

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 20th September, 2023

In Redford village hall at 7p.m.

Present: Cllr A. Hearle (Chairman)

Cllr H. Talbot-Baker

Cllr. P. Hansford

Cllr. P. Fox

Cllr. S.. Floyd

Elizabeth Robinson (Clerk)

Cllr. Kate O'Kelly (WSCC)

David Elliott (NT)

There were 5 members of the public attending

1. Welcome and Chairman's Remarks

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he had nothing special to report.

2. Apologies

Cllr Burton (CDC)

3. Public Question Time

The only question was about the National Trust plans and it was agreed this would be discussed under item 9.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hearle declared an interest regarding Wispers planning.

5. Local Reports

5.1 Kate O'Kelly (WSCC)

Her report is below.

Community

Impact Advocacy – contract - UPDATE

A contract to support vulnerable adults with learning disability through advocacy has come to an end. The decision to let the contract end without replacement and without scrutiny of the alternative supports has come to our attention recently. I called for this to be scrutinised at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Committee in September. This has been refused – the advocacy groups are took a petition to County Hall this Tuesday to coincide with the September Cabinet meeting.

Education

RAAC

One Academy in Horsham has found some RAAC but to date the searches for RAAC in West Sussex have been desktop – we have asked questions to clarify the inspection regimes to date and to ascertain whether the work has in fact been done to confirm the presence or RAAC in the school estate across the County – including the Academy schools.

School meals

I have been approached by a parent in the Rogate area who would like the contract for primary school meals fully reviewed. The question of quality and quantity have been raised as well as sustainability as none of the food is sourced locally. We are planning to submit a written question on this to clarify the details with a view to taking a motion to Council later in the year.

Health

At the Health and Adult Social Care Committee meeting this week we discussed the very challenging financial position for the Adults services - there is a 15m shortfall after the first quarter. It is a similar story across the country, the team are working really hard to improve the situation. They have prepared their self-assessment in advance of their first Care Quality Commission visit, they presented this document in an open and transparent way without being defensive describing their areas of strength and weakness which we praised

Defibrillators

West Sussex County Council is urging organisations including clubs and local community groups to apply for government funding that could help increase the number of potentially life-saving defibrillators across the county. Applications are now open for grants from the Department of Health and Social Care's £1million Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund. The fund aims to help save lives by increasing the number of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in community spaces, where they are most needed. These include rural areas, places with high footfall and areas where there are vulnerable people.

Drop- ins I am doing a drop-in at the White Hart in South Harting on 5th Oct at 12-1pm

A member of the public thanked Cllr. O'Kelly for her help on road maintenance.

5.2 Cllr. Burton (CDC)

There was no report but her latest report was circulated to the council on 6th September. It is shown below.

Report To Parish Councils in Midhurst Ward

September 2023

Road Closure's

There has been a plethora of road closures in the local area with WSCC repairing roads after the months of diversions. This on the whole has been a good thing and is repairing some serious issues which have arisen from prolonged overuse of the lanes.

Please be aware that Midhurst has Rumbolds Hill closed from September 11th to September 12th, we are hoping for the road to reopen as early as possible on the 12th. There will be a diversion around the outside of Midhurst, however there will drivers using their local knowledge to divert through Knockhunderd Row. Please take care when traveling through the area.

I have requested a higher than usual presence of Civil Enforcement officers to help keep West Street clear during No-Parking hours and have highlighted the scaffolding which is currently making a left turn particularly hard from West Street to Red Lion Street as a potential hazard. Whilst we have not been able to prevent the road closure due to the necessity of the work we are working through plans now and will hopefully be able to minimize the impact made on the town.

Free Events in September

September Saturdays has a host of free events happening in Midhurst over the month.

Saturday 9th - 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm - 'SING 2' and 'ELVIS' - Outdoor cinema events in Market Square

Saturday 16th - 11:00 am - 3:30 pm - 'Fold our Town' – Create an origami city inspired by your home town. All ages welcome.

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Live music in Midhurst, multiple venues across Midhurst will host live music events.

Saturday 23rd 10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Artisan Market & Vintage Fair

All day - Get Active Day, - Join The Grange leisure centre for a BMX shows and learn how to slackline. All ages welcome.

Saturday 30th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - 5k Fun Run

Events at The Novium and Pallant House. Tickets Essential – Visit What's On - The Novium Museum / Open Day | Pallant House Gallery for More Information.

12th September – 17th September - Visit the Middle Earth exhibition at the Novium – Free

12th September – 14th September - Visit The Guildhall at Priory Park. - Free

16th September – Visit Pallant house for a creative family fun day

Are your electoral details correct?

CDC have been emailing people who have previously given us their email address for electoral services to remind them to check their electoral details are right. These emails come from a Government system and will appear as: elections@chichester.gov.uk. If we don't hear back from those emailed by 10 September, we'll send a letter to confirm the

details we have on our system and to ask if these need updating. If you don't receive an email from us we'll be contacting you by letter in the normal way soon. Find out more

Grants

Small and start-up businesses based in the district will hear if they have been successful within our Enabling Grant Scheme in around six weeks' time. The scheme is aimed at helping businesses to improve their efficiency, maximise their potential for growth and help new businesses with start-up costs. More information can be found at: www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme

In addition, the Grants and Concessions panel will review the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Fund applications on 29 June. CDC received 30 applications for funding, and these have all been considered by officers. This is the first round of grant funding. The next application process will be launched at the end of 2023, for projects to be delivered in

2024/25. Find out more visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/sharedprosperityfund

We are also currently promoting a range of home energy efficiency grants. People can apply for help to fund air source heat pumps, insulation or solar panels. They can check eligibility and find out more by visiting: www.warmerhomes.org.uk or calling 0800 038 5737.

