

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

6 JUNE 2016 AT 6.30PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BELL LANE, COCKING

PRESENT: Cllrs Imlach (Chairman), Craig, Keefe, Marks and Miss Russell.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Dis Cllr Mrs Neville
Cty Cllr Brown
1 member of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Burgess and O'Neill. The Chairman welcomed Miss Russell to her first meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered.

Cllrs Keefe and Miss Russell declared an interest as members of the Village Hall Committee.

The Clerk declared an interest as an employee of the Council in relation to Minute 15.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 10 May 2016, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

13q. The Chairman had taken up the points raised in Mrs Buchannan's letter as reported at the last meeting and responded accordingly; he hoped to see some action on hedges etc shortly which should improve the appearance of the village

5. Questions from Visitors

Mr Peter Stent of Pittsam Farm, was concerned at a recent report in the local newspaper, of a suggestion that good quality farmland which he tenanted from the Cowdray Estate, within Cocking parish boundary but abutting the southern boundary of Midhurst parish, could be developed for housing as part of the Midhurst Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors shared Mr Stent's concern and the Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk at Midhurst for a report on the origin and status of this alarming suggestion, also commenting that they considered it somewhat discourteous to learn of such a suggestion in the local newspaper.

6. WSSC Report

Cty Cllr Brown reported that WSSC had allocated £2.5 million in each of the next 2 years to improve footways (i.e. by the road) therefore it was an opportune time to report areas requiring attention. (Footpath between the bus shelter on the southbound A286 opposite The Croft to Tollhouse Cottage where the bank is creeping out across the footpath making it too narrow for residents to walk safely. The daffodil bank at this location also required strimming to encourage the bulb display next year.)

He reported on an issue in Lynchmere where after a long campaign, the Lollipop man had been given a camera to wear on his chest, so as to record cars approaching him too fast. He felt that volunteers undertaking various speedwatch duties should be able to take photographs that were admissible in convictions etc. He would chase WSCC on the state of the barrier at Bumblekite – either remove or repair.

7. CDC Report

District Cllr Mrs Neville reported that the Hyde Group had changed their grounds maintenance provider and work had started on Mr Simon Marks' property. Children were climbing over a fence to the rear of The Croft onto farmland, which was of concern to Cllr Richard Marks as a local farmer, who feared an accident. She reported also on the need for CDC to improve its (and WSCC's) recycling rates, in order to avoid financial penalties. New markets were to be trialled in the centre of Chichester. Squash Courts at the Grange Centre were to be retained but those at Chichester would be lost.

8. Planning Applications

Comments on applications as set out in Appendix A (attached) were RESOLVED.

Members commented on the poor state of 210 Cocking, a Listed Building. The Clerk would contact the owners, to ascertain their plans for improvement.

9. Parish Matters

a. Playground

Some minor repairs had been undertaken in advance of the forthcoming annual inspection.

b. Allotments

Cllr Marks confirmed that he would roll etc the former allotment site. Negotiations on the lease renewal were continuing.

c. Newsletter

Nothing new to report.

d. Events

The *Drone Festival* had been cancelled. Plans for Queen's Birthday Tea Party were progressing well.

e. Village Hall

The Clerk had asked the freeholder for their view on extending the hall. The VHC had paid their annual insurance premium, which would be reimbursed by the Council as per the long term agreement.

f. Highways

Parishes had to share the speed gun which was causing some problems.

g. Bumblekyte

The manufacture of the seat was underway.

h. Bus Shelters

It was agreed that an open board be fastened to the rear of the interior of the Bus Shelter by the garage, for the display of community notices. A volunteer had come forward to keep tidy the shelter at *The Croft*.

i. SDW Facilities

Nothing new to report. The Clerk was still to contact the SDNPA about improved signage at this location.

j. Footpaths

Several footpaths were becoming overgrown with seasonal growth. The Clerk would ascertain when the spring cut was due by WSCC. If it was not likely to be in the near future, RESOLVED that the Council would employ a contractor to undertake some work, within the allocated budget. (Chair and Clerk to liaise.)

k. Cycleways

MAC was holding a meeting shortly.

l. Broadband

Nothing new to report - remove from future agendas.

m. Village First Aid

Nothing new to report.

n. Website

Nothing new to report.

o. NHB Allocation 2016-17

Cocking had been allocated £2,100 for 2016-17. RESOLVED that an application be submitted to put the funds towards the planned Village Hall extension.

p. The Croft

The Clerk reported that Hyde Group was now unwilling to create additional parking around the edge of the green; however they were still planning to erect the rail, also the speed hump at the entrance to Cherry Close.

q. Village Shop

The Clerk reported that following an enquiry, the Post Office confirmed that they had no plans to change the current Post Office provision in the village.

r. Press Coverage

Members were concerned that in the round-up of Parish Council news in the local newspaper, a story had been wrongly attributed to Cocking. The Clerk would contact the newspaper to ask that more care be taken.

s. HWRC Consultation

RESOLVED that no comment be made.

