

Minutes of the meeting of East Dean Parish Council
16th October 2023 at 7.30pm
Held at East Dean Village Hall

Present: Neil Georges-Chair, Sarah Peirson –Vice Chair, John Holt, Peter West, Josh Collins
Beanie Allison

Apologies Sam Hook

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

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th July 2023 were reviewed and approved.

1. Matters arising from Minutes

Alexia said that she had spoken again with Richard Pailthorpe about the information boards. He thought that the display board would cost around £1,200.00 and the ones in Singleton and Charlton had in part been funded by sponsorship from local firms and grants from South Downs National Park. Richard also offered his help. After some discussion the parish council wanted to walk around the village and locate some possible sites for the boards and Alexia said she would contact South Downs National Park and see what grants might be available.

2. Update from District and County Councillors

Jeremy Hunt sent his report by email to Alexia who circulated it to the Parish Council. Jeremy said that his report included information on the recycling centres, The Home Upgrade Grant, Here to Help-cost of living and 20mph speed limit in East Dean. Jeremy had not had any update from Highways re the clearing of the culvert leading from Chapel Row to the catch pit on Pond Green but said that he would follow up. Jeremy also confirmed that West Sussex Highways had repaired the signage at the top of East Dean Hill at the Pilley Green Crossroads. He also brought to the meetings attention the bus service Book-a-Bus. Alexia said that she had already received posters for this service which she had displayed in the bus shelter and on the notice board and put on the village WhatsApp. Jeremy's full report with links for further information can be seen at the end of these minutes.

Henry Potter sent his report by email which was circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting. His report is as follows

'District Councillors Report. October '23 - East Dean PC meeting 16/10/2023

The Council has published a Supplementary Planning Document for a six-week public consultation period beginning on 23rd September. This document gives details of the need for more funding towards mitigating the impact of future development on the unacceptable traffic issues with the A 27. In a nutshell, the SPD published in 2016 to support the 2014-29 Local Plan, which is now nearing the end of a review, raised sufficient funding to improve the Portfield roundabout and the removal of Oving traffic lights, these have been completed at a cost of £11.17 million from Developer contributions. However, the planned improvements to the Fishbourne, Stockbridge, Wyke and the Bognor roundabouts, which have been agreed with National Highways, have an estimated cost of between £86,14 and £126.11 MILLION!!

Subsequently the new charge to developers of new housing which will further impact on the A27 congestion is suggested at £3,049 per bedroom. A 3 bedroom home will attract a fee of £9,147. Experience tells me that developers won't pay this and reduce their profits, it will simply be added to the selling price of the house, just as Community Infrastructure Levy did. I dare say there will be much resentment to come from the building industry on this matter during the consultation period.

A recent letter sent to our senior Planning Officer by National Highways suggests that NH are in no position to pursue the necessary works required to improve the junctions on the A27 anyway!

Another decision made by the Cabinet is the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order-Dog Control 2023 which is such a lengthy document it is best read on the CDC website. It includes fouling of land by dogs, dogs on leads by direction and the exclusion of dogs from "Restricted Areas" all detailed in attached maps. Many of the areas highlighted are CDC owned or managed, others are foreshore areas but there are no areas included within The Goodwood Ward Parishes. This doesn't mean though, that the new directives don't apply, generally they must be adhered to, everywhere.

Finally, to continue with the "Trees outside Woodlands" project the Council will agree to accept Government funding of £120,000 per year 23/24 and again in 24/25. This will enable anyone to apply for more tree saplings, at discounted prices, to plant as we did last year. Those that were planted in various places throughout some Parishes seem to be doing quite well with about a 40% failure rate. This is fairly consistent with other Authorities which took part in the scheme and I hope we can repeat this in January and February next year. I have actually raised at least six saplings from seeds in my garden this year and look forward to moving them out as well in the spring.

The latest update from the SDNPA regarding the progress of the Centurion Way extension isn't very encouraging I'm afraid, there are still

A number of hurdles to be overcome not least of which is future funding for the required works. I do know that the proposed deviation through the woods on Cucumber Farm is of great concern and yet to be resolved. Any further information from the new CDC representative on the Park membership is lacking. The latest update we've seen was as a result of my request for it.

Finally, the Constituency Boundary changes became effective on October 1st which means Singleton with Charlton, East Dean, Upwaltham and Eartham Parishes are now in The Arun and South Downs Parliamentary Constituency with Andrew Griffith as your Conservative MP Elect at the next General Election in 2025. The Chichester Constituency has gained the highly populated areas of Pagham with Nyetimber and Bersted, this has been highly unpopular but is deemed necessary to align each constituency each with an approximate 28,000 electorate.

And that concludes my report.

Henry Potter. CDC Member for the Goodwood Ward."

