

EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015

Present: Mr A Revill (Chairman), Mrs J Macdonald-Lawson (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Galego, Mrs H Grantham, Mr D Pack, Mr M Taylor, Mrs E Hamilton (CDC) and the Clerk.

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

Mr D Chiverton and Mr C Wigley from the Rotherfield Sports Association and Football Club addressed the meeting. Both gentlemen were Directors of the Midhurst and Easebourne Sports Association. Mr Wigley advised that the current facilities at the Rotherfield site needed improving and a planning application had been submitted for the demolition of a redundant cricket pavilion and existing sports pavilion and its replacement with a new multi-use pavilion at the Rotherfield Sports Ground, Dodsley Grove, Easebourne. The proposals included flood lights to the existing football pitch. There were 31 documents supporting the application, which had taken 18 months to put together. Mr Wigley was seeking the Parish Council's support and that of the community to improve sports facilities in the area. The football club had provided an opportunity for junior and senior sides to play football right across the County. The Midhurst and Easebourne Sports Association was a combined club based in Easebourne and supported by Midhurst and Easebourne residents. It was hoped that funding would be provided by Sport England for the development and the Football Foundation. The District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy could also have an impact and provide more local funding. Mr Wigley hoped that he could work with the parish Council and urged Councillors, if they had not already, to make themselves familiar with the planning application and plans on the SDNPA website.

Councillors asked about the floodlights which were part of the planning application, the frequency of their use. Mr Wigley stated that they would be used between 12 and 14 times per year, mostly in the autumn and winter months between 3pm and 5pm. The Association had leafleted neighbouring residents and had received no negative responses to the proposals. Councillors felt that the current access was dangerous due to poor sightlines and asked if the access was to be improved. Mr Wigley explained that..... he had been in discussions with the Highways Department. The Cowdray Estate had also undertaken to do some work on this issue. There were no plans for more people to use the site and there were no plans for more traffic to use the site. It was noted that a response to the planning application consultation was needed by 29th January 2015.

The Chairman thanks Mr Wigley and Mr Chiverton for attending the meeting.

14/15

77. Apologies for Absence: Dr I Goodall and Mr F Martin.

78. Declarations of Interest: none

79. The Minutes of the meetings held on 12th November 2014: acceptance as a true record was **proposed by Mrs H Grantham, seconded by Mr M Taylor. All in favour.**

- 80. Report from District Councillor:** Mrs Hamilton reported the following:
- **Boundary Commission letter:** This had gone out to all Parish Councils asking for their views. It was noted that Easebourne Parish Council had not received this letter and the Clerk agreed to pursue a copy.
 - **Chichester District Council Budget 2015/16.** The budget settlement figure for the new financial year 2015/16 had arrived and was roughly what was expected. The budget would be discussed at the next cabinet meeting, early in February. The choice was whether to accept the offer of a one off Government grant of 1% (£70,000) and freeze council tax at its current level for the year, or go for a 2% increase, the maximum allowed without a referendum, (£2.80 extra for Band D), which would give £140,000 extra for each year.
 - **Chichester District Local Plan:** Consultation on modifications was now open until 19th February 2015. All comments would be forwarded to the inspector for her consideration.
 - **Waste and Recycling Calendars:** These had not been sent out again this year to save costs. They appeared in the Council's Initiatives magazine instead. There was no change in normal collection dates.
 - **Sport in the Community. Contact Ben Polhill 01243 534857:** Rugby, football, netball, basketball and multi-sport holiday courses were planned for the February half term. An adventure sports camp would also be staged for the first time. Mrs Hamilton did not know which of these options would be available north of the Downs.
 - **The Novium:** The museum had 3,590 visitors in its first free month (17.11.14. to 17.12.14) compared to around 600 last year. Mrs Hamilton encouraged Councillors to visit if they had some spare time in Chichester.
 - **Parish Council Elections:** Parish Council elections would take place on the same day as the General Election and District Council elections - Thursday 7th May 2015. It was now time to advertise this and attract potential new Councillors. There was time for them to attend the March meeting to see what went on.
 - **Easebourne Street** would be closed for carriageway repairs on 26th and 27th January 2015.

- 81. WSCC Highways** Mr Brown was not present at the meeting. The Council reiterated that it supported a school safety zone and it was agreed that the Head Teacher be invited to meet with the Vice-Chairman, the Clerk and Fiona Baker, Principal Community Officer, West Sussex County Council to discuss the matter further.

