

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held in Redford Village Hall on

Wednesday, 29th March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Adrian Hearle (Chairman)

Cllr. Helen Talbot-Baker

Cllr. Paul Hansford

Cllr. T. Causer

Lizzie Robinson (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Fowler (CDC), Cllr. K. O’Kelly(WSCC), Cllr J. Burton

23 members of the public were present.

1. Welcome and Chairman’s remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Annual Parish Meeting is a chance for parishioners to meet their councillors and to find out what they have done for the Parish during the last year. He reminded the meeting that there are council elections in May and in order to vote they will have to take proof of ID.

He expressed condolences to the family of Rod Meikle who had been on the parish council for 15 years and had recently died.

His report is below.

“God Save the King”, words not spoken for 70 years and I am thankful that we properly celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with an event on the village green involving all generations. This was jointly hosted and funded with the Redford Village Hall Committee and a big thanks to all those who helped with the food and running of the day.

The Parish Council has funded the installation of a defibrillator located at the Hall. Let’s hope it is never needed but hopefully it does provide a degree of assurance to the community that there is one close by.

After much lobbying, with particular thanks to David Reynolds, I am pleased that West Sussex Highways have finally carried out some more extensive road resurfacing, particularly through the ‘wiggles’ on Bramblings Lane. It is an on-going battle and remains frustrating that the underlying causes of the problems, such as clearing culverts is not done.

West Sussex have recently issued a new speed policy. This should now give us a much better chance for proceeding with an application for reducing the speed limit through Redford from 40 mph to 30 mph. Thanks to Midhurst Area Cycling for being instrumental in the project to widen the cycle lane along the short stretch of the A272 in our Parish as well as to reduce the speed limit to the Woolbeding turning.

Management of our Commons and keeping the footpaths clear is a topic always of interest to Parishioners. The National Trust have been trying some new approaches and I leave it to the Head Ranger, David Elliott, to share this after I have finished.

The community can and does help to look after the countryside with another thank you to all those who are participating in the second litter week that finishes on Saturday. I know that many of you also continue to do this throughout the year.

It has been another quiet year on the planning front with just three minor applications that were all supported.

Finances of the Parish Council are in good health and have allowed us to reduce the precept for the second year, this time by 33%.

Finally, my thanks for all your hard work and contributions to my fellow councillors, Helen Talbot Baker, Paul Hansford, Jeremy Burton and Tracy Causer, to our Clerk, Lizzie Robinson, and to Marion Hansford for looking after the website. Sadly, Tracy is resigning so we will be looking for a new Councillor after the elections in May. If interested, please do let the Clerk know. All I can say is that playing an active part of in the community brings its own rewards in the friendships that it creates in this wonderful parish in which we are privileged to live.

2. Minutes of 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022 were approved and signed.

Proposer: Cllr Talbot-Baker, Seconder: Cllr P. Hansford

3. Mr. David Elliott (NT)

Mr. Elliott gave a very interesting talk about the work and aims of the National Trust in the parish. He explained that the land the Trust manages is divided into 3 sections. The top section is common land of which the majority is heathland, the middle section is arable farmland and the bottom section is river and flood plain. The Trust's priorities are the top and bottom sections. Mr. Elliott would like to fence the common but recognises that this has to be agreed with the commoners. This would make cattle grazing easier. As yet there are no plans for the middle section. The river in the bottom section is in a very poor state and Mr. Elliott is anxious to improve it. He explained that the mink are one of the causes as they attack water voles. However mink are afraid of otters and there are some otters around the river. He is hoping Highways will install a platform in the culvert under the A272 so that the otters don't get run over. He also reported that the beavers are working very hard and have improved the flood plain where they are.

The next meeting is on 24th May at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9.00

Signed Dated