

Due a file corruption in which the original minutes were lost, these minutes have been created from memory, notes and files still available. Apologies for any omissions.

WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2015 AT 7PM IN THE MUSIC ROOM AT WEST DEAN COLLEGE

Present: Cllrs. Ian Odin (Chairman), Mrs. Ursula Cochrane, Steve Corbett, Keith Goacher, Dick Hill, John Ruffell and Mrs. Cathy Slade.

In attendance: G Burt, Clerk; County Cllr. Jeremy Hunt; District Cllr. Henry Potter; Mrs. Gill Moss, Headteacher, West Dean CE Primary School; 12 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Kendall.

2. West Dean C of E Primary School

Mrs G Moss, Headteacher, introduced pupils who then gave the following report:

We are from West Dean CE Primary School and represent the School Council. We usually meet every other Tuesday to discuss school issues which we then communicate to our Class Councils. We have input, via Mrs Chilton, into staff meetings and Governor meetings. We communicate with parents via newsletters. Parents, Governors and teachers can consult pupils through us.

Since September 2014 as School Council, we have:

Met with Steve Corbett regarding plans to extend the Centurion Way cycle path and discussed the impact on our school.

Met to discuss updates regarding the cycle path developments.

Answered questions from the entrance hall question box.

Discussed changes to the parking in our school car park.

Met with one of our Governors, Dr Sharon Michi Kusunoski, on two occasions to ask and answer questions regarding homework and our targets.

Asked Charwells about the possibility of having napkins at lunchtime. This was not possible, but we did have napkins for our Christmas lunch. (Thanks to Imogen for writing to Chartwells)

Discussed road safety around our school and looked at resources. We helped to compose a letter to parents about this.

Discussed the process of electing Parent Governors.

Helped Ms Pleasance write a letter to parents about the Day for Change.

Reviewed our time as School Council September 2014 to February 2015.

3. Minutes

On a proposal by Cllr. Corbett, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Slade, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors held on 5 March 2014 be approved. They were duly signed as a correct record.

4. Chairman's Report from Cllr. Ian Odin

The Council's long-serving Clerk Mrs Jenny Martin had moved away and had been replaced by Mr Greg Burt. Whilst it had been a wet winter, there had been little disruption from snow and ice with no flooding.

There had been over-pumping of the sewers at Charlton but none further down. It appears that the operation to seal the valley sewerage system had worked, and more work is promised.

Operation Watershed grinds its weary way along with no progress on drainage works on the A286 or B2141; I am assured that work is imminent!

May I thank all Councillors and the Clerk for their work during the year.

5. Planning Committee Chairman's Annual Report from Cllr. Steve Corbett

Cllr Corbett reported on the many planning applications that had been looked at over the past year; a cached summary of which is attached to these minutes, Appendix 1, showing the comments of the Parish and resulting decision by CDC or SDNPA where it was *called-in*. Much energy had been expended on opposing the proposed extension of the Centurion Way cycle path, for a multitude of good reasons, but these had been largely brushed aside by the SDNPA. Cllr Corbett then took questions.

6. Financial Report from the Clerk, G Burt

I took over as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer last August, from Jenny Martin. Jenny handed everything over in a very neat and tidy fashion. The expression in Apple Pie Order does not do justice. West Dean is rare amongst most parish councils, and indeed some principal authorities, in that the External Auditors who looked at the 2013-14 accounts had not one single comment to make. I do hope that we will be able to maintain that claim to fame.

For the current year, the Council increased the precept by £326, to help make up for a reduced Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant and a slight increase in planned expenditure. Next year, even though the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant has been reduced further, the Council has resolved to maintain the precept at the same level. It has been able to do this because many budget headings are looking to be underspent and one or two small projects which were budgeted for have not moved forward. Whilst Cemetery income has gone up, this has been offset by a decrease in Recreation Ground income. At the same time, provision has been made in the New Year for contested parish elections at the insistence of Chichester District Council.

The amount that a Band D Council Tax payer will pay to the Parish Council in 2015-16 will decrease by 7 pence, as the Council Tax Base, upon which the Council Tax is calculated has gone down by 0.03!

The council continues to manage its finances prudently, and significant capital projects only pursued when grants secured.

I am happy to take any questions.

7. Report from County Councillor Jeremy Hunt, Member for Chichester North

First of I would just like to say that it seems no time at all since I was preparing my last Annual Report for the Parish Council! I have now nearly completed my second year as your CC representative and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you all. Obviously there have been some challenging issues, but on the whole I hope that across the broad spectrum of services provided by the CC, you feel that your residents have received a good level of support.

So what has been going on in the Parish as far as the County Council is concerned?