We have held two resident events highlighting the options available and we hope to hold another of these events in the year ahead. Tips on how people can reduce

their carbon footprint, along with online calculators that offer personalised advice can also be found here: www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange

5.3 David Elliott (NT)

He introduced Becky Hiorns who is a landscape advisor and has started work at the estate office as a project manager.

Ash die back tree felling is starting again and this will involve some road closures.

The grazing on the common continues.

Work is being done on electricity poles which need replacing. The work is being done by Scottish and Southern Electricity and any queries should be directed to them.

Sawmilling at Swan Barn farm is continuing. The wood is used for fences, gates etc. and repairs.

The volunteer group have been apple pressing.

Work is continuing on restoring the river particularly by Woolbeding Gardens Weir to restore the original flood plain. This would not mean additional flooding.

The Trust is putting pressure on WSCC Highways to install a shelf in the duct under the A272 to protect the otters as several have been run over. This is very expensive.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June were approved and signed.

Proposer: Cllr. Talbot-Baker Seconded: Cllr. Floyd

The minutes of the planning meeting held on 6th July were approved and signed.

Proposer: Cllr. Hansford Seconded: Cllr. Fox

7. Finance

The RFO reported that the finances are in a good state. She had been unable to circulate the cash book due to a computer glitch.

Two cheques were signed:

Cheque No 855 Mrs. E. Robinson (clerk's salary) £288

Cheque No 856 Redford Village Hall £ 25

8. Planning

There were no objections to the plans for tree pruning at Woolbeding Gardens.

There were no other applications.

8.1 Wispers.

This application had not gone before the SDNPA committee in September and there is no further information.

9. National Trust

Cllr Hearle opened by saying that he and Cllr. Talbot-Baker had had a meeting with David Elliott and Jane Cecil about the future of the NT land. His main point was that there was concern that decisions would be made without consultation with residents. He is also concerned that the campsite is involved in the plans. He said the meeting had been robust at times.

He asked David Elliott to explain the Trusts plans. Mr Elliott said that he couldn't say much but could confirm that 280 acres of land is being taken back by the Trust from September 2024. He emphasised that James Renwick is a good farmer. He wasn't able to say what firm plans for the land were but did confirm that there would be change. Cllr. Talbot Baker said that it was very important that the community were kept informed before final decisions are made.

Mr. Elliott said plans are at an early stage and he introduced Becky Hions and suggested that she explain further. Becky said that she is new to the area so it is very early for her to make decisions. She did say she was surprised how difficult access is in the way of footpaths, cycle routes etc. Cllr Talbot-Baker disagreed with this as residents use the footpaths constantly.

Becky and David then explained that their initial plans are to regenerate the river around the Woolbeding weir and to restore the natural flood plain. Their plans for land higher up are not certain. One of their priorities is to deal with soil erosion and suggested that tree planting on the lower levels would be the solution. Higher up land might be used for grazing. The Trust is very anxious to regenerate the land and the common.

There was some discussion about fencing the common but nothing firm. Permission would have to be granted by the secretary of state and the fact that the road goes through the common makes the decision more complicated. 'Commoners' would be consulted.

Cllr Hansford enquired about funding plans and pointed out that these changes would require planned funding for possibly 25 years.

The main concern of the council was the lack of consultation from the Trust with the residents of the parish. This was emphasised very strongly.

10. Highways

Cllr. Hearle reported that it is now possible for the council to start the process of applying to reduce the speed limit through the village to 30 m.p.h. He said the next step is to canvass local opinion. It was decided that the clerk would send out a letter to be drafted by Cllr. Hearle to the parish e mail addresses asking residents for their views on this.

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

11. Review of Policies

These have been reviewed and the clerk was asked to change the approval dates on the documents and forward to Marion Hansford to get them put on the website.

Proposer: Cllr. Tabot-Baker Seconder: Cllr. Hansford

12. Winter Plan

The clerk has checked the salt bins which are all full. There is no need to change the winter plan.

13. Internet at village hall

This is the responsibility of the village hall committee. Cllr. Hearle has spoken to WSCC to see if this qualifies as a community benefit and he will keep discussing this.

14. Parish Priorities Statement

It was decided that this isn't relevant to the parish and is already covered by the SDNPA local plan.

15. Training days

There were no suitable ones.

16. Correspondence

There wasn't any that hadn't been dealt with.

17. Any Other Business

The clerk had been asked to see if it is possible to organise the training session for the defibrillator and had been given a name to contact which she will do.

Cllr. Hearle reminded the council that at the next meeting the precept for 2024 should be discussed and the council needs to choose a speaker for the Annual Parish meeting in March.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th November at 7 p.m.

The meeting ended at 20.10.

Dated Signed
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DRAFT