



**WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Blackstone Playing Field Pavilion on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**April 2019 at 8.15 p.m.**  
**(Members of the Public were invited to attend)**

**Mrs L Bannister – Clerk to the Council**  
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**Present:** WPC Cllrs. Broucke (Chair), P. Williams, A. Underwood, C. Dixon, M. Batchelor, and M. Grimes  
L. Bannister (Clerk)

**Others Present:** HDC Cllr. D. Coldwell  
WSCC Cllr. D. Barling  
7 members of the public  
Mr. R. Noel, Chair of Woodmancote Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

**1. 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Minutes**

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Broucke.

**2. Chairman's update**

Cllr. Broucke reported as follows:

'Well, it's that time of year again. I thought last year would be my last year as Chairman. The committee members had other ideas, so you have to listen to me again!

As you can see, we still meet here at The Blackstone Pavilion, as the much hoped for renovation of the Parish Hall is still hanging in the balance. The CIO has been working hard on finding funds. The Council asked all the parishioners on the electoral roll of Woodmancote to vote on the possibility of us borrowing money to grant to the CIO. This was voted in favour by a good majority, although the number of votes returned were poor and disappointing. We await the CIO's decision as to when or if the works start.

2018 was the usual busy year with an average of two planning applications discussed at each meeting. Half of the time HDC values our comments/suggestions. Unfortunately, the rest of the time they just seem to ignore us. However, they do seem to refer to the Neighbourhood Plan, so all the hard work was beneficial!

After many years of discussion, we have been able to purchase a Speed Indicator Device. This has taken some time as we have had to get Highways' approval to place on the highways. If you have seen it working you must have been speeding! We hope to move it around the Parish monthly.

The sports ground here at Blackstone continues to get better and better and is enjoyed by several local teams, it is open to all, please find the time to support it. We are promised the entrance gates will be improved to make it more appealing and user friendly.

It's council election time this year so you might have a new team on the way! Hope you have all put your nomination papers in!

With that in mind I would like to thank all the Council Members and residents for all their help and support over the last 4 years and a special thank you to Leanne our Parish Clerk for keeping order and me on the right track!

Thank you and remember to enjoy Woodmancote.'

### **3. The future of Woodmancote**

Cllr. Broucke asked those present to consider the following questions:

- What should Woodmancote be in the future?
- Who is prepared to support the Council?
- Who is prepared to support the Church?
- Who is prepared to support the Parish Hall?

### **4. Reports from HDC/WSCC**

Cllr. Coldwell reported as follows:

Two weeks ago Cabinet approved setting up an affordable housing company and is in the process of acquiring four or five parcels of land (mostly in Horsham and Billingshurst) to build affordable housing. Over the next 18 months, HDC should have around 60 homes come forward to rent. This will be funded by S106 money. There are still 560 people on the housing list in Horsham. The new units will not have a right to buy on them. HDC has also agreed to pay £1.2m to Saxon Weald for another 84 affordable housing units. Cllr. Coldwell has asked that key workers are housed in these first, and in particular care workers.

Cllr. Coldwell understands that a meeting will be set up to visit the Blackstone Rise garage site. This will not be suitable for affordable housing.

Cllr. Coldwell thanked Members for their support over the last four years.

Cllr. Barling reported as follows:

Cllr. Barling has been the County Councillor for the last six years. West Sussex has 880,000 residents and WSCC spends just over £5b. It has a capital spend of about the same amount.

One of the functions of WSCC is to be the waste disposal authority. Cllr. Barling explained about the waste collection and recycling process.

WSCC plan to send zero material to landfill by 2035. They have already achieved their aim to recycle 50% of all refuse.

The next step for them is to start food waste collection. They think this will add about 6% to their recycling quote. This will be trialled by Mid Sussex first.

WSCC had a big debate about climate change last week and unanimously agreed to back a call to deal with this. WSCC will aim to be carbon neutral by 2020. They will do this by putting solar panels on schools, having a solar farm, changing to electric vehicles and adding charging points. As a result of the debate WSCC will form a working action party to call on experts to help.

The following questions were raised:

Question/comment	Response
What happens to the 50% of waste that isn't recycled?	Cllr. Barling doesn't know. Brighton burn their waste, and there was an application for an incinerator in the county but this was strongly opposed.
Is WSCC planning to switch off any street lights?	There are no plans for this at the moment.
What happens to technological waste?	This can be taken to a recycling site and they are shipped away and stripped for recycling. Viridor are responsible for selling these on.
Would food waste be collected weekly or fortnightly?	Cllr. Barling didn't know the answer to this at the moment.
Why can't food waste go into landfill?	The methane this produces is damaging to the environment.
Will planning regulations deal with how bins are housed?	Cllr. Coldwell confirmed that this is being dealt with in the Horsham Plan.
Is it true that recycling can be used for under road construction?	No, this would have to be clean hardcore.
We should be looking to manufacturers to find better packaging rather than plastic.	

## 5. Question time

The following questions/comments were raised:

Question/comment	Responses
What were the thoughts on entry gateways into the Parish?	Members of the public present were split on this. Some felt it would have a positive impact on traffic and would encourage pride in the area, and others thought they were not visually pleasing or in keeping with the countryside.
A resident is having an issue with the layby on the A281 by the bus stop. Cars and vans are often parked there and residents are finding it hard to get out of their driveway and safely pass the layby as a pedestrian. Could this be changed to a path?	Cllr. Barling agreed to speak with the resident away from the meeting, but pointed out that this could potentially cause an issue with neighbours who might have opposing views.

A resident has just moved to Blackstone and has a 5 year old child. Neighbours also have similar aged children. Is there anywhere for these children to play?	Lots of local playgrounds were suggested, and it was pointed out that Blackstone Playing Field is open to residents to use. It does have a playground, and although this may not be suitable for young children, the whole ground is open for residents.
If entrance gates are thought to not be suitable, would larger signs be considered?	This would be considered although there is a potential for over-signage.
Would it be possible to put up a speed camera?	Sussex Policy has a policy not to put up any new cameras.
Could the temporary traffic enforcement van park in Woodmancote?	Cllr. Dixon explained that the SID collects data, and this can be shared with Sussex Police to encourage enforcement if this is necessary.
The B2116 needs litter picking.	Cllr. Barling said that this is not a priority for WSCC due to budget constraints. Cllr. Coldwell added that HDC is trying to have a crackdown on littering, and will be asking people using dashcams to report people littering.

Cllr. Broucke was thanked for his chairmanship.

**The meeting closed at 9.15 for refreshments**