

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2013

Present: Mr A Revill (Chairman), Mrs J Macdonald-Lawson (Vice-Chairman), Mr D Pack, Mr A Thomas, Mr F Martin, Dr I Goodall, Mr M Taylor, Dr A Guyatt, Mrs E Hamilton (CDC), Mr M Brown (WSCC), the Clerk and one member of the public.

The first ten minutes were available for the public to express a view or ask questions about any item on the Agenda.

13/14

56 Apologies for Absence: Mr I Heustice and Mrs H Grantham

57 Declaration of Interest: Mr A Thomas and Mr D Pack on **Agenda item 13/14.71 KEVII**

58 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2013 were accepted as a true record. **Proposed by Dr Guyatt, seconded by Mr Martin, all in favour.**

59 Councillor Vacancy: Prospective Councillor, Mrs Carole Moller, spoke briefly to the meeting. Further Councillor discussion at the end of the meeting.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: after discussion it was decided to ask Mr Jose Gallego to become a co-opted Parish Councillor and Mrs Carole Moller to join the Village Hall Steering Group as a co-opted member.

60 Report from County Councillor: Mr Brown spoke of the fracking protestors at Balcombe, the West Sussex Pension Fund and the WSCC need to make further savings of £141m over the next two years as the Government funding to County Councils is being phased out. He agreed that the launch of the Active Communities initiative has been badly handled and the scheme will shortly be re-launched. In response to a question, Mr Brown said that it was not correct that the reason for the delay in repairing a damaged gully in Dodsley Lane was financial. Funding is available from the WSCC Highways budget. He will intervene if necessary.

61 Report from District Councillor: Mrs Hamilton reported that the Chichester Local Plan is now open for public comments from 8th November until 6th January 2014, although Easebourne is not affected and will be subject to a SDNPA Plan that will follow in due course. A new officer structure at CDC has been agreed. CDC is renting out the new wing at East Pallant House. In partnership with WSCC, Enabling Grants, up to the value of £1000, are being offered to local businesses to support building or updating their web sites or moves into e-commerce. The Midhurst Grange Centre is on target for completion at the end of January. There will be 60 extra parking places on completion of the project. Midhurst Christmas Street Party will be held on 6th December.

62 Finance

a) The following payments were noted (cheque numbers 100-)

243	R Wallis, burial ground maintenance 01.07.13 to 30.09.13	900.00
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244	SALC, "Becoming a Councillor" packs	40.00
245	R Page, playground gate repairs	62.40
246	Cowdray Estate, playground rent 29.09.13 to 24.03.14	87.50
247	Action in Rural Sussex, subscription for year from 01.10.13	162.00
248	Midhurst Community Bus Association, grant	250.00
249	Citizens Advice Bureau, grant	100.00
250	A Revill, Chairman's Honorarium 01.04.13 to 30.09.13	50.00
251	C Allan, Clerk's salary 01.07.13 to 30.09.13	1050.00
251	C Allan, Clerk's expenses 01.07.13 to 30.09.13	84.81
252	Petty Cash	42.48

b) The internal check of accounts for July/August/September/October 2013, by Mr Thomas, was noted.

c) Receipt of VAT refund for 01.04.13 to 30.09.13 in the sum of £846.97 was noted

d) Receipt of the Precept for 01.10.13 to 31.03.14 in the sum of £6250.00 was noted

Councillors given Budget/Expenditure statement for period 01.04.13 to 31.10.13

63 Planning:

a) The following planning decisions were noted		EPC	CDC/SDNPA
13/0138/LIS	KEVII, internal and external changes to NW wing	No Obj	Approved
13/02883/FUL	Little Gate, Dodsley Grove, 2 new dwellings	No Obj	Approved
13/02928/FUL	Lowerfield House, Easebourne St, demolish & replace	No Obj	Approved

13/03170/HOUS	8 High Path, rear extension	No Obj	Approved
13/03650/FUL	Snowhill House, retrospective fencing	No Obj	Refuse
13/04045/HOUS	23 Canada Grove, side extension	No obj	Approved
13/03582/FUL	Cowdray Ruins, security bars and railings	No Obj	Approved
13/04051/HOUS	3 St Richards Cottages, 2 storey & rear extensions	No Obj	Approved