82. Finance

a) To note the following payments (cheque numbers 299 - 302)		£
299	SSALC – Clerk's recruitment fee	276.00
300	Grasstex Ltd, Burial Ground, Field and hedge Cutting – from 01.08.14 to 05.11.14	1,730.40
301	Royal British Legion Grant	50.00
302	S Coulter, Clerk's Salary for period from 01.11.14 to 31.12.14	824.00
302	S Coulter, Clerk's Expenses for period from for 01.11.14 to 31.12.14	79.92

b) The internal check of accounts for November and December 2014, by Mrs Grantham, was noted.

c) Draft Budget for 2015/16 - The draft budget for 2015/2016 was discussed and a Precept request of £22,000 was **proposed by Mr Heustice, seconded by Mr Taylor. All in Favour.**

It was also noted that the Council's website needed to be upgraded in the near future.

Planning

To note the following planning decisions:

	<u>EPC</u>	<u>CDC/ SDNPA</u>
14/05370/TCA – Holly Tree Lodge, Easebourne Street	No obj	No objection
14/05622/TPO – 16 Hurst Park	No obj	No objection

14/05625/TPO – 18 Hurst Park	No obj	Approved
14/05621/TPO – Aminta, 12 Hurst Park	No obj	Approved
14/04984/HOUS – Dunluce, Dodsley Grove	Objected	Approved
14/04271/TCA – North Mill	No obj	Approved
14/05494/CND – Cowdray Works Yard, Easebourne Lane	No obj	Approved
14/05307/HOUS – Old Smugglers, Henley	No obj	Approved
14/05308/LIS – Old Smugglers, Henley	No obj	Approved
14/04754/HOUS – Orchard House, Hollist Lane	No obj	Approved
14/05698/TCA – Birthday House, Glaziers Lane	No obj	No objection
14/05100/TPO – Durlestone, 12 High Path	No obj	Approved
14/05325/TPO – 1 Crossways	No obj	Approved
14/02849/FUL – Cowdray House	No obj	Approved
14/02850/LIS – Cowdray House	No obj	Approved
14/03982/TCA – Leaside, Easebourne Street	No obj	No objection

83. Reports from the Panels

- a) Playground: Mrs Grantham had been inspected the playground every week as the planning panel had a weekly rota. She reported that the fence on the left of the playground was broken. Mr Taylor advised that he has requested that Cowdray Estate put another post in to support the fence.
- b) Burial Ground: Mr Guyatt reported that the burial ground was looking neat and tidy, with the grass cut. One fence panel had become loose next to Birthday House. At a previous meeting, it had been reported that one of the bushes near the bench on the north side of the burial ground would need trimming. This part of the ground was not used at present. Councillors were concerned that there may be a tree preservation Order on the tree and it would be difficult to have it trimmed if that was the case.
Resolved; That the Clerk write to Cowdray Estate to find out who owns the tree and request that it be trimmed back.
- c) Footpaths: At the last meeting, it had been reported that Cowdray workmen had used a mini-digger and had churned up the footpath along the allotments. Bark chippings were now needed to cover the path.
- d) Grants: It was noted that a letter of thanks had been received from the Royal British Legion for their grant awarded at the last meeting. It was also noted that the Section 137 value for 2015/16 was being raised by 2.26% to £7.36 per elector.

84. Councillor Vacancy

Mrs Macdonald-Lawson advised that Mr M Noble had expressed an interest in joining the Council as a co-opted member. Mr Heustice advised that a resident of Leutener Road had also expressed an interest but she had not come forward. Mr Pack advised that he knew of someone who was also interested but they had not responded to him yet. The Chairman advised that he would write an article for the United magazine encouraging people to come forward and this would be printed in the March edition.

85. **WSSC & Volunteering**: Mrs Grantham advised that she was meeting with Darren Rolfe tomorrow. The Chairman advised that yesterday, there had been a meeting of the Northern Local Committee, chaired by Cllr Michael Brown. Darren Rolfe and the Rights of Way Officer gave a presentation on volunteering and advised that small grants could be available to community groups. Mrs Grantham advised that there was a free first aid course being held on 7th February 2015 in Arundel. Mrs Grantham undertook to check what time the course started. The Clerk undertook to forward the names of those interested in attending to Darren Rolfe.

- 86. Weather Events:** The Vice-Chairman advised that last Thursday, Hollist Lane had been flooded by water from Upperfield where Nothing had been done about a hump that was to have been put in to prevent this. She had contacted Upperfield Residents' Association last July and had met with Steve Hodd who had advised that the residents did not want to put in the hump as they felt it was dangerous. Mrs Macdonald-Lawson had contacted Steve and he had advised that Upperfield is a private road and there was no legal responsibility not to discharge water. There are no gulleys and no drainage; simply a tarmac surface. The water flows into Hollist Lane causing dangerous conditions. It was noted that there were more planning application for proposed housing in Upperfield. The Clerk undertook to seek advice from the Council and to find out the legal position.
- 86. Wheelbarrow Castle Field:** Mrs Macdonald-Lawson reported that Mrs Grantham had just received a copy of the re-drafted, and hopefully final lease. As far as the Steering Group was concerned, the lease was acceptