



MINUTES of Plaistow and Ifold Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 16th January 2018**, in Kelsey Hall, Ifold.

Present: Sara Burrell (Chairman); Sallie Baker; Sophie Capsey; Phil Colmer; Vivien Forwood; Souheil Haddad; Paul Jordan; Paul Reynolds; David Ribbens; Alan Pearson; Nick Whitehouse; Beverley Weddell (Clerk)

Cllr Janet Duncton, Cllr Peter Wilding and two members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies: There were no apologies for absence.

C/18/001 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest pertaining to agenda items.

C/18/002 Representations from Members of the Public

There were no representations from members of the public.

C/18/003 Minutes

Amendments were required to the minutes of the meeting of 12th December and would be approved at the next meeting.

C/18/004 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that both CDC and WSCC had refused the parish council's request for an ex gratia payment towards the legal costs of being represented at the Crouchland public inquiry. (Letters appended to minutes.)

C/18/005 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Duncton reported that WSCC had reconsidered the proposed reduction in opening hours at recycling centres. The new cabinet member had agreed sites would be open from 9am to 6pm during the summer months and 4pm in the winter, and would be closed 2 days a week. The Worthing centre would be open seven days a week in the Summer and Midhurst would be open Thursday to Monday. None of WSCC's plastic went to China for recycling.

Cllr Duncton reported that 25 applications had been approved for Operation Watershed funding and that there was still £172,000 remaining in the budget.

Finally, Cllr Duncton reported that a member of WSCC Fire and Rescue from the Horley unit was in Bangladesh helping with a diphtheria outbreak.

C/18/006

Report from District Councillor

Cllr Wilding said that he was disappointed that Diane Shepherd had turned down the parish council’s request for funding.

Cllr Wilding reported that the Southern Gateway masterplan had been adopted by CDC. The next phase would be to relocate the bus depot and Royal Mail sorting office.

Regarding financial planning, CDC were putting together a 5-year plan. Cllr Wilding is now the portfolio holder for finance. The CDC portion of Council Tax would be increasing by 3% in the next financial year. CDC would be funding some initiatives including updating the Midhurst vision statement and repairing the old bakery in Petworth.

Cllr Wilding reported that Chichester District is taking part in a pilot programme called social prescribing, which provides someone for people to speak to at a doctor’s surgery when their problem may be social rather than medical that could be dealt with by someone other than their GP.

CDC are giving grants to shop owners to improve shop fronts in town areas.

C/18/007

Updates:-

- a) Crouchland planning and enforcement. The administrators had provided an update in advance of the meeting, however this did not include any new or recent information. The Clerk would send letters to WSCC and CDC regarding any forthcoming planning applications for the site.
- b) Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman advised that the steering group were still working through the Regulation 14 responses and preparing the documentation needed for the health check, including a consultation statement. They were also working with Colin Smith on minor amendments to the plan.
- c) Flooding. Mr Pearson would contact Southern Water for an update on the work they have carried out. It was agreed there was a need to pursue projects for potential Operation Watershed funding. Mr Pearson would investigate the cause of flooding near Charlshurst and Camellia and also the collapsed culvert under the road by Lions Green, with a view to putting in a funding application for these two areas.

Clerk

A Pearson

C/18/008

Highway Matters

Mrs Capsey would report the potholes on the Plaistow Road and also the deep potholes in Surrey at Burningfold.

S Capsey

A member of the public had cut the hedge by the railings at the junction of The Ride to improve visibility. It had been suggested that children waiting for the school bus wait inside the junction of The Ride but that the bus driver wouldn’t stop if he couldn’t see them waiting. It was agreed that there should be pedestrian refuges for children waiting for the school bus and Mr Pearson would look into making an application for a TRO to provide this.

A Pearson

It was reported that tractors transporting manure from Crouchland to West Chiltington were speeding. Residents should report this via Operation Crackdown.

Mrs Capsey advised that she had reported the damaged bollards by the pub and as these had been damaged and repaired recently, Highways were due to come out and assess their suitability. They would also look at reinforcing the edges of Rickmans Lane. Mrs Capsey had also reported potholes in Foxbridge Lane and opposite Crouchland Farm.

C/18/009

Financial Matters

- a) Accounts for Payment. The attached Order for Payments was approved.

- b) The proposed budget for the year ending 31.3.19 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk explained that the parish council had incurred significant unbudgeted costs for the AD expert to attend the Crouchland public inquiry and that this could not be met from reserves, despite generous pledges of additional funding from Kirdford and Loxwood parish councils. Reducing reserves to the minimum that would be acceptable, the Clerk explained that it was still necessary to increase the Precept by 44%. This would mean that the parish council proportion of council tax would increase from £38.28 to £55.14 for a Band D council tax payer. This increase would be necessary for one year, after which time the parish council's precept requirement would reduce to previous levels.

It was agreed that, in order to keep the increase in Precept to a minimum, the parish council would withdraw their membership of NALC and SSALC for the next financial year, in order to save the cost of subscription.

Taking into account budget expenditure and reserves held, it was proposed by Mr Ribbens, seconded by Mr Reynolds and agreed unanimously that the Precept on Chichester District Council for the year ending 31.3.19 would be £62,000.

C/18/010

Correspondence

- a) The Kelsey Hall Management Committee had written to thank the parish council for allowing them to relocate the old notice board from outside Oak Tree Stores to use for village hall notices.

C/18/011

Items for information or inclusion on a future agenda

The Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held on 18th April and Mrs Baker advised that she had arranged for PCSO Richard Morey from CDC and Arun Fraud Prevention Team to give a presentation.

It had been reported that BT would be upgrading fibre optic broadband throughout the parish by the end of the year.

Mr Haddad had attended a recent Gatwick open meeting and reported that Gatwick were still pursuing a second runway and had been clear that night flights would continue. The issue was fair distribution of air traffic and Mr Haddad reported that the various community groups were working together much better than in the past.

Mr Jordan reported that he had written to the Post Office concerning the Ifold postal identity and was awaiting a response.

C/18/012

Next Meeting

Full Council Meeting 20th February, 7.30pm at Winterton Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55.