10. Finance

a. Payments between 12 May and 6 June 2016, as set out in Appendix B, were approved and any receipts noted.

b. A bank reconciliation, as set out in Appendix C, showing a Cashbook and Bank balance agreeing of £15,090.88 as at 4 May 2016, was noted. In accordance with good practice, Cllr Imlach viewed Bank Statement No 26 and initialled the corresponding balance.

c. An application for a grant from CAB was deferred pending further information on their work in the Cocking area.

d. Members considered the Internal Audit Report 2015-16 and were pleased to note that no significant matters had been raised. Any matters raised would be considered at a future meeting.

11. Correspondence

The Clerk had submitted a summary of notable correspondence since the last meeting - attached Appendix D.

12. Any Other Matters for Information

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4 July 2016 6.30pm

14. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that due to the nature of the business about to be transacted (staffing) the Press and Public be instructed to withdraw.

15. Pay Award

Details of the recent pay award, effective from 1st April 2016 negotiated by NALC and SLCC had been previously circulated. RESOLVED that the award (equating to a new hourly rate of £11.39) be noted and implemented as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

SDNP/16/02148/HO US	14 The Croft Cocking West Sussex GU29 0HQ	Two storey side and rear extension, porch and conservatory.	No Objection
SDNP/16/02827/TC A	Bankside Cottage Bell Lane Cocking Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0HU	Notification of intention to fell 1no. Conifer tree.	Object for the following material reason. No arboricultural report has been submitted with the application to substantiate the suggested likely failure of the tree.

APPENDIX B

FINANCIAL REPORT 6 JUNE 2016						
PAYMENTS: 11 MAY - 6 JUNE 2016						
DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO	DESCRIPTION	GROSS	VAT	NET
06/06/2016	R S Hall & Co	629	Internal Audit 2015-16	£180.00	£30.00	£150.00
06/06/2016	G Burt	630	Clerk's Net salary for May	£194.28		£194.28
06/06/2016	HMRC	631	Clerk's Tax - May	£48.60		£48.60
06/06/2016	Chi Payroll Services	632	Payroll Admin - May	£10.00		£10.00
06/06/2016	D Imlach	633	Wooden poles	£24.66	£4.11	£20.55
06/06/2016	D Imlach	633	Weed killer	£24.99	£4.16	£20.83
				£482.53	£38.27	£444.26

BANK RECONCILIATION				
AS AT 4 MAY 2016				
PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON 6 JUNE 2016				
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS				
Balance brought forward as at 31/03/2016		£5,773.11		
Add Total Receipts		9,978.92		
Less Total Payments		(661.15)		
TOTAL		£15,090.88	◀	TALLY
BANK				
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (04/05/2016)		15,090.88		
Less unpresented cheques				
TOTAL		£15,090.88	◀	

APPENDIX D

NOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE TO 6 JUNE 2016			
Date	From	Subject	Action: Copied to all Cllrs unless otherwise stated
12/05/2016	SSALC	Briefing and Awareness Training for the Parishes in the North of Chichester	
17/05/2016	SDNPA	April key highlights	
19/05/2016	Clerk	Revised contacts list for Cocking Parish Council.	
19/05/2016	WSCC	Consultation on proposed changes to West Sussex Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSs)	
19/05/2016	WSCC	Draft West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan Consultation update	
20/05/2016	SSALC	Councillor commission	
20/05/2016	H Ewing	Advance notification of cycle event	
25/05/2016	CDC	All Parishes Meeting - Waste and Recycling	
25/05/2016	CDC	All Parishes Meeting - Chief Executive update	
25/05/2016	Cllr Neville	Report of the meeting re the closure of Ward at Midhurst Cottage Hospital	
27/05/2016	WSCC	Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy Consultation	
27/05/2016	SSALC	Police briefings for town and parish councils	
31/05/2016	MAC	MAC MEETING	
02/06/2016	SDNPA	Agenda and Papers for 9 June SDNPA Planning Committee Meeting	
06/06/2016	SSALC	Chairs Networking Day - 27th September	Chair & Vice Chair