

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY, 2022

AT REDFORD VILLAGE HALL

AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

Cllr. A. Hearle

Cllr. H. Talbot-Baker

Cllr. P. Hansford

E. Robinson (Clerk)

Kate O'Kelly (WSCC)

David Elliott (NT)

There were 4 members of the public present.

1. Election of Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman and Cllr. Hearle was nominated and elected.

Proposer: Cllr. Talbot-Baker

Seconder: Cllr. Hansford

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence has been received from Cllr, J. Burton and Mr. and Mrs. Bolton

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Election of committees and RFO

Cllr Talbot Baker was re-elected as RFO.

Proposer: Cllr. Hearle Seconder: Cllr. Hansford

It was agreed that there are no separate committees for Planning and Highways as there are too few council members.

5. Questions from the public

A member of the public raised the problem of parking at the village hall, particularly at the monthly market. He pointed out that if there is no turning place then people have to reverse down the drive and out into the road which he said is dangerous, particularly reversing into

the road. The National Trust owns the village green which is a SSSI and there is a right of access to the house above the village hall. Market stall holders need to come up the drive to unload and often park on the right side of the hall and part of their car might be on the green. There is still room for access to the house.

Cllr Hearle pointed out that there was new signage which was an improvement.

Another resident then asked David Elliott if he had agreed to the parking and what the legal position is. He also suggested the village events be moved to a different location such as the church. David Elliott gave a long reply in which he said that he would have to check on the legal position. He wasn't expected to discuss this and had no documentation with him. He then went on to say how important it is for this kind of problem to be settled amicably and advised that the residents should get together to discuss it as it would not be resolved by the heavy hand of the landlord. He said he liked assets such as the village green being used for community events and that it is an important asset. He said that the National Trust was not the police would not set the rules on who parks where.

He has agreed that the Trust will cut the green with a grass collector machine before the Jubilee weekend. Collecting the grass is important as it helps the wild flowers to spread. A heated discussion followed primarily about the lack of a turning area so cars don't have to reverse into the road. On the days there is a monthly market having a car parked blocking the track does not help and prevents vehicles from turning round.

The chairman ended the discussion by saying that this is not in the parish council's remit but the problem should be discussed by the village hall committee, the National Trust and affected residents. The chairman also pointed out that there is plenty of historical evidence of cars driving on the green including going across the top of the green, over the bridge (now dilapidated) and down the track behind the old post office.

He suggested a meeting should be called for residents to discuss the problem further which should include the National Trust with all the legal information. He also offered to include the topic on the agenda at the next Parish Council meeting if needed.

6. New parish councillor

Tracy Causer has agreed to be co-opted onto the council.

Proposer: Cllr. Hearle Seconder Cllr Hansford

Cllr. Causer was welcomed onto the council.

7. Minutes of parish council meeting held on 26th January, 2022 and EGM held on 23rd March, 2022

These were approved.

Proposer: Cllr. Hansford Seconder Cllr. Talbot-Baker

8. Local Reports

Kate O'Kelly (WSCC)

Cllr. O' Kelly's report is below.

Rother Valley Together

RVT presentation to MTC this week they are an exemplar organisation – looking for new clients – happy to come and talk to parishes and looking at a new model if this is needed. Eg coming to parishes for an afternoon. Current model is day and activities at the Grange for

older people at risk of social isolation. They run their clubs 3 days a week 10.30-14.30. They collect their members as necessary with their bus from Midhurst and surrounding villages. Currently they have 48 members – capacity is 60.

Children's Services

The Children's services were found to be inadequate by Ofsted in 2019 – they are on an improvement journey and the Sec of State has just agreed that they can continue on this journey without needing to set up a new Trust because the progress is significant. This is a big step forward – they have an excellent relatively new Chief Exec and the new Director of Children's services is leading on this challenging project. This is all the more difficult because all this work has had to be done during the pandemic.

Waste

Under the new Environment Act 2021 waste collection authorities (WCAs) will be required to collect food waste separately. The cabinet at WSCC have made the decision to invest the capital at the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant to convert it so that separately collected food waste can be processed there. They are still waiting for the Districts and Boroughs to fund and arrange the collection of separate food waste – most are waiting for Government guidance of when this will be mandatory but the move by county is making this one step closer. Some of the Boroughs are involved in a pilot collection scheme. At CDC our group are pushing to get them to start preparing for this as it is long overdue and we are launching a campaign on it.

Climate Change

WSCC have set themselves a target to be net zero by 2030 – this however is just the WSCC own challenge and does not incorporate the wider community activities which are clearly much more significant.

The [summary report](#) (PDF, 256KB) for the County Council's 2021/22 carbon performance is now available and shows the organisation is on track with efforts to reach net zero by 2030.

Recorded carbon emissions for 2021/22 totalled 30,400 tonnes of carbon, which is a 10% reduction against the 2019/20 baseline. This figure amounts to a marginal increase over the previous year as Covid-19 impacts lessened.

Heat demand remains the most significant single carbon source. As a result, work is continuing to develop heat decarbonisation plans for corporate buildings. Plans for the highest emitting corporate sites have already been completed, with schools to follow over the coming months.

Our group have been challenging the administration to incorporate heat pumps / renewable systems into all new school builds – one of the newest schools is being built without a geothermal heating system. We will continue to champion this.

Buses

From April 2022 there is a new partnership between WSCC and bus operators – an Enhanced Partnership Plan

WSCC have received £17.4 million (12 capital / 5.4 revenue) for 3 years to improve bus services they bid for £90million – no explanation why they got less than other LAs

The Bus recovery plan – during which time Government has been funding the bus operators for running services ends in Oct 22.

