

**AGREED Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st February 2023**

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| **Present:** Cllr Graham Zacharias (GZ) – Vice Chairman; Cllr Rebecca Trowell (RT); Cllr Tony Marshall (TM); Cllr Robert Mayne (RM); Cllr Peter Williams (PW), Cllr Barry Shrimpton (BS); Cllr Mat Chesshire (MC); Cllr Jeremy Hunt (JH WSCC); 7 members of the public also attended. |  |
| **Agenda Item 1 -** Apologies for Absence – HPGZ reported that Natalie Hesketh-Brown has tendered her resignation due to the fact that she no longer resides in the village and she thought it appropriate that she step down, GZ has sent a personal message thanking her for her time and efforts on the council and wished her well for the future. |  |
| **Agenda Item 2 –** Chair UpdateGZ gave a formal thanks to the people involved in organising and distributing the Christmas Gift Bags, the feedback given to him was very positive with high levels of gratitude and many thanks. This initiative was mainly down to Judy Fathers, Natalie Hesketh-Brown and Emily Lerwell. Thanks was given to Chris Kelly, Barry Shrimpton and Darren Belton who dug trenches to divert the water flooding the road outside the school, it certainly helped the situation. Thanks also to Richard Pailthorpe, for all his work in creating the Heritage Boards assisted by Tony Marshall and Darren Belton with the erection of the boards. Finally, thanks to the Henry Smith Charity for donating £1,000 towards the Playground Project.  |  |
| **Agenda Item 3 – Declaration of Interests/ Dispensation Requests**To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this Agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of Members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of Officers.To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Clerk not previously considered.Regular declarations – Members Interests: |  |
| **Agenda Item 4 - Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting** – to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2023. It was **Resolved that** the minutes were unanimously agreed and signed by GZ.  |  |
| **Agenda Item 5** - County Councillor Report – Mr Jeremy Hunt, Chichester North Division – WSCCOur proposed budget for 2023/24, including our draft Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2026/27, our five year capital programme and our Treasury Management Strategy have now been published. The draft budget was approved by public cabinet on 31st January and will now go forward for final approval by the full County Council on Friday 17th February. The draft budget papers can be viewed on our website under Cabinet Meeting agendas - or follow this link: <https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=134> For your interest, our proposed total spend across all our services in 2023/24 will be just under £1.9bn. However, after deducting grants, including the Dedicated Schools Grant ( approx. £780m which we passport straight through to schools), fees and charges and other income, our proposed net revenue budget is just under £709m. That is an increase of approx 9.25%, or £60m in real money, over the current year. Again, the largest part of our budget - just over 55% - is spent on social care (34% on Adults and 21%on Children and Young People). With reference to Council Tax, when the Government calculate the level of core funding for local authorities, they make an assumption that we will raise council tax by the maximum permitted amount. They then deduct that amount (whether you increase CT or not) from the final amount they award us. For 2023/24 the government have raised the referendum limit for core council tax from 2% to 3%, and from 1% to 2% for the Adult Social Care precept. Therefore, to maintain our funding levels in order to meet our ever increasing costs, we are reluctantly proposing to increase the WS core council tax by 2.99% and the ASC precept by 2%, giving a total increase of 4.99%. For an average Band D taxpayer this equates to £77.76 per year, or £1.49 per week. In order to balance our budget, the alternative to raising council tax would be to implement cuts to our frontline services - something we want to avoid and are currently not proposing to do.Obviously highways are often top of most peoples agenda - especially after the recent flooding which has caused a lot of damage to road surfaces. In the last nine months of 2022 we filled over 25,500 potholes, but unfortunately the floods, followed by freezing conditions, has undone a lot of that good work. As part of last years budget we allocated an additional £21m capital funding to highways maintenance, spread over 4/5 years. For 2023/24 we have added a further £4.5m for specific highways projects, which means that, across both capital and revenue projects, we will be investing over £80m next year in our highways network across the County. Local Issues:Reference your application to provide enhanced parking in The Leys. I understand that our officer made some recommendations to you before Christmas and he is currently awaiting your response.As far as your Communities Highways Scheme is concerned, I understand that it is currently with our improvements team for feasibility and design 