

Clerk to Council:
Sarah Mamoany
PO Box 881
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 9QW

07884 962453
clerk@woodmancoteparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.woodmancoteparishcouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Blackstone Pavilion, Blackstone Playing Fields, Woodmancote on Tuesday 11 January 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: WPC Cllrs C. Dixon (Chair), P. Williams, D. Austin, W. Noel & R. Noel.
S. Mamoany (Clerk)

Others Present: 4 members of the public

Cllr. Dixon advised members of the public that the meeting room had CCTV and to be aware that images could be recorded during the meeting.

2022-001. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Batchelor, Cllr. K. Donald, District Councillor M. Croker and County Councillor P. Linehan.

2022-002. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 December 2021

The minutes were **RESOLVED** by the Council and duly signed by Cllr. Dixon.

2022-003. Actions from previous Minutes

It was reported that the dog walker issue has been resolved and they have probably found another location to use. Cllr. R. Noel reported that licences were not required for dog walkers to use public footpaths.

Play area – this remains closed and Ian Waring from Sussex Cricket has advised he will await an update in regards to if any funding might be available from HDC. Cllr. R. Noel will look into this again as his initial enquires suggested using S106 funding, however this is committed to the Community Highways Scheme.

Cllr. R. Noel updated the Council on the HDC EV charging points scheme and it seemed that it was mainly town centre locations that are being considered and car parks.

2022-004. Public Participation

A resident spoke in relation to the A281 traffic calming and requested clarification on the speed limit reduction to 40mph at the Henfield end. The Chairman advised that this was progressing within the Community

Highways Scheme depending on budgets available, the east end speed limit would be discussed in the meeting under item 10 on the agenda. The Council had been working on trying to reduce the speed limit for several years with an application put forward to WSCC Highways with the support of Henfield Parish Council for a TRO which was unsuccessful. However, the Council were continuing to work on this, and it was hopeful that the Community Highways Scheme would produce a speed reduction to 40mph.

A resident spoke in relation to the applications SDNP/21/00457/FUL ad SDNP/21/00458/FUL at Bellows, Bramlands Lane. They noted that the floodlights had been installed over a year ago and are extremely bright and shine over open countryside and the caravan park. They questioned why they need to be so bright and it should be requested they are only allowed to be used within a restricted time period. The property is also situated in a dark skies zone.

2022-005. Declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any items in the agenda

Cllr. R. Noel and Cllr. W. Noel declared an interest in planning application DC/21/2776, as they are neighbours. Cllr. R Noel declared an interest in planning applications SDNP/21/00458/FUL & SDNP/21/00457/FUL as he knows the applicant.

2022-006. Reports from other Authorities:

006.1. Report from Horsham District Council

Cllr. M. Croker had sent his apologies, but had provided a written report which was circulated to Councillors, which noted the following:

- Council tax increase for the HDC element is forecast to be 2.9%.
- Car park charge increases will be implemented by April 2022.
- The recent announcement of £1m for the environment is detailed as follows:
 - £880k Capital
 - £300k additional cost of ten electric vehicles rather than HVO
 - £205k LED lighting at the Capitol
 - £150k Housing net carbon zero (3 houses per year)
 - £100k electric infrastructure for electric vehicles
 - £35k Park Barn new windows and management system
 - £30k LED lighting at Storrington Library North Street and Steyning Newmans Gardens rural carparks
 - £30k Horsham Town Centre Cycling Study
 - £20k Granary upgrade windows
 - £10k Blatchford industrial estate energy review
 - £125k Revenue
 - £60k Wilder Horsham District - community support officer & landowner advisor
 - £20k Property & Facilities: implement capital decarbonisation / consultancy.
 - £45k Environment officer – helping the Environmental Co-ordination Manager to implement environmental matters across the Council.

Cllr. R. Noel reported the following:

- HDC have started work on felling ash trees on HDC owned land, due to ash die back. Residents can report any trees of concern to HDC and they will give advice, but HDC will not carry out any work to trees on private land.
- Water neutrality issue – currently no resolution and developers are threatening a judicial review.

