



## DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<p><b>Present:</b> Cllr Jeremy Rigby (JR); Cllr Mat Chesshire (MC); Cllr Sam Cox (SC); Cllr Jo Ward (JW); Cllr Jeremy Hunt (JH WSCC); Cllr Henry Potter (HP CDC) 7 members of the public also attended.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 1 – Apologies for Absence</b> –GZ, PW, TM</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 2 – Chairman Update</b> – JR explained that GZ the current chairman, will be reviewing his position as Chairman over the next couple of months due to health reasons.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 3 – Declaration of Interests/ Dispensation Requests</b> - There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting</b> – to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023. It was <b>Resolved that</b> that the minutes were correct, JR signed the minutes.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 5 – County Councillor Report</b> – Mr Jeremy Hunt, Chichester North Division – WSCC First of all - may I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.</p> <p>Apologies that my report was a little late, but I have been flat out finalising our budget for 2024/25 - which as I am sure you can imagine is quite challenging. The final draft budget is due to be published on Wednesday 17th January, ahead of it going to our Performance &amp; Finance scrutiny committee on 24th. It then goes for signing off at Public Cabinet on 30th January, before going to full council for final approval on Friday February 16th. All these are meetings open to the public. They are also webcast live as well as being recorded so that they can be accessed in the future.</p> <p>For 2024/25 our gross spend will be in the region of £2.0bn and our net revenue budget will be just over £761M. Of that, 63% goes on both adults and children’s services. £47m of that revenue expenditure goes on highways, plus of course £60m of capital expenditure, - nearly half of which is additional funding - over and above government grants - that we are putting into highways.</p> <p>I think the key point is that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement provided us with very little additional funding to address the continuing pressures, particularly for social care - both children and adults. Although the Government did announce an increase in core funding for LA’s of around 6.5%, nearly 4.5% of that is predicated on the assumption that we raise CT by the maximum allowed, which is 4.99% (2.99% for core services plus 2% for adult social care). We therefore have little choice other than to propose raising CT by that amount, which equates to an a rise of £81.54 per year - or £1.57 per week - for an average Band D taxpayer.</p> <p><b>Here to help - cost of living</b> -I know I mentioned this in October, but just as a reminder - especially with this very cold weather - WSCC has dedicated web pages to provide people with the latest help, advice and practical support if they are facing cost of living pressures. Please go to <a href="#">Advice and information pages</a> for more info - and please spread the word. Often those in need are too proud to ask for help, so if you know or even suspect anyone who might be struggling perhaps you could point them in our direction. Our Community Hub is still running - there to help and support people.</p>	

**Westhampnett Amenity site** - just a reminder that the booking system for the site goes live on 12th February. The website is [www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/book-to-recycle-booking-system/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/book-to-recycle-booking-system/) - or more simply just google 'West Sussex book to recycle'.

**Local Matters:**

**Charlton 20mph Scheme**

I have heard nothing further since your discussions at the last meeting, so I just wanted to check if an application has been submitted yet. VN reported on behalf of TM that the application had been submitted.

**SW Pumping**

I received a complaint from a resident of Bankside complaining about the noise coming from the SW pumps. I have emailed SW to ask if there was anything they could do and they have responded saying they will contact the resident directly. I have asked the resident to update me once that meeting has taken place.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

**Agenda Item 6 - District Councillor Report – Mr Henry Potter, Goodwood Ward**

First of all I wish you all a happy and fortuitous New Year. The recent reaction by National Highways with regard to the traffic impact of development in the south of the District on the A27 has at least allowed further progress towards submission of the District Local Plan for inspection by the Planning Inspectorate. This is most welcome news unlike a recommendation by the Cabinet, on January 9th, to full Council to increase Car Parking charges by 6.7% in line with a ONS September '23 inflation figure which we now know has fallen dramatically. Also, charging is recommended on Sunday's at the Council owned Rural Car Parks. Considering the current climate in our High Streets at present, I consider this to be a bad proposal. On my fairly frequent visits to East Pallant House, that Car Park is now so underused that increased charges will cause yet more folk to boycott the City. Also in the proposal is to extend the chargeable period from 6 pm til 8 pm in the evenings in Council owned car parks! Again a hit against the night time economy. The debate of these measures will be interesting at the Council Meeting as many of the current Members are very 'green' orientated and would like to see everybody riding bicycles and build houses on our car parks. Quite how maybe a 70 year old would manage their shopping bags on a bike is beyond me.

