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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Blackstone Pavilion, Blackstone Playing Fields, Woodmancote on Tuesday 8 February 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: County Councillor Paul Linehan
2 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.

2022-015. Apologies

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

2022-016. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2022

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

2022-017. Actions from previous Minutes

It was noted that Cllr. Austin and Cllr. Dixon had put up the Blackstone Playing Field signs and the Clerk was requested to check the insurance cover on them regarding accidental damage.

Play area – this remains closed. Cllr. R. Noel had made further enquiries with regards to funding that might be available via HDC and will pass on the information to the Clerk. It was noted that the S106 funds available for the provision or improvement of community/leisure facilities was available of £1,773. The play area would be added to the next agenda for further discussion; however, it was confirmed that in the current lease Sussex Cricket were responsible for the maintenance of the equipment.

The Clerk had looked at the Sport England Jubilee Grant fund, but this was not suitable as it would be replacement of equipment and not a new project; which was the criteria for funding.

2022-018. Public Participation

A resident spoke in regards to the following matters.

- Lease with Sussex Cricket – it was noted that it could be prudent in the changing world we live in to have a clause noting that the Council cannot be brought into disrepute over any issues relating to players and the club’s activities; for example, some unrelated sports players and sports clubs behaviour has recently been highlighted in the national press.
- Lambing season – This has commenced and any assistance in raising awareness that walkers should keep to public rights of way and keep dogs on leads around livestock would be appreciated. A note will be added to the website.
- The consideration of using funds set aside for the hall on purchasing SID units could be a topic of discussion for the AGM.

2022-019. Declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any items in the agenda

Cllr. D Austin declared an interest in DC/22/0007/as he knows the applicant, but has no financial interest.

2022-020. Reports from other Authorities:

020.1. 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:

- Jane Eaton the existing Director for Corporate Resources will take over as Chief Executive next April when Glen Chipp retires.
- HDC budget is set for approval on 9 February, with the HDC element of Council Tax increasing by 2.9%.
- Food waste trial has finished with 85% of respondents happy with a 3-week residual waste collection cycle.
- Cllr. Croker attended the Water Resources South East (WRSE) briefings and noted the possibility of a circa 50 ha surface area reservoir located at Blackstone, with no specific location being given. This would abstract water from the eastern Adur at times of high flow to offset subsequent high demand. It was noted this idea had been mooted by Southern Water over the last 20 years, but additional information was not forthcoming other than if implemented, it would likely be operational by 2040.

Cllr. R. Noel reported the following:

- Council Tax Grants will be given of £150 to those households in Bands A-D in 2022/23. These grants will not be repayable.
- Cllr. Noel attend the WRSE briefing and was disappointed in the presentation by Southern Water in comparison to other areas; no mention was made of the current water neutrality issue.
- HDC are planning Jubilee events, including a street party in the Carfax. Trees and grants will be available from HDC and further information will follow.
- The Local Plan will not contain any strategic sites, with the exception of the site west of Ifield. The possibility of Town Hall meetings coming into place are being explored with the amalgamation of all Neighbourhood Plans being integrated within the one Local Plan document. Parish Neighbourhood Plans will not be overturned.

020.2. Report from West Sussex County Council

Cllr. Paul Linehan reported the following:

- WSCC budget will be approved on the 18 February, with the WSCC portion of Council Tax increasing by 2.99%
- Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will now go direct to Cabinet for approval, rather than via CLC meetings. If Parish Councils have funded themselves the TRO will go through faster.
- Safer internet days are being promoted and highlighting wellbeing. Cllr. Linehan to provide the links for this information to the Clerk.
- Horsham County Forum will be held on Monday 14 March 2022 at 7.00pm at County Hall North, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1RL for those wishing to ask questions to County Councillors.

2022-021. Planning

021.1. DC/22/0077 - Blackstone Gate Farm House Henfield Road Albourne BN6 9JJ - Erection of a detached garage building with a home office above.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to the application but to note that no floodlighting should be allowed and the garage building should be ancillary to the main property.

021.2. Any applications received since publication of the agenda

No applications were received.

2022-22 Planning Update

022.1. To note planning decisions:

The following decision was noted:

DC/21/2662 – Granary Cottage Paynesfield Henfield Road Albourne Hassocks BN6 9JJ – Change of use of the land from agricultural to incidental residential curtilage – Application refused.

Cllr. Dixon commented on application SDNP/20/03916/FUL at Willow Farm Bramlands Lane BN5 9TG, as he noticed that approval had been given but the decision was not shown on any planning decision lists, in addition there was no case officers report on the planning portal or any ecological assessment, which had been requested before a decision could be made on the application. Cllr. R. Noel advised he had raised this with the Planning Officer and Senior Planning Officer but had received no response. **It was RESOLVED** for the Council to write to the Senior Planning Officer to ask for an explanation as to the situation.

2022-023. Blackstone Playing Fields

Please note that items 023.2. and 023.3. 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.

023.1. Update on progress of lease

Following receipt of the undertaking from Sussex Cricket in relation to the costs of the preparation of the leases Dean Wilson had prepared the draft documents and these had been circulated prior to the meeting to Councillors for review. It was noted that once the draft documents are approved by the Council, they would then need to be approved by Sussex Cricket before being put in the public domain for the 28-day public consultation. All parties were still working with the intention of having the new lease in place in April 2022, although it was noted that these timescales will be tight. The Council will continue to keep the website up to date on progress and notify the consultation period dates when they are available. An article was put in the BN5 March edition to advise residents to check the website for updates.

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

Minute noted in confidential report.

023.3. Update on Allen lease renewal and associated costs

Minute noted in confidential report.

2022-024. Highways/Traffic

024.1. Update on Community Highways Scheme

The Clerk reported that Ian Moorey (WSCC Highways) had been informed of the Council's decision at the last meeting. This was supported by Cllr. Paul Linehan, who noted that the reduction of speed signs do not always work and suggested and supported the use of additional SID units; which could be put up before speed limit is introduced. Ian Moorey confirmed that the project would be delivered in 2022/23 and that the Council will not need to provide any S106 funds, the project costs will be paid by WSCC. Ian will make a site visit in the next few months.

024.2. Update on Community Speedwatch

The Clerk had contacted the PCSO and she had provided dates in March that she would be available to attend a session. The Clerk will circulate and confirm a date with those that are currently trained.

024.3. Speed Indicator Devices – update on insurance claim and to consider purchase of further units

The Clerk confirmed that a claim had been submitted for the SID unit and replacement pole, but she was awaiting quotes for the pole. The excess will be £100.00.

In relation to the purchase of new SIDS the Clerk had obtained some quotes and would put a full report together for the next meeting, in addition she would find out how other Councils maintain these units. It was noted that foliage could be an issue if the Council purchased solar units, which would possibly also mean pole extensions would be required. It was felt that before any further units were purchased the Council should complete the lease work due to the costs involved in this. The Clerk would also investigate the possibility of using the S106 funds available for SID's now that permanent poles are in place.

2022-025. Queens Platinum Jubilee

025.1. Update from working party meeting and associated costs

Cllr. W. Noel had circulated the notes from the meetings held. The event will be held on Saturday, 4 June in the form of a picnic with residents, family and friends welcome to attend. Everyone will be invited to bring their own food, no barbeques or alcohol to be sold on site. Other ideas for the day are a dog show, cake competition, treasure hunt and music. A marquee will be available, bunting has been purchased and tables/chairs hired.

A further meeting will be held in due course and a flyer is currently being produced by Cllr. W. Noel and Cllr. Williams to inform residents of the event. Rev. Paul Doick and his wife would be asked to judge the cake competition.

It was noted that £300 had been set aside in the 2022/23 budget and grants would be available from HDC.

2022-026. Code of Conduct

026.1. To consider adopting the revised Code of Conduct

HDC had circulated a slightly amended Code of Conduct which they had adopted and advised all Parish Councils to also adopt. **It was RESOLVED** to adopt the amendments.

2022-027. Finance/Payment

027.1. Reconciled accounts and bank statement

It was RESOLVED to approve the above dated 31.01.2022.

027.2. To approve the schedule of payments

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

WSSC – Salaries – January - £652.59

S Mamoany – phone reimbursement fees - £15.00

Dean Wilson – solicitors fees Blackstone Playing Fields leases – £2,260.00

2022-028. Correspondence/meetings/consultations

028.1. Water Resources South East (WRSE) consultation – 14 March 2022

It was noted that the Clerk and Cllr. Williams had attended the webinar briefings but not much information relating to the possibility of a reservoir located at Blackstone was available. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a draft response for consideration at the March Council meeting.

028.2. West Sussex county wide EV charge point network

The Clerk had made further enquiries at HDC and they had advised that land has to be owned by a public body and therefore the Council had no sites that would be suitable to put forward.

028.3. SDNPA Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Register Consultation

Noted no comment made.

2022-029. Other business

Cllr. Williams noted the road sign near Blackstone Grange needed to be removed following completion of road works.

Cllr. R. Noel reported on the Henfield Safer Routes project and will circulate a map and provide an update in March.

Cllr. Austin noted that an internet cable was cut during works at Pear Tree Farm and residents were without internet for 5 days.

2022.030. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the pavilion at Blackstone Playing Fields at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 8 March 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

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