

# STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE MAIN HALL, THE PARISH HALL, THAKEHAM ROAD, STORRINGTON, ON WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

**Present:** Mrs A Worthington-Leese in the Chair, Mr M Lewis (Chairman, Information, Communications and Environment Committee), Mr A Head (Vice Chairman, Planning and Development Committee), Mrs L Wheatley (Chairman, Recreation and Property Committee).

17 Members of the Public including 3 Parish Councillors.

**Also Present:** Andy Cotton and Chris Poore – Storrington & Sullington Neighbourhood Wardens.  
Carly Jenkins, HDC Neighbourhood Wardens Supervisor.  
Ray Dawe and Jim Sanson (District Councillors)  
Paul Marshall (District and County Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** There were no apologies
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.** These were duly **AGREED** to be a correct record of the proceedings thereat and were signed by the Chairman.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** Mrs Worthington-Leese presented the following report.

Well another busy year although sometimes it feels a bit like Groundhog Day as some topics never seem to go away!

2019 was an election year but as we had fewer candidates than places this Parish Council did not have an election and all councillors who stood were re-elected unopposed. That being said we have lost 3 councillors, James Ross, Carol Brooker and Marie-Helene Jakob who for various reasons did not stand so I would like to thank all of them for their work whilst they were with us. That of course means that we have 3 vacancies so it would be nice to see some new faces if anyone fancies putting their head above the parapet...

We also sadly lost our premises manager, Paul, who has gone off on extended travels around Europe but we are lucky to have a new manager, Peter, who, although still on probation, seems to be settling in very well and getting stuck into the work quite happily so welcome to him.

When looking back over the year's minutes it is clear that many of the issues come up over and over again. A case in point is the Neighbourhood Plan, which we have been working on for 5 ½ years now but as we will be discussing later, is finally coming to fruition. Toilets are another issue that we seem to spend a lot of time discussing and again this is on the agenda for later.

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Another big project this year has been wardens, which brought many mixed views, from both the public and councillors, and again this is on the agenda for later. The decision to appoint wardens, following a public consultation in which a slight majority said they were prepared to fund this from their council tax, meant a fairly large increase in the precept for this year of £55,000 which equates to an average of £15.68 per household.

We had another successful Christmas Night but unfortunately the SADCASE event in the summer was rained off at the last minute so did not take place but weather permitting we hope it will be on this summer. It is always a popular event and we also have to thank SADCASE for their help with other events during the year such as the Horsham Showcase Tour event. Without their help, we would be unable to stage these things.

I mentioned last year that we were hoping to have a TRO in place to ban HGVs from the bottom stretch of School Hill and I am pleased to say that some of the signs are now in place and the ban should be in force shortly. Like all of these things, enforcement is key so if anyone sees HGVs turning into School Hill, then please take a photo and send it to WSCC.

The new Glebe Surgery is now under construction and seems to be progressing well despite various problems with parking and flooding, which will hopefully be resolved as work progresses.

Those are the main projects that we have been dealing with this year but there is a constant stream of smaller things that we look at and we regularly donate small amounts of money to support various causes. We have this hall, the football and cricket pavilions, two recreation grounds, two play areas, the pond, two lots of allotments, hundreds of trees, various bits of street furniture and small pieces of land for which we are responsible so there is never a dull moment! Much of this is dealt with on a daily basis by Tracey and Caroline so I would like to thank them once again for their hard work over the year. I would also like to thank all of the councillors for their work and support and in particular my Vice Chairman, Lisa and the committee Chairmen, Lisa and Mark and also Alan, the Vice Chairman of Planning who will do the planning report so you don't have to listen to me any longer than is strictly necessary!

#### 4. INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT. Mr. Lewis presented the following report:

This was my first year as Infrastructure, Communications and Environment Committee chairman succeeding Richard Eves whom I am pleased to thank for his preceding years of attention as Chairman. I am also pleased to thank Joel Davis for his role as Vice Chairman for the year and the other committee members for their attendance on the ICE committee.

Not only is Anna Worthington-Leese the Parish Council chairman but Anna is also the Chair of our Planning Committee and sits on the Recreation and Property Committee. This she does in addition to sitting on the Infrastructure, Communications and Environment Committee always informing all our debates and initiatives with her most valued experience and wisdom acquired over the decades she has been a Parish Councillor. So, thank you Anna for always being there for us.

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In my role as the ICE Chairman I have presided over the determination of the Neighbourhood Wardens coming to our parish and you will have the opportunity to meet them later, the refreshing of the Christmas street light design which will continue to brighten our dark nights, the installation of the visitor maps in our car parks, the trial white gateway which remains a work in progress, the Horsham District Council's Showcase tour which again brought the excitement of hybrid cars and festivities into our streets together with the continental markets and the ever-successful Christmas Night which seems to be most welcome by the businesses on our High Streets and the wider community of merry revellers.

We have also been working this last year on developing various other events and initiatives which are progressing to their realisation for the coming summer, specifically the SADCASE event and the revival of the Storrington and Sullington "Village Day", each having our full support. As it happens it's Tracey and Caroline, our parish clerks and our new premises manager Peter who work to assist these events and every other thing we do.

I offer my most sincere thank you to them.

5. **RECREATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT.** Mrs Wheatley presented the following report:

It has been a relatively quiet year for the committee, but there are still several points of note.

Improvements to the Hormare field have resulted in a better playing surface for the Vipers and a more pleasant environment for this much used area.