3. Financial Report

Alexia Ward said that the balance of the Lloyds Current account was £4,825.68 which included the second payment of £569.50 from CDC. The Helen West Legacy account balance was £19,999.43 which included £51.80 interest.

4. Correspondence

Alexia received an email from Neil Kirby who wanted to use part of Pond Green to erect a gazebo for a drinks base for a 100 mile run he was organising on 25 May 2024 between 2pm and 9pm for a small number of participants. He offered a donation of £200.00. Neil asked the council and the sub group by email if they would support such an event. After a positive result we replied to Neil Kirby but have not had a response yet. Neil Georges had received a letter from a parishioner about the speed of tractors travelling along Droke Lane. Neil said that he had spoken with John Holt and he had reminded his employees to drive carefully.

Neil had also received a reminder that the properties which border the River Lavant should ensure that the river bed is clear of debris. Neil was able to assure the parishioner that he had already been in contact with those who are responsible and it would be checked on the next village clear up day in November.

Neil said that he had written to West Sussex Highways regarding more signage and speed reductions being put in place to increase the safety on the A285 Petworth Road. Jeremy asked if Neil could copy him into any correspondence.

Neil had also been contacted by a parishioner who thought at times people were not behaving in a neighbourly way by using power and garden tools at inappropriate times, burning items on bonfires that were not garden rubbish and allowing dogs to bark excessively. John Holt suggested that the Parish Council could write an article for the Valley Diary encouraging our community to think of others and preserve our peaceful environment. Beanie offered to write a piece for the Valley Diary and would liaise with Neil.

Neil has been asked by a parishioner if there could be improved access for an electric wheel chair from the eastern end of the village to the pub. Neil said he had looked at the paths and would need to take further advice about what is required in the way of dropped kerbs and widening the path. Henry Potter suggested that the South Downs National Park may have grants available to help with the costs.

5. Update on flooding , Sewerage and Highways

Neil said he would follow up with Southern Water about a payment for re seeding the area where the pumps and equipment stood on Pond Green. He would also monitor the situation if through the winter the pumps return due to water ingress into the sewer system if the springs run.

Neil thanked Adrian Murphy and Tim Watts for helping the sub group with the digging out of the catch pit on Pond Green.

6. Sub-Group

Martin Gibbard had updated Neil on the works the sub group had completed during the last quarter. The team had completed regular grass cutting of Pond Green, emptying the catch pit twice and re seeding the area after Southern Water removed the pumps and equipment, but failed to make good. They have also suggested some further actions to be considered when the willow trees will need some attention, whether to put duck platform to centre of the pond and to remove some grass/ soil at the entrance to the eastern end of the Green. Josh Collins said he would look at the willows and be able to help with the soil removal .The duck platform will have to wait and be done when the pond level is low.

The kerbs and drains up East Dean Hill need attention and Josh said he would be able to use his digger as soon as he could. A major clear up was required after a severe rain event in the village at the bottom of East Dean Hill. Thank you to the parishioners who came out to help.

The report also included some other tasks cutting of the steep bank and triangle and cutting the hedge and other maintenance in Butchers Lane which will be addressed by the PC.

Neil thanked the sub group Martin, Tim C and Glenn, for all the works they have completed.

7. Update from Parish Councillors

Josh Collins said he will do the grips up East Dean Hill with his digger.

Pete West said he would tidy round the young elm trees along Charlton Road.

Neil said he had begun a review of the Winter Plan and suggested he and John Holt meet to update the plan where needed.

Any Other Business

- Neil had received many comments over the speed and volume of traffic over the two major Goodwood events this year, the Festival of Speed and the Revival. Henry Potter said he would take our concerns to a post events

meeting at Goodwood. He suggested that we request that the village came under their temporary speed traffic regulations.

- The council had discussed prior to the meeting that Bonfire night would take place on Saturday 4th November 2023 as the 5th was a Sunday. The fireworks would be supplied by Max Davies and a meeting would be held to update risk assessment. Alexia offered to letter drop the village so all locals were informed of the date change.
- Neil mentioned that the last Village Plan was not finalised and it was probably time to do a new one. The village plan would give all parishioners the chance to have their say on many different topics. A date of 20th January 2024 was provisionally suggested to hold a consultation. The Parish Council will meet to plan the event.
- The next Village Clear up day would be Saturday 18th November 2023. Alexia said she would do posters and a WhatsApp to encourage helpers.
- Neil had been made aware over the past month by several parishioners that agricultural buildings had been erected on the field at 1 Droke Lane, PO18 0JH (9 Acre Field). Neil said that the Parish Council would not condone anything that wasn't compliant with the correct planning consent. Neil had been advised by South Downs National Park (CDC) planning department on the 16th October 2023 that a retrospective planning application will be submitted to retain the 2 buildings for the storage and up keep of livestock by the end of November 2023. Neil invited the meeting for comments on the erection of the buildings. After some discussion and explanation from the tenant the following was concluded. That the whole process of erecting the sheds could have been done in a more sympathetic manner and with more communication with those affected. The tenants explained that with time restraints it was necessary to get the buildings erected quickly and as they had skids it was within the permissions they had with the Landlord for the site. They also said that they had visited those immediately affected by the buildings to explain what was being erected. They added that one of the sheds had now been moved. The other main concern was that the field would become a site for storing farm machinery and in effect become a farmstead. The tenant explained that the machinery had been sold and not removed by the new owner and he hoped that it would be moved next year. Neil brought the discussion to a close summing up that there could have been more dialogue with those affected and more thoughtfulness in the manner it was done. Neil also said that until the decision of South Downs National Park (CDC) planning department re the retrospective planning application nothing more could be done.

Date of Next Meetings

15th January 2024 at 7.30pm

15th April 2024 AGM 7.00pm and Meeting

At East Dean Village Hall

Update on Our Council Plan, Medium-Term Financial Strategy through to 2028/29 and Preparations for our 2024/25 draft budget

The above paper will go to **Public Cabinet on Tuesday 17th October**. The papers are available at <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=3338> and the meeting will be webcast in the normal way (<https://westsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>). Once again, balancing our budget for next year is as challenging as ever. There are continuing pressures on many of our services, but particularly on our social services, both for children and for adults, with ever increasing numbers, ever increasing complexity of cases and ever increasing costs, particularly on out of county placements. Our overall budget for next year is in the region of £1.9bn, including the Dedicated Schools Grant, the bulk of which we passport straight to schools. Our Net Revenue spend next year will be £730m, of which approx. 55% will be spent on social services. After implementing proposed savings, we are still facing a potential funding gap of around £33m before any Council tax increases. As part of the 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement the Government also covered provisional funding levels for 2024/25, including CT levels of up to 3% for core services, plus an additional 2% for Adult Social Care. If we applied those increases, our potential budget gap falls to £4m. No proposals on possible CT increases for 2024/25 have yet been made, as we are continuing to look for further savings. However, having made savings in excess of £300m since 2010, finding even more is becoming extremely challenging. We will continue to work on our draft budget during the Autumn and early winter, with the final proposals going through scrutiny and Public Cabinet in January, before going for final approval in February 2024.

Re-Cycling Centres

Just a reminder that our re-cycling centres changed to winter opening hours from 1st October. For the Westhampnett site the opening hours are 9am - 4pm daily, apart from Tuesday when the site is closed all day. For more details see our press release at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/recycling-centres-switch-to-autumnwinter-opening-hours/>

The Home Upgrade Grant.

This is available across the county through the Warmer Homes programme. It is aimed at lower income households living in the least energy efficient homes without gas central heating. Residents can qualify for free energy efficiency improvements worth thousands of pounds. These include solid wall insulation (up to £10,000), air source heat pumps (up to £14,000) and solar panels (up to £6,000).

To qualify, residents must ensure that:

- Their home is not heated by mains gas (e.g., you use electric, oil or LPG).
- Their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating is D, E, F or G (this can be checked by Warmer Homes if the resident is unsure).
- They have a household income of £31,000 or under, or receive a means tested benefit.

The funding is available to owner occupiers and private rental tenants only. For private rental tenants, their landlord will be required to make a financial contribution. Residents can apply through the Warmer Homes website www.warmerhomes.org.uk/apply or calling the freephone number - 0800 038 5757.

Here to help - cost of living

WSCC has dedicated web pages to provide you with the latest help, advice, and practical support for those facing cost of living pressures. Please go to [Advice and information pages](#)

Local Issues:

20 MPH Speed Limit

I know this was discussed at your last meeting and I was wondering if you had any further thoughts on this. I certainly feel (although I can't obviously guarantee it) that a 20mph limit through the village would be possible. I also think that it might be worth extending the application to see if it would be possible to implement a 40mph limit in Droke Lane and possibly a 40mph limit between Charlton and East Dean - if the village felt that was what they wanted for course. Applying for speed limit reductions is a fairly straightforward process by applying for a Communities TRO scheme. The details can be found at:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/about-tros/apply-for-a-permanent-tro/>

I would of course, be happy to support the application if you wanted to move forward with it. Equally, if you felt that you wanted to retain the status quo, then equally happy with that, but I felt that it might be helpful if I set out your possible options. Of course, as I referenced earlier, no application is guaranteed.

Culverts

Following our last meeting I looked at the silting up of the culverts that run under the road from Butchers Lane to the village green - as well as the sump on the green itself. I have reported that both the culverts and the sump need cleaning out and I am awaiting a response.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

Also, a reminder that all our public meetings are webcast live and are also archived, so you can always view them later. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/>

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