The next meeting, on 16th January, of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is promised the attendance of Katy Bourne the Sussex PCC to answer questions about her Police Force. Many questions have been tendered in advance but I hope there will be ample time to question her with impromptu questions. It is a fact, but we would all like to know 'where are our Policemen'. Cyber crime is said to occupy 30% of Police resources but surely there must be sufficient Officers for some presence on our streets.

The ongoing issue with sewage escaping from the system in The Valley seems to have worsened with tankers attending the inspection cover adjacent to Bankside. This is something new, I don't ever remember this being necessary in the past and the lack of relief measures in Charlton suggest that something must have changed. It is a confounded nuisance to residents and traffic.

Adrian Moss, the Leader of the Council had a meeting with senior Officers of Southern Water on Friday last week 12th and he asked all Members to highlight issues in our Wards. I trust you received copy of my response and I even sent him photos of all the situations in The Valley. Hopefully I may hear back from him before your Meeting and I'll report subsequently the reaction of SW.

I have enquired of John Cross the new CDC representative on the SDNPA about progress on the northward route of the Centurion Way through Cucumber Farm but he had no further news. The issue of passing West Dean Tunnel has still not even resolved, I spoke to Ian Graham the agent for West Dean estate

<p>recently and he is concerned that they may still try and utilise the footpath adjacent to the A286 from Motor Road to the biomass boiler yard opposite the College entrance gates! A most dangerous idea! If I hear anything from Adrian Moss regarding the SW situation I will report verbally to your Meeting. HP reported that there had been no further update from Adrian Moss.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 7 – Public Open Forum</b></p> <p>Centurion Way - An MOP showed pictures of the Wellhanger Copse/Rook Wood as it is at the moment and raised concerns over the SDNP suggesting that there is a possibility that a 3 metre pathway could run through the middle of the Copse.. Currently there is no planning permission granted for this route. The questionnaire that has been circulated to stakeholders will be forwarded to the Parish Council. JR said that his report (circulated prior to this meeting) covered the latest situation and that the Council should agree their position regarding the suggested routes. it was agreed that if the SDNP submitted a new planning application the Parish Council would support the existing route or the alternative route suggested by the residents but not the route that would run through Wellhanger Copse. JR has made contact with the National Trust who own the land but to date has not received a reply. There is also currently no feedback from the ecology reports/bat survey. An MOP reported on the raw sewage spilling out of the manhole by Bankside. This is a health and safety hazard, as people had to walk through it and Southern Water appeared to be doing nothing about it. The MOP suggested that we should get more publicity about the Southern Water issues, he has sent photos and a report to The Chichester Observer and also written to Member of Parliament Andrew Griffiths. He suggested that we hold a march. JR will refer this suggestion to TM who is the councillor who liaises with SW. HP asked that the email from Adrian Ross who is a Chichester District Councillor be attached to these minutes. The matter of the flood road on the A286 and the raised drain on the pavement was raised again. The Clerk is in communication with WSCC about these issues and is constantly chasing for a resolution. JH asked that he be copied in on emails and he will chase from his end. Another MOP suggested that if CDC carried out regular leaf clearing there wouldn't be such an issue with blocked drains, currently the residents have to clear the leaves on the drains which is rather dangerous on the A286. All MOP's can report any problems with roads or pavements, the link to report any highway or footpath problems is <a href="https://westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/">westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/</a></p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 8 – Council Matters</b></p> <p>Agree Budget for 2024/25 – After a discussion, the suggested budget with an annual expenditure of £28,183 was agreed. Income would depend on the amount of precept received. It was anticipated that there would be an approximate balance of £3,200 to be carried forward from our current account at end of the 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p>Agree Precept for 2024/25 – After a discussion it was agreed that the Annual Precept would be increased by 5% to £26,608 which would amount to an additional £2.60 per year for a Band D property.</p> <p>Recruitment – JR asked for suggestions of how to recruit new councillors. It was suggested that we advertise in the Valley Diary and on the Village WhatsApp. An MOP suggested that a presentation on future projects could take place at the AGM, which may create an interest in joining the Council.</p> <p>Future Projects – It was suggested that a questionnaire be circulated to residents to gain opinion on new projects.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 9 - Village Matters</b></p> <p>Southern Water – It was agreed to ask TM to carry out more testing of the river to check for any pollution. It was also agreed to invite a representative from Southern Water to give an insight into future plans and deadlines, TM to action.</p> <p>CHS Update – Following the update at the last meeting, another meeting has been held with the Project Manager and it has now been agreed that there will not now be a courtesy crossing by the pond, however the widened pavement as you enter the village from the north will remain. It has also been agreed that the metal barrier outside the café will be replaced with a more rural looking wooden encased barrier. The project timings are 2024/25.</p> <p>Centurion Way – With regard to the Hat Hill access, JR reported that the SDNP are consulting with landowners on the feasibility of securing a route near the Cricket Pitch to enable cyclists to enter and leave</p>	