23/24 and if no issues arise e.g compliance with policy and National Guidance (design specifications) then it should be delivered in 24/25.Lastly, regarding sewage issues in the Lavant Valley, Southern Water - after nearly a year of asking - recently attended a Lavant PC meeting. However, the person attending was unable to answer a number of detailed questions, which wasn’t very helpful. He did however produce a Lavant Infiltration Reduction Update report - again it doesn’t say a lot - but I will bring a copy to the meeting. One suggestion he made was that in another area a number of parishes had got together and arranged a joint meeting, which was very helpful. I have agreed to try and facilitate that going forward, so I presume you would be interested in joining that meeting. Currently I am flat out with budget work, so it is likely to be a little while before I can get that arranged.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/> Also, a reminder that all our public meetings are webcast live and are also archived, so you can always view them later. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/>There was a discussion about the flooding issues by the school in Singleton and it was agreed that Goodwood would be contacted to arrange a meeting with councillors to discuss the situation and ways to stop this situation happening again. TM has photos showing the flooding and the fact that the river bank and hedging have been compromised.  |  |
| **Agenda Item 6 - District Councillor Report** – Mr Henry Potter, Goodwood WardThe review of the District Local Plan is now complete and was put to Cabinet and then to Full Council last week on the 24th for endorsement, it was agreed and will now be open for public consultation for six weeks, beginning 03/02.It will then go to the Planning Inspectorate for approval and, hopefully, adoption. Recent Government Planning Statements by Michael Gove have resulted in some last minute changes to the review which may prove to be helpful in reducing House building targets. This reviewed Plan, if approved by the Inspectorate, will be for the period to 2039.The next All Parishes Meeting Agenda has been circulated, it is scheduled to be a Virtual Meeting using the Zoom Platform at 5.30pm on the 6th February. I’m afraid the Agenda doesn’t appear very exciting, a discussion concerning the Local Elections in May, and a presentation by Tony Whitty elaborating on the completed Local Plan and the opportunity to ask Questions, not necessarily on agenda items, but anything of concern. These could be tabled in advance of the meeting.The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on Tuesday 17th and invited Senior representatives from OFWAT, the Marine Advisor from Natural England, the CEO of Southern Water and the Area Director of the Environment Agency for the Solent and Downs. Never before can I recall a gathering of such top officers of Organisations involved in the issues faced by our District in connection with Sewage treatment and Flooding. So many questions were tabled in advance, and it was a lengthy meeting. It was a Virtual Meeting but it could have been accessed via the Councils website, and the recording of the meeting can be seen on the Councils web site. The many questions concerning flooding and infiltration to sewer systems were answered but many of the ‘planned’ works to remedy the faults are forecast to be years hence. Personally, I see it as still a gloomy picture.Locally the flooding of Charlton Road this year is a rare occurrence, due to the river course not being cleared as it should! I can’t recall the river overflowing it’s bank, flowing down the road, then re entering the course some yards further down stream. It is good however to see the Southern Water Public Warning Notice re potential contaminants in the river. And now much of the flooding is receding, the damage to the road surface in many places is colossal. Many old pothole repairs have simply lifted out of their holes. How WSCC will cope with these I dread to think. I cannot stress enough now, the need to drive more slowly and carefully.Finally, a late item has been added to the Council Meeting on 31/01 because extensive damage has occurred to the Seacroft sea wall defences at Selsey. A urgent decision was needed to authorise spending £440,000, this was taken by senior Officers and the Leader of the Council on 25th January but must now be endorsed by Full Council. Though the District Council is responsible for Sea Defences, it is possible that the monies can be recovered from Government Grant Funding but this must be applied for retrospectively. And, this is not guaranteed.Two other items to be resolved at Tuesday’s meeting are, to agree the spending of £200,000 to purchase of a Electric Powered Small Street Sweeper for the City Centre. The second decision to be ratified is the continuation of Council funding to support Pallant House Gallery for the coming year to 2024. The Council has for a number of years given grant funding to the Gallery and without this, the Gallery couldn’t access Funding from the Arts Council. However, the Arts Council has chosen to withdraw their offer of funding in the future which puts the Trustees of the Gallery in a parlous position regarding its future. |  |