64 Reports from the Panels:

a) Playground: Mr Taylor reported that the gate from Parkway needs repairing. Also the basket ball hoop needs its rope replacing.

b) Burial Ground: Damaged gate still not repaired (Church responsibility). Also overhanging tree branch, but not a problem at the moment. Maintenance contract for 2014/2015 discussed in conjunction with new Recreation Ground – **Agenda 13/14.67**.

c) Footpaths: Routine survey to be carried out by WSCC shortly. Volunteer to walk the footpaths with Helen Chalke.

d) Grants: £50 awarded to Royal British Legion as payment for Poppy wreath and also a donation. **Proposed by Dr Goodall, seconded by Mr Martin and all in favour.**

65 Telephone Box – Dodsley Lane : Adoption of the box for £1, subject to checking of the agreement by Mrs Grantham, was **proposed by Mrs Macdonald-Lawson, seconded by Dr Guyatt and all in favour**. Acceptance of a quote for repairs and repainting of the box by P & P Decorators, in the sum of £250, was **proposed by Mr Thomas, seconded by Mr Martin, all in favour** with Mr Pack not voting. Clerk to inform Insurance Company.

66 Bus Shelters: low turnout for Bus Shelter Clean-Up on 19th October. Shelter in Easebourne Lane, opposite Middleton Lodge, being re-roofed by Cowdray Estate. Shelter by church suffering from encroaching ivy. Resident of Manor House asked to deal with ivy from the property side, to which they have agreed. Despite resident complaint about the overgrown state of the shelter at the end of Kings Drive, northbound, it was decided that this shelter is used so little just to leave it in its present state. Dr Goodall kindly offered to “adopt” the shelter opposite Kings Drive (southbound).

67 Village Hall Steering Group – the lease for the field adjacent to the Primary School is stillawaited from WSCC. The application to CDC for a grant from the New Homes Bonus scheme, to move/install a new playground, as been refused. Before further grant applications can be submitted planning permission is required for the playground. Mr Thomas spoke of the need to improve access to the site for pedestrians. This would require work at the

junction of Wheelbarrow Castle and the public footpath at Snowhill. A grant for this work should be available but before applying a topographical survey is necessary at a cost of £395. Acceptance of this quote was **proposed by Mr Taylor, seconded by Mr Thomas, all in favour**. Although the Parish Council does not yet have the lease to the site, in order to make the field suitable for regular grass cutting next season, a contractor, Grasstex, will give two cuts this autumn. Estimates have been received for grass cutting for the 2014 season. Several of these are joint estimates to include maintenance of the Burial Ground and two are for the Burial Ground only (Councillors received a summary of the estimates, plus copy attached). It was agreed to accept the combined estimate from Grasstex, in the sum of £3108 + £166 per cut of the burial ground hedge, plus VAT. This was **proposed by Dr Goodall, seconded by Mrs Macdonald-Lawson with all in favour**.

68 The Purple Bus: Dr Guyatt has undertaken to apply for this youth bus to spend a time in Easebourne.

69 St Cuthmans: a revised planning application has been submitted for this site. Although in sympathy with the parishes affected by the proposals, Easebourne itself is away from the site and the possible traffic issues arising. It was decided not to comment on the application.

70 WSCC Active Communities: this initiative is to encourage local parishes and volunteers to undertake certain works themselves, such as grass verge cutting, sign cleaning, removal of unofficial signs, weed killer spraying etc. Interest has been expressed about working with adjacent parishes, so a meeting has been arranged for 28th November to discuss the way forward.

71 Late Correspondence:

a) WSCC: TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) to make Lutener Road one-way is published for public comment. Parish Council to respond in support. **Proposed by Mr Reville, seconded by Mrs Macdonald-Lawson, all in favour.**

b) King Edward VII Hospital: Mr Heustice attended a Liaison Group meeting and reported about the amendments to the previously approved planning permission, recently applied for. The developer has companies interested in building some of the new homes on the site, with minor cosmetic changes. In addition, an underground swimming pool and gymnasium is proposed, together with an outdoor tennis court. There is the possibility of membership being sold to other local residents. The developer is close to appointing a management company for the whole site. Work on the chapel is underway with a completion target of end February/early March 2014. Highways work, including lay-bys should be started in February 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8th January 2014 at 7.30pm.