<p>the Centurion Way by the railway bridge. A question was raised as to why the ramp is so substantial and it was reported that this was an engineering requirement. The SDNP will share information on the cycle access once they are available and give the Parish Council the opportunity to give their views.</p> <p>School Parking – MC is trying to arrange a meeting with the Headmistress of Singleton School to discuss ideas and funding. VN reported that she has submitted an application for a grant from the UK Prosperity Fund. An MOP asked whether more funding would be available if the school had a travel plan. It was suggested that people should be encouraged to park further away from the school, however, it was felt there are no other areas that would be suitable. MC reported that from his experience the viability is normally driven by Highways.</p> <p>Weald &amp; Downland Emergency Parking – JW had a meeting with the Museum and a discussion took place about emergency planning and the potential of cars from Singleton using their parking facilities if there was a need to move cars because of potential flooding. They were open to this suggestion, there would need to be certain triggers to activate this solution. JW agreed to put a letter together to outline the proposed plan.</p> <p>Vulnerable List – It was recognised that the current list of vulnerable people was very out of date and that perhaps it was not appropriate to update the list. It was suggested that the WhatsApp groups in both Singleton and Charlton were very successful and that rather than create another group, a notice should be put in the Valley Diary to advertise the groups and encourage people to join the groups. If there was an emergency, then it would be a successful way of ensuring that people checked on their neighbours. JH suggested that should a situation cover a prolonged period, e.g. power cut, the Village Hall could be utilised to provide a warm space with hot drinks etc. JR agreed that if this situation arose the Parish Council would need to get involved.</p> <p>Countryfile – JR reported that the Parish Council had been approached by Countryfile for view on the Singleton Oil Well. One of our parishioners who has in the past expressed views about this was given the contact details to enable him to submit his views. Countryfile have responded and would like to discuss this further with him at a later date.</p> <p>Village Clear Up – Date for next session will be 23<sup>rd</sup> March. SC reported that with regard to the clearing of the path alongside the museum on the A286, that he has contacted Darren Rolfe from Chichester Volunteers, he has said that they would be able to help with the path, however, they have a backlog of jobs to be completed, so there could be quite a wait to get this done. SC asked if anyone had any other areas that they knew of that are in need of attention. It was agreed that a general clean up would take place that the date would be published in the Valley Diary and ask if anyone knows of any particular areas that need work could they contact the clerk. VN will contact Goodwood about the layby on the A286 opposite Little Drove Mews. An MOP suggested that if we have a large amount of debris from the clear up that Goodwood could take it away.</p> <p>Tree Planting – On 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10am the Lord Lieutenant will be planting a tree at the new Leys Parking Area, all are welcome to attend. SDNP Press Office are going to attend, so JR suggested it would be a good chance for lobbying in particular Southern Water.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 10 – Finance</b>  Total in Current Account (12/01/24) – £9,220.45  Current Reserves (held in the Current Account) – Playground Repairs £1,982.00. General Maintenance £471.00  Balance in Savings Account – £7,071.92  <b>Funds Received since 14/11/23</b>  Interest on Savings Account - £24.54</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Item 13 – Planning</b>  Reports have been circulated, posted on the notice boards and website. An MOP raised the planning application for Little Yarn. The Parish Council are not in a position to comment on this application at this time. TM will be looking into the application and the Parish Council will submit their comment within the deadline.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting Closed – 20.30</b></p>	

**Confirmed that these minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

Signed: GRAHAM ZACHARIAS

Name & Position: CHAIRMAN

Date: