

Minutes of the meeting of East Dean Parish Council
18th July 2022 at 7.30pm
Held at East Dean Village Hall

Present: Sarah Peirson –Vice Chair, Peter West, Sara Hutton-Potts, Josh Collins and Sam Hook

Apologies Neil Georges – Chair and John Holt

In attendance: Jeremy Hunt –West Sussex County Council
Henry Potter – Chichester District Council
Alexia Ward - Parish Clerk
Seven Parishioners

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on 11th April 2022 were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

- Sarah Peirson thanked everyone who had been involved with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in making it a great community event in the village. Sarah said that Neil had received many positive comments about the festivities.
- Sarah reported that the Spring Clean-up in the village on 7th May had been successful with a large group of parishioners turning out to help which was appreciated.
- Neil Georges had contacted the Sanctuary which was the charity helping Ukrainian Refugees in the area to see if they would come and talk to villagers about hosting families. The Sanctuary replied saying that they were extremely busy but anyone was welcome to attend their meetings in Chichester.

2. Update from District and County Councillors

Jeremy Hunt's report had been circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting. Jeremy included in his report that a case of Avian influenza had been confirmed in a herring gull in the Arundel area by DEFRA. The UK Health and Security Agency advises that the risk to the public is very low but you should not touch or pick up any visibly sick or dead wild birds. If you find any dead wild birds in any location please report to DEFRA 03459 335577. Jeremy also reported on the largest ever local authority roll-out of electric vehicle EV charging points which was launched on 20th June in West Sussex. The ground breaking project will deliver transformational improvements to EV provision in the region, providing better access to charging facilities particularly to those without off street parking. For further detail, and information on how to apply go to <https://www.connectedkerb.com/west-sussex-chargepoint-network>

Jeremy also confirmed that two major events had been postponed due to technical reasons - the EROICA cycling event based at the Goodwood motor circuit and the Red Bull air race to the north of the Horse Racing track.

Henry Potter sent his report to Alexia who circulated to the Parish Council by e mail. Henry said that advances had been made in the review of the District Local Plan and it is expected to be available soon for public consultation and then presentation to the Planning Inspectorate in October, for approval and acceptance. This review has been long and complex process considering all of the constraints we are faced with, mainly, of course due to the poor infrastructure we live in. Another key achievement has been the Health and Community Wellbeing Service where referrals have reached pre pandemic levels. This helps folks with weight management, quitting smoking, physical activity and alcohol issues, which have risen during isolation due to lockdowns. Henry also added that he had attended an online workshop held by Southern Water where they opened a consultation

period to engage with their customers. They admit without reservation their poor track record and proposed many measures they will be pursuing in the future.

Henry enquired whether the Ukrainian family had been invited by Gillian Keegan to a welcome reception on Friday 22/07/2022. Sarah said she would ask and if not forward the relevant information.

3. Financial Update

Alexia Ward said the balance of the Lloyds Current Account was £3,369.09 and the Helen West (legacy) savings account was £19,860.50 on 18th July 2022. Alexia said that she had looked into an account with higher interest although it had 32 days' notice and asked the Parish Council if it would be advisable to transfer the Helen West (legacy) Account to this type of account at Lloyds. The Parish Council agreed and Alexia said she would make the necessary application to change the account.

Alexia said she had completed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and had sent to the auditors, displayed the public notice on the notice board and the documents were available to be seen on the web page. She also added that there had been a VAT reclaim paid for the Village Hall refurbishment into the Parish Council Account from HM Customs for £2,301.23 which was then forwarded to the village hall account.

4. Correspondence

Alexia said she had received an email from Stuart Callow from the Salmon River Walk /Run requesting permission to place his sculpture on Pond Green for a day on 20th July 2022 as he had done last year. The Parish Council agreed and Alexia said she would reply to Stuart.

Martin Gibbard contacted Alexia with regard to the future use of Plant Protection Products (PPP) within the village boundaries. Martin had been asked by Neil to speak briefly at the meeting to outline the background of where and how often they are used, in what quantities and what the future look of the village would be with or without them. Martin said that the decision making would have to include the Village Hall Committee and the Parochial Church Council who also maintain open spaces within the village. He said if we stop any usage there will be problems for which we will need to identify new solutions. All are likely to be more labour/time and mechanically intensive which in themselves bring other issues. Potentially we may need to accept being less maintained. Sarah said she would contact the PCC and VHC and set a meeting to begin the discussion. Martin offered to attend if required to furnish more information.

Alexia was contacted by Sussex Martyrs Production Ltd to seek support from the Parish Council to film a six part TV drama based on the book *The Burning Girls* by C J Tudor in the village in the week commencing 22nd August 2022 and for a day or two in October and early December. Sarah said that Neil had met with the production team who had outlined their requirements and plans. The filming is to take place in the Lavant valley villages East Dean, Charlton, Singleton and West Dean creating the fictional village of Chapel Croft. The production team said that the community would benefit from a donation to the PC, hiring the Village Hall and car park, using the Star and Garter as a green room and filming at Gnarly Tree (on the old Garage site). They will also make available opportunities for local people to be involved as supporting artists (extras) and marshals.

The Parish Council discussed the project and all but one member agreed to supporting the filming in the village. The concerns raised were about the disruption and inconvenience of having a crew of 30-40 people with all their kit in and around the village. Sarah said she would update Neil who would raise our concerns with the production team.

5. Update on Flooding and Sewerage

Neil said he would continue to correspond with Southern Water with regard to drainage in East Dean but this year had been much drier and there had been no flooding.

6. Update and Highways

Jeremy Hunt was asked when the one metre cut would take place along the local roads. He was able to confirm that it would take place between 25th July and 8th August 2022.

7. Update from Parish Councillors

Sara Hutton –Potts suggested that the Guy competition could have a road safety theme.

Sam Hook said she had been out with the volunteers using the speed awareness kit over a period of four days at four sites in the village. A total of 165 cars were monitored and there were no cars recorded with excessive speed. Sam hoped to be out in the village with the team throughout the summer and during the Goodwood events.

Josh Collins said he would take advantage of the pond being dry to clear out the area below the catch pit pipes. Pete West said that he had watered the new elm trees in Charlton Road and would do so again through the dry weather.

Sarah Peirson had dealt with a planning application for some tree works.

8. Any Other Business

- **Pond Green Fencing and Duck house donation**

Sarah asked Josh if he would check the oak fencing around the Pond Green and see if it required any maintenance. Sarah also said that a Duck House had been donated by a Parishioner, a photo had been circulated to the council before the meeting, and asked for comments. After some discussion it was decided that Josh would take a look at the house and make sure that it wasn't too big and deliver it to the pond.

- **Hedge Maintenance in Butchers Lane**

Sarah said she would contact John Holt about the layered hedge in Butcher Lane.

- **Bonfire Night**

Neil Georges asked if there could be a meeting before the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss Bonfire Night arrangements. The council will meet on 13th September at 7pm.

- **Blue Plaque at The Toft in Recognition of Cristopher Fry**

Alexia had been contacted by Charlotte Georges to see if there were any objections in principle to applying for a blue plaque at the Toft in recognition of Christopher Fry. The Parish Council had no objections to starting the process.

- The Parish Council was asked by a parishioner whether there were results from the Village Plan meeting held on 10th January 2019. Sarah said she would follow up with Neil.

Date of Next Meetings

17th October 2022 at 7.30pm

16th January 2023 at 7.30pm

At East Dean Village Hall