006.2. Report from West Sussex County Council

Cllr. P. Linehan sent his apologies and an email was received in relation to the Community Highways Scheme.

2022-007. Planning

007.1. SDNP/21/00457/FUL - Bellows Bramlands Lane Woodmancote BN5 9TG - Creation of an all-weather playing surface with fence surrounding and adjustment of height of existing bund from 1.35m to variable height.

It was noted that this work has already been carried out, so the application should be retrospective. Not all the documents could be accessed on the planning portal and the drawings did not appear to be in scale. **It was RESOLVED** to object to the application, as the variable bund is not in keeping with the surrounding area.

007.2. SDNP/21/00458/FUL - Bellows Bramlands Lane Woodmancote BN5 9TG - Installation of floodlighting to existing sand school and all- weather play surface.

It was noted that the floodlighting was already installed and being used, so the application should be retrospective. **It was RESOLVED** to object to the application as it is contrary to the SDNP Local Plan Strategic Policy SD8: Dark Night Skies, with neighbouring properties suffering from a loss of amenity. The Council would note that should the Planning Officer be mindful to approve this application, the brightness of the lights should be reduced and lights should only be used within a very limited time period.

007.3. DC/21/2776 - St George Brighton Road Woodmancote Henfield - Demolition of existing detached house and erection of a replacement dwelling including construction of an altered driveway.

It was RESOLVED to make no objection to the application, but would note the driveway is on agricultural land and therefore a change of use to residential land should be required; and that the movement of the dwelling by 1m from the original footprint should be beneficial to the neighbouring property.

007.4. DC/21/2800 1 Blackstone Rise Blackstone Lane Blackstone BN5 9SZ - Erection of a single storey rear extension (Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed)

It was RESOLVED to make no objection to the application.

007.5. Any applications received since publication of the agenda

DC/21/2805 Fairyland Brighton Road Woodmancote BN5 9SR - Erection of a 1.8m high fence to the front of the property, installation of entrance gates and alterations to existing verge.

It was RESOLVED to make no objection to the application, but to note that adequate room should be allowed for a vehicle to pull in off the road in front of the gates.

2022-08 Planning Update

008.1. To note planning decisions:

The following decisions were noted:

SDNP/21/03860/HOUS - Catsland Farmhouse Bramlands Lane Woodmancote BN5 9TG - Timber closeboard fence to enclose main garden and southern terrace landscape restoration and improvements (Householder Application) – Approved

SDNP/21/00966/HOUS & SDNP/21/00967/LIS - Catsland Farmhouse Bramlands Lane Woodmancote Henfield West Sussex BN5 9TG - Installation of oak cladding to existing rear section of building, replacement of 2 no. existing double doors to rear elevation with 1 larger opening and associated alterations. – Approved

DC/21/2565 - St George Brighton Road Woodmancote Henfield West Sussex BN5 9ST -Erection of a garage/store and forecourt (Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed). - Permitted

2022-09. Blackstone Playing Fields

Please note that items 009.2. and 009.3. were held under the ‘Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 S.1(2) which excluded members of the public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

009.1. Update on progress of lease

The agreed undertaking from Sussex Cricket was received today, however due to the delay in receiving this no work has been carried out on the leases to date. The Clerk has updated the website to inform residents that there has been a delay and the consultation period will not commence on the 4th January as stated. This date was moved to the 20th January, but it is unlikely that this date will be met either. A news article in BN5 will be published to reflect these amendments and to direct residents to the website for further information.

009.2. To review draft leases in preparation for public consultation (subject to availability)

This item was not discussed as the draft leases were not available.

009.3. Update on Allen lease renewal and associated costs

Minutes noted in confidential report.

2022-010. Highways/Traffic

010.1. Update on Community Highways Scheme

The Council had been provided with traffic data from traffic loops placed at the eastern end of the A281, which is noted below.

