CONSIDER HAVING A PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE.** Mrs. Worthington-Leese declared a personal interest in this item. The Parish Council's information was currently accessed via the Storrington & Sullington Community Partnership website and members questioned whether this was the best way of delivering the Council's information. Following discussion it was **AGREED** :-

All Members should have a look at the Southwater Parish Council website (<http://www.southwater-pc.gov.uk/>) and details of prices from various possible suppliers should be circulated. This matter should then be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

99. **SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTIONS 1ST APRIL, 2011 TO 31ST MARCH, 2012.** The 2011-12 subscription had been increased to £1,817.08. Value for money of staying a member of SALC and the fact that some parish councils are not members of SALC were discussed. Mr. Mullard proposed and it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

Not to renew this subscription and to resign with immediate effect.

100. **TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP TO CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND IN THE SUM OF £29.00.** Following discussion Mr. Jerman proposed and it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** :-

To renew this subscription in the sum of £29.00. (Local Government Act 1972, s.143)

101. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY :-**
- (a) **Application for a grant for refreshments in the sum of £160.00.** The Parish Council last year decided that a ceiling should be placed on this grant of £150.00. Therefore it was **AGREED** :-

To donate the sum of £150.00. (Local Government Act 1972, s.137)

- (b) **Wreaths in the sum of £100.00.** This was **AGREED.** (Local Government Act 1972, s.137)

102. **C.P.R.E. RE: ABOLITION OF REGIONAL HOUSING TARGETS AND LOCALISM – WHAT THIS MEANS FOR HORSHAM AND CRAWLEY.** Under the South East Plan, HDC was required to build more than 13,000 new houses in the period up to 2026. Now that this target had been abolished, HDC was free to determine the most appropriate level of development for its District. The Hearn report that was published in April, 2010 purported to conclude that the same number of new houses as envisaged in the South East Plan were still required. Using this report HDC now proposed to continue with its Core Strategy Review based on the same level of development. However, this report had been the subject of criticism. Following discussion it was **AGREED** :-

That a letter should be written to Mr. Brian Donnelly, Chairman of Horsham District Council, expressing this Council's grave concerns about the proposed level of development and requesting public consultation to determine the development needs of the villages and other local communities before HDC proceed further with the LDF Core Strategy Review.

103. **HOUSE OF COMMONS EARLY DAY MOTION NO. 557: INQUIRY INTO NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.** It was **AGREED** :-

Not to write to the MP about this matter.

104. **REVIEW OF GAS CHARGES.** The Gas Board had offered the Council a new tariff (with a saving of £200.00 per annum), and also a dual fuel offer. It was felt that the consumption should be verified on a monthly basis and a full price comparison with alternative suppliers be made and reported.
105. **ELECTRICITY CONTRACT.** A full explanation of the current costs was required together with what alternatives were available. A report should be produced.
106. **STORRINGTON SAVAS AND SPEEDING ON THE WASHINGTON ROAD – RESPONSE FROM COMMANDER CLACK.** At the July meeting of the Horsham District Road Safety Action Group (HDRSAG) the use locally of Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) situation was discussed. The group's primary focus was to deliver the strategic aims of WSCC's Casualty Reduction Group – to reduce the numbers of killed and seriously injured on our roads. In order to achieve this the group work together using a combination of engineering, education and enforcement activities.

Due to a lack of financial and physical resource, it was essential that activities were thoroughly planned and targeted in order to be efficient and effective. The group did not feel that the Storrington VAS proposal satisfied this criteria and so, at this time, neither the HDRSAG or West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service were in a position to assist in the purchase or operation of a VAS. However, the group did discuss at length the situation in Storrington and, whilst there was insufficient data/history, agreed that there were several locations on the outskirts that would provide the ideal location for some education/enforcement activity – Operation Airwalk. To that end they were currently in the process of identifying some suitable dates for this to take place.

107. **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS.** No requests for donations had been received.

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting
29th September, 2010.

108. **TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT.** Mr. Roper declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

At the last meeting it was agreed to change to the Co-Operative Bank. However, this bank required personal information from the signatories which they were not prepared to give. Therefore, further investigations had been made and it had been found that Lloyds TSB would offer the Council an initial twelve month's free banking if the Council opened a Club, Charity, Society or Non Personal Trust Account. They could open an interest bearing account into which funds could be swept on a daily basis and cheques and paying in books would be provided. They could also supply fixed term deposit rates from overnight to two years for funds from £10,000 to £10,000,000. It was **AGREED** :-

To open accounts at Lloyds TSB.

109. **BANK RECONCILIATIONS FOR AUGUST, 2010.** This had been circulated to all Members and was duly **NOTED**.
110. **ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID** in the sum of £10,245.32 plus V.A.T., were duly **AGREED**.

A letter should be written to Nick Herbert MP pointing out that the Council was charged with getting best value, yet it was precluded from having credit or debit cards therefore could not buy things on the internet and cannot arrange Direct Debit payments. There was also the proposal by banks for gradual phasing out of cheques to be considered. Mr. Herbert should be asked to push this matter forward for consideration as the legislation needed changing to allow greater flexibility.

111. **BUDGET COMPARISON.** This document had not been circulated, therefore copies should be sent to all Members as soon as possible.
112. **ADJOURNMENT.** There were no members of the public present.

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

113. **ASSET MANAGEMENT.** A draft option agreement had been received. The Council's normal solicitor was not in a position to act for the Council on this occasion. It was **AGREED** :-

That Mrs. Worthington-Leese and the Clerk should meet with the solicitor from Dean Wilson in order for him to view the draft agreement and then to provide a quotation for the work required.

114. **STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.** Following discussion it was **AGREED** :-

That the Liaison Group meeting planned for next week should be cancelled and arrangements should be made for a meeting of members of this Council and representatives of the Storrington and Sullington Community Partnership to discuss the future relationship between the two parties.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.

- 33 -