Plans include trial of a digital demand responsive transport service – no details of how this might work yet.

The number 54 service, serving north-west Chichester, is operated by Stagecoach subsidised by WSCC. The County have said that discussions are underway with Stagecoach and Community Transport Sussex regarding its future. Could be a flexible on-demand service or linked with school minibuses. I have written to the Cab Member and all the public Transport team to clarify their plans – if the service becomes demand responsive the community will need some detail of how this is going to work to have any confidence in the potential loss / change to the service.

Bus consultation is open for WSCC to get views at
<https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/westsussbus>

Ukraine

At Full Council we raised the main issue which is delay with visas and the nightmare of bureaucracy and their potential hosts faced by Ukrainians - some without papers and internet. I have been in touch with the community team re English language learning support – no provision yet but her advice is register with the library – WSCC teams will be working from the library hubs. The community team / hub is the main contact for information regarding financial support/ school places and any other questions. The best email to use is

ukrainesupport@westsussex.gov.uk

Cycling

Rother Valley Way – Petersfield to Pulborough on the old railway alignment

First meeting of Friends of RVW met last week. Friends of RVW group will then lead and progress this scheme. Phase 1 is Petersfield to Nyewood – along the railway alignment as much as possible. Next meeting to set up working group and clarify roles and timelines will be on 1st June 5.30pm at the SDNPA offices in Midhurst. We will be reporting back to the wider friends group in September but anyone who wants to get actively involved do join us on June 1st.

Stedham – Midhurst cycle route

MAC put in a CHS application for widening the Midhurst end of this route which has been successful. WSCC are currently working on the design – we are hoping that they will incorporate a speed reduction as part of the scheme – the current proposal is to extend a 40mph beyond the Woolbeding junction. Not confirmed yet.

My next Drop-in June 6th South Harting White Hart 10.30-12.30

Cllr. Hansford asked about reducing the speed limit through the village as there is no footpath and it is quite dangerous for pedestrians. Cllr. O’Kelly replied that it is now easier to get a TRO and advised that the council should make enquiries about the process. Cllr. Causer agreed to do this.

David Elliott (National Trust)

Mr. Elliott reported that work to create Ashfield wood is nearly complete. The deer need to be excluded. The wood should generate new woodland and stabilise the soil. Different areas may be treated differently with some tree planting, intermittent grazing and wild flower planting.

The Trust has been busy lambing and calving. There are some belted Galloways grazing on the common.

There has been some ragwort removing and spraying rhododendron.

Ash die back is still a big problem and he thinks there is a chance no ash trees will survive. The Trust is working with the environment agency to improve the flow of the river from Stedham Mill on to Midhurst. The main problem are the structures in the river. The Trust will look at removing these.

There is a possibility that a colony of greater horseshoe bats being established. The Vincent Wildlife Trust has bought a roost site. Their favourite food is dung beetles.

There is also a possibility of re-introduction of Pine Martens in the next 5-10 years as the landscape in this area is suitable.

Cllr Hearle said that there is a group in Stedham discussing the problems with the weir.

Cllr Hansford asked what the view of the National Trust is on abstraction from the river.

Mr. Elliott said the main extraction is at Hardham. Agricultural extraction takes away from the flow. This isn’t a new issue.

9. Finance

The accounts had been completed and approved by Alasdair Nagle.

The Accounting Statement forms were approved. Cllr Hearle and the clerk signed them.

Proposer: Cllr. Hansford Seconder Cllr. Hearle

The following cheques were signed:

000827 BHIB Ltd (insurance). £322.47

000828 Redford Village Hall (wine for the APM) £42.25

000829. H Talbot Baker (Bottle of wine for Alastair Nagel). £10

000830. RVH (Hire of hall for meeting) £25.00

000831. WSALC (subscription). £52.72

000832. Mrs E Robinson (Clerk salary) £96.00

Proposer: Cllr Hansford Secunder Cllr Hearle

10. Review of policy documents

The Standing Orders had been amended in accordance with the e mail received from SSALC on 29th April relating to item 18.

Cllr Hearle is going to amend the Document Retention and Disposal document to include the deleting of recordings of meeting once the minutes have been signed.

11. Jubilee Celebration

There will be a lunch held on Sunday 5th June. Alex Meikle is going to provide the main salad with parishioners adding other salads and puddings. There will be music and games. The cost will be split 50/50 between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council with the cost to the Parish Council of £750 as previously approved. There is a meeting shortly of the village hall committee and parish council to finalise details. Invitations have been sent out.

11. Defibrillator

A quote has now been received for £1241. This will be discussed with village hall committee as it is planned that the defibrillator will be fixed onto the village hall committee.

12. Planning

There was nothing to report.

13. Highways

Cllr. Causer is going to find out more about applying to reduce the speed limit through the village. Cllr. O' Kelly said that it should now be easier as WSCC were no longer limiting the number of TROs to one per annum and she advised to contact Bepton who recently have had success. WSCC are also looking to make it easier to lower the speed limits to 50mph generally for the back roads.

14. Meetings for next 12 months

The following dates were agreed:

28th September, 2022

30th November, 2022

25th January, 2023

29th March, 2023 (APM)

24th May, 2023 (Annual Meeting)

15. Training

There was nothing suitable.

16. Correspondence

There was none.

The meeting closed at 19.45

Signed Date