The support of the Council in applying for s106 monies and its agreement to reposition the football wall has assisted the cricket club in their project to install a much-needed cricket nets facility.

The committee is currently working on a project to improve the play and leisure offer at Sullington Recreation Ground. More details will follow in the coming months and we look forward to your feedback and suggestions as the project evolves.

£500 was donated by the Council to the Sandgate Park Bridge appeal and, as I understand it, the target has been met and the design and build are in progress.

As a Council we have taken a fresh look at our youth provision. The conventional approach of paying an outside organisation to provide activities did not offer the breadth or consistency that we wanted. Instead we have launched the SASSY Awards (Storrington And Sullington Supporting Youth). We offer grants of up to £500 to support local groups or individuals who have a project which enriches and engages our young people. The first tranche of awards has helped a variety of groups including the Scouts, Brownies and Guides, the Sports and Social Club, Friends of Meadowside and the cricket club. We look forward to awarding more grants in the coming months.

In our previous full council meeting, it was decided that the ICE and Recreation and Property Committees be merged for a trial period of six months. Items planned for this year include involvement in Village Day, improvements to street furniture and investigation into the betterment of the mobile phone signal. Many thanks to Anna who has once again led us with hard work and dedication.

Thanks to Tracey and Caroline for their diligence and guidance this year and thank you to my committee for your hard work and support.

6. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.** Mr Head presented the following report

To begin, thank you to the members of the committee, particularly Anna as our tireless Chair, and of course Caroline, who organises us.

Over the last year we were consulted on 148 planning applications, five less than 2017/2018.

The committee also responded to consultations from Horsham District Council, West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

These are always lengthy, and included:

- HDC's Plan for Employment, Tourism, and Sustainable Development;
- HDC's call for sites for their Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability;
- And WSCC's review on soft sand supply, an update on their Local Mineral Plan.

This last review was of particular concern because it reintroduced Chantry Lane, involving a new road to access the A283, and consequent issues for countryside, traffic and environment. It will coincide with plans to increase activity at the Water Lane pit which will itself require mitigation measures.

Returning to planning applications, some, a few of the contentious or larger ones were:

- The Squash Club – no longer viable, to be replaced with a block of eight flats;
- Thakeham Tiles – not in our Parish but on our doorstep, and they want to relocate. Ninety new homes are proposed for the site;

On a more rural note were applications for conversion of agricultural buildings to domestic, and new builds. Examples were Hurston Place Farm and The Meadows, Fryern Road;

And last, an application for two travellers' pitches and ancillaries at Fryern Park Farm, currently at appeal.

Trees are always on the committee agenda with frequent applications for pruning or felling of trees subject to preservation orders, or within the conservation area.

The committee is also responsible for the care of the many trees on Parish Council property. This would be an appropriate point to thank the Conservation Society for all their voluntary work, and Richard Jerman for being our tree man.

Thanks too to Rotary for their gift of trees on the Hormare Field.

Back to applications, some failed applicants go to appeal; there were eight in the year; one was allowed; one was withdrawn, three were dismissed, and three have yet to be determined.

Finally, Enforcement.

There are perennials,

- The maintenance of the Burmese Gate;
- Sawyards unauthorised access to Chantry Lane/Manleys Hill;
- Various matters at Fryern Park farm.

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7. **FINANCIAL REPORT.** The figures for the financial year 1st April, 2018 to 31st March, 2019 had been prepared for audit and would be presented to the Parish Council at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The unaudited accounts would be available for inspection by members of the public from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, by prior appointment with the Clerk.
8. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS – MEET THE WARDENS.** Mrs Worthington-Leese introduced Andy Cotton and Chris Poore, the Storrington & Sullington Neighbourhood Wardens who were joined by their Supervisor, Carly Jenkins. Andy and Chris spoke briefly about their backgrounds, explaining that they were currently familiarising themselves with the parish and had been meeting local groups and organisations to introduce themselves. Members of the public were invited to ask any questions or raise any issues for the Wardens at the end of the meeting.
9. **STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON AND WASHINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – REFERENDUM.** Mrs Worthington-Leese reported that the Plan had finally reached the stage where local residents would have the opportunity to vote. The process would be similar to a normal election where people would receive their voting cards and visit a polling station. The date of the referendum had been set as 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 but the Parish Council had pointed out that this date falls within the school summer holidays and HDC had been asked if it could be brought forward. Mrs Worthington-Leese invited those present to view the maps that were displayed around the hall which provide details of several of the policies within the Plan, including the locations of proposed development and also of the areas allocated as local green spaces.
10. **PUBLIC TOILET – UPDATE.** Mrs Worthington-Leese reported that this project had been discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April where Members were presented with a revised quotation for the facility due to the change of location. During that meeting, Councillors decided to defer the decision for a period to monitor any progress on the sale of the land on Old Mill Drive, currently owned by Waitrose, as it was suggested that the new owners may include a public toilet as part of their plans for re-development of the area.

In the meantime, a member of the public had contacted the Clerk to suggest that temporary facilities should be provided when village events such as continental markets or boot fairs are being planned and this would be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting along with the potential to install a semi-permanent facility to measure how much of a benefit the facility would actually be to the village.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** The following matters were discussed:

Closure of Lloyds Bank – The Storrington Branch would be closing in October 2019.

Progress on the A27 Bypass – Highways England have undertaken a further consultation exercise following the South Downs National Park Authority's objection to the preferred option.

Mrs Worthington thanked everyone for attending and invited them to take refreshments.

**The meeting closed at 7.50 pm**