| **Agenda Item 7****Public Open Forum** – 15 minutes is allowed for the public to ask questions relating to this agenda or matters affecting the Parish. A member of the public asked that GZ write a letter to the Environment Agency regarding emissions from the Singleton Oil Well because emission levels have not been set on the Schedule 3 document which was presented to the council, of most concern was the methane emissions. GZ will consider the most appropriate response to this request including writing to the EA and/or the local MP. Another member of the public reported that there appears to be a water leak at Manor Farm, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Goodwood.  |  |
| **Agenda Item 8 - Village Matters** **Playground Update** – A document laying out the current funding available for the Playground Project has been circulated to all councillors. RT gave an update. The next stage is to install at bounce area for the basketball and as funds are already available and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with this. There was a discussion about whether there should be a surface installed under the picnic benches, it was agreed to obtain prices and also get a quote from Keith Goacher to strim around the benches and new equipment in the Glebe Field and discuss at the next meeting. TM questioned the positioning of the benches, suggesting that they should possibly be separated and put in different parts of the field. There was a discussion about this and it was suggested that the tables were mainly used by parents whose children were using the equipment and that the intention was to create a social area. It was agreed to review the position of the tables. It was also agreed that a sum of £1,500 from the Sussex Martyrs grant would be put into the Playground Fund, which, along with the previously allocated £2,000 of IGas grant and the balance of some £1,500 on the Just Giving page, would leave an overall balance of £5,000 this should trigger an additional £5,000 donation from a private individual. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the private donor to check if the funds above would be acceptable to trigger the donation. A discussion took place about the next phases of the project and it was agreed to change the phases. Phase 2 will cover the bounce area and potential hard standing for the picnic benches and Phase 3 will include a new Zip Wire and potentially a roundabout. The track will move to another phase and will need further discussion to see whether it is viable due to the increase in costs. **Accessibility Project** - RT agreed to circulate the updated plan and costs. **TRO 20mph Zones** – A discussion took place about the areas that should be included in a TRO for 20mph zones. It was agreed to apply for 20mph outside the school and through Charlton. TM also raised the subject of Village Gateways for Charlton, he outlined his thoughts and there was a discussion about funding. It was agreed that he would research this project, liaise with highways about potential positions for gates, look into funding and gain support from the residents in Charlton. **Glebe Field Path** – There was a discussion as to whether it was felt that the path was now fit for purpose or whether it required a top surface to be applied. It was agreed to wait and see how the path fares over the next few months. **Charlton Road Flooding** – This was discussed during Agenda Item 5.**King Charles Coronation** – It was agreed that a street party would take place on Sunday 7th May, following a similar format to the Queens Jubilee party. The Village Hall Management Committee will be approached to ask for their support and assistance.Emergency Plan – It was agreed that PW would write a section specifically covering local flooding and update the emergency contact list. There was a discussion about whether we need to order new grit and sandbags to replenish the bin in Charlton and it was agreed to put the bags and grit that were used back in the bin if this is viable, PW will oversee this. BS requested that the Village Clear Up be added to the agenda for the Parish Council meeting in March.  |  |
| **Agenda Item 9 – Finance**Finance Balance in Current Account (30/01/23) **Not including Reserves below** - £5,157.01 Playground Reserves held in Current Account - £6,292.86 (plus VAT to be claimed of £4,811.86)Accessibility Project Reserves held in Current Account - £5,500.00 (plus £21,000 grant from Rees Jeffreys that has not been received yet)Donation from Sussex Martyrs - £2,000.00CIL Money - £4,198.54**Total in Current Account – £23,148.41** Balance in Savings Account (18/07/22) – £7,005.24 VAT Not Claimed - £6,131.94 |  |
| **Agenda Item 10 – Planning**Planning appeal for North Lane House, Charlton – it was agreed to submit a revised comment from the Parish Council to the appeal, the wording would be - *The Parish Council wishes to modify its previous comment as follows: The Parish Council are supportive of this planning application.* |  |
| **Meeting Closed – 21.05**  |  |
| **Confirmed that these minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting** Signed: GRAHAM ZACHARIAS Name & Position: VICE CHAIRMAN Date:  |  |