One of the ongoing issues has been the flooding on the B2141, Chilgrove Road. I am very pleased to say that, under the WSCC initiative known as Operation Watershed, West Dean PC have now received funding in excess of £18,000 to pay for extensive ditch clearance and other work along the length of the B2141, from Binderton Lane to Chilgrove Park Road. This work is scheduled (?) to start on Monday 16th March and it is expected to take approximately a month - so there could well be some short delays over that period. I would point out however, that whilst this work will I'm sure improve the situation, it is unlikely to be a complete cure. As you know this road runs along the bottom of a valley, so it would be almost impossible to prevent flooding in extreme conditions.

The other road flooding issue that you have in West Dean is on the A286. I'm pleased to say that finally it has been agreed that remedial work will be funded, again under the CC Operation Watershed scheme. Landbuild, the contractors, are just checking some parts of the previous survey, and once that is complete an estimate will be submitted and the work approved.

Moving on, obviously this year saw Jenny's retirement as the Clerk. Many of you might remember the case of the 'stolen salt bin' - hardly a case worthy of the great Sherlock Holmes - but none the less a labour of love by Jenny to ensure that you received a free replacement. Well, thanks to her charm and persistence, I was able to announce at her final meeting that a bin was awaiting delivery in our depot. In fact, the officer was so impressed by Jenny's work that he offered to get it delivered here so that it could be presented at her last

meeting! However, I thought that the Estate might not be too impressed with a salt bin turning up on the front door step in the middle of the summer!! Anyway, the bin was duly installed, in the correct place, and filled.

Luckily this winter has, for the most part, been fairly mild so no emergency gritting or snow clearance has been needed. It seems that since WSCC have championed Winter Maintenance Plans for all local communities the winters have been fairly mild with very few significant 'weather' events.

One last thing whilst on highways and that is the CC's investment of £30m in the Better Roads program to improve unclassified roads across the County.. I'm pleased to say that under this scheme Chilgrove Park road had extensive improvements made to it, including complete resurfacing.

Moving on, another issue that concerned many of you was obviously the proposed extension of the Centurion Way. There were far too many unanswered questions which meant that this application was objected to by many. Unfortunately, unlike the CDC Planning meetings, Cllrs do not get an automatic right to speak at SDNP planning meetings, so I was unable to speak. I share your continuing concerns and obviously I will do all I can to support you in any forthcoming issues that might arise. I am pleased however, that Phillip Kirk, the Land Agent for West Dean, has reassured the PC that as the landowner any lease issued to the SDNP for this project will clearly state that the SDNP will be fully responsible for the maintenance, including grass cutting and hedge trimming. I understand that this will also include the existing section of the Centurion Way, from where it crosses onto the Estate land, through to Binderton.

Finally, the only other major issue is that of broadband supply. As you know, some year to eighteen months ago WSCC rolled out its Better Connected project following a grant of £20m from the Government. Our aim, together with BT's commercial roll-out programme, is to provide access to fibre-based broadband of a minimum of 24Mbps to more than 90% of the county by spring 2016, and for all properties in the areas which are eligible for funding through the project, to be able to access basic broadband speeds of a minimum of 2Mbps. We were then given further funding of £2.5 to carry out a phase 2 expansion. This was to cover properties that were not eligible for funding under EU legislation in phase 1, because they already had access to broadband via a commercial supplier (standard 'by wire' broadband). For phase 2 the rules were relaxed allowing properties that were an extended distance from their supply, and therefore could not see any uplift to their speeds, to be included. However, just because they are now eligible for funding doesn't mean that they will necessarily be included in phase 2. We have only been given £2.5m by the Government for this phase, which needs to cover the whole County. We shan't know more details on this until later in the year. If you want details on your particular property please e-mail broadband@westsussex.gov.uk

Finally, I have two updates for you.

- Firstly, I would like to recommend the WSCC Performance Dashboard which is relatively new. This underpins our three key aims, Giving Children the Best Start in Life, championing the Economy and Supporting Independence in Later Life. It can be accessed on our website and you can drill down into a number of key measures and see how the County Council is performing against a clear set of targets.
- Secondly, the budget for 2015/16 was set recently at our last County Council meeting. As you might be aware, we are having to find savings of £68m over the next two years as part of an overall savings target of around £120m over the next four years. However, due to a lot of hard work in identifying savings and 'efficiencies' we have been able to do this without any cuts to front line services. In fact in both Children's services and in supporting our elderly residents we have increased some of our frontline budgets: And we have done all this as well as holding the WSCC share of your Council Tax at its present level. This will be the fifth year without an increase. In real terms, an average band taxpayer will have saved over £500. Hopefully, this will have been spent in the local economy, thus boosting the overall economy of the County.

I apologise, I am sure I have gone on far too long, but if anyone has any questions with regard to the County Council I will try to answer them as best I can.

Thank you for all your support during the year.

8. Report from District Councillor Henry Potter, Member for Boxgrove Ward

Cllr Potter reported on activities at Chichester District Council in so far as they affected West Dean, also on some of the large planning applications in the area. He continued to take a keen interest in the ongoing improvements being undertaken by Southern Water at Lavant.

9. Traffic Action Committee Report from Cllr. Steve Corbett

Cllr Corbett reported that work was continuing to try to progress a Speedwatch Group of volunteers to monitor traffic through the village. Cllr Corbett then took questions.

10. Public Session

There were no questions

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Chairman of the Council

APPENDIX 1

| WEST DEAN PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS LOG 2014-2015 | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Validated | Ref | | Parish Council Comments | SDNPA Decision |
| 30/09/2013 | SDNP/13/04308/FUL | The Dean Ale and Cider House West Dean West Sussex PO18 0QX | No Objection | Refused |
| 05/03/2014 | SDNP/14/01169/TCA | West Dean College A286 Vicarage Lane To The Grinch West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0QZ | No Objection | No Objection |
| 14/04/2014 | SDNP/14/01134/FUL | Chilgrove Farm Old West Dean Road West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 9HU | No Objection | Approved |
| 12/05/2014 | SDNP/14/01966/FUL | Brick Kiln Farm Hylters Lane Chilgrove Chichester West Sussex PO18 9HS | No Objection | Approved |
| 20/05/2014 | SDNP/14/02197/FUL | Brooms Farm High Street Chilgrove Chichester West Sussex PO18 9HZ | No Objection | Approved |
| 03/06/2014 | SDNP/14/02410/FUL | West Dean College West Dean Park Chichester PO18 0QZ | Support | Approved |
| 20/06/2014 | SDNP/14/02678/FUL | Farbridge Preston Farm Binderton West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0JT | No Objection | Approved |
| | | Link building and service area. | | |
| 30/07/2014 | SDNP/14/03612/RE3 | Former Chichester To Midhurst Railway Binderton To West Dean Section West Dean West Sussex | Object | Approved |
| | | An extension to the off road recreational path known as the Centurion Way, from Binderton to West Dean | | SDNPA RE3 13.11.14 |
| 02/09/2014 | SDNP/14/04485/TCA | The Dower House Church Lane West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0QY | - | Withdrawn |
| | | Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Large Leaved Lime tree. | | |
| 06/10/2014 | SDNP/14/04747/FUL | Land South of 93 Church Lane West Dean West Sussex | No Objection | Approved |
| | | Removal of existing manege (outdoor equine schooling area) on land adjoining to the west of the A286. Construction of a new manege on equestrian fields to the south of West Dean, including associated landscaping works. | | Called in by SDNPA for decision |
| 04/12/2014 | SDNP/14/05661/FUL | Workshop 2 Crowshall Farm Chilgrove Road, Chichester West Sussex PO18 9HP | No Objection | Approved |
| | | Change of use of part of Building 1 on Crows Hall Farm to a B2 class use for the purpose of coffee roasting, the storage of green coffee and ancillary uses, with proposed flue. | | |
| 08/01/2015 | SDNP/15/00102/HOUS | Riverside Cottage Church Lane West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0QY | No Objection | Approved |
| | | Proposed double garage to adjoin north side of existing house. | | |
| 03/02/2015 | SDNP/15/00513/PRE | Provision of new biomass facility with associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure. Land North of Foresters Cottage West Dean West Sussex | n/a | Pending Consideration |
| 12/02/2015 | SDNP/15/00677/TCA | 123 The Grinch West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0RX | No Objection | Pending Consideration |
| | | Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Pine tree and 1 no. Cryptomeria tree. | | |
| 19/02/2015 | SDNP/15/00627/LIS | To open up internal doorway, and construct stud wall. install new doorway into corridor to kitchen area West Dean College A286 Vicarage Lane to The Grinch West Dean Chichester West Sussex PO18 0QZ | No Objection | Pending Consideration |
| 25/02/2015 | SDNP/15/01042/SCREEN | New biomass facility with associated landscaping and car parking. Land to The North of West Dean College A286 Church Lane to Millers Lane West Dean West Sussex | n/a | Pending Consideration |
| 23/02/2015 | SDNP/15/00490/FUL | New visitor gateway incorporating galleries, ticketing, retail, cafe, catering facilities and education spaces and associated landscaping including improvements to car parking. Weald and Downland Open Air Museum A286 Town Lane to The Grove Singleton Chichester West Sussex PO18 0EU | | Pending Consideration. Determination Deadline Mon 20 Apr 2015 |