24hr 7-day average speeds:

Site 1538 westbound 45.4mph eastbound 44.9mph

Site 1533 westbound 51.3mph eastbound 49.2mph

Site 1529 westbound 43.1mph eastbound 43.8mph

This information confirmed that the average speeds were above the 42mph required under current WSCC Policy to recommend extending the present 40mph speed limit further eastwards on the A281. However, they are within the speed limit policy range for 50mph i.e. average speed below 52mph. WSCC Highways noted that they are not minded to recommend introducing a 50mph speed limit as being beneficial in the present circumstances as they are concerned that experience suggests there is the potential that installing speed limit signs on a previously derestricted road can give drivers a target speed to aim for thereby increasing the average speeds and proving counter-productive. Cllr. Paul Linehan noted in an email that the data would support a reduction to a 50mph, however the Council need to consider what could be reasonably expected to be gained by reducing the speed limit and posting signs to that effect.

The Council considered the information provided and **it was RESOLVED** to request a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) for the reduction at the east end of the A281 to 50mph. It was felt that if this can be reduced to 50mph it may be possible in the future to reduce it down to 40mph. The Council are looking to purchase further SID's in the future, which they hope could assist with bringing down the speed further.

010.2. Update on Community Speedwatch

Currently no further volunteers have completed the training and it was noted that the lack of response from residents to volunteer was disappointing. It was agreed that an initial practice would be arranged for March, when the weather has improved. The Clerk will contact the PCSO to see if they are able to attend, as it was felt this would be beneficial. A further article could be submitted to BN5 to try to encourage volunteers to come forwards.

2022-011. Finance/Payment

011.1. Reconciled accounts and bank statement

It was RESOLVED to approve the above dated 31.12.2021.

011.2. Q3 Finance Report

The report was noted and that some reserves have been used this financial year.

011.3. To approve the schedule of payments

It was RESOLVED to pay the following, listed on the schedule of payments.

WSCC – Salaries – December - £652.59 (approved at the previous meeting, invoice now received)

2022-012. Correspondence/meetings/consultations

Cllr. W. Noel reported on the Playing Fields Management Committee meeting and noted the following.

- The water tank is being fenced off.
- The pallets will be removed by next week.
- Some parking issues in Blackstone Lane had occurred relating to football fixtures; this was being dealt with and it was noted communication with parents should resolve this.
- The stoolball AGM is due to be held, currently they do not have a fixtures list.
- The Queens Platinum Jubilee date celebration is confirmed for Saturday, 4 June 2022.

- A pro-forma pavilion hire booking application form has been created and the Chairman will consider any bookings received and submit these to Sussex Cricket for approval. A donation of £40 to hire the facilities was suggested.

2022-013. Other business

Following the previous meeting Cllr. Austin noted he had found a cheaper battery supplier for the SID. However, it was noted that the SID unit and a pole on the B2116 had been involved in a road traffic accident. The pole is broken and the unit has gone missing, this occurred between 12.30pm and 3pm on the 31 January 2022. Cllr. Austin reported this to the Police and has passed the report number to the Clerk in respect of making an insurance claim. The Clerk has submitted a claim, but not had any response back from the insurance company to date.

Cllr. Austin reported that he had found a local company that could supply a new bus shelter for around £1,600 and would pass the details to the Clerk.

Cllr. Austin and Cllr. Dixon will put the Blackstone Playing Field signs up on the 29 January at 2pm.

A working party meeting in respect of the Queens Platinum Jubilee has been arranged for the 1 February 2022 at 7.00pm, which will be held remotely.

Cllr. R. Noel noted that HDC are looking at supporting events being held for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and funds could be made available to Parish Councils, he will keep the Council informed.

Cllr. Dixon noted that the Council had earmarked reserves of £10,000 for the community hall. He suggested that perhaps these funds could be used to purchase further SID's as the building of a new hall could be a long way off and the SIDS could be of benefit to the community at the current time. This will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

2022.014. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the pavilion at Blackstone Playing Fields at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 8 February 2022, subject to review in relation to the COVID situation at the time. It was noted that the proposed date of the 22 February to review the consultation responses from the lease would probably need to be amended due to lack of progress on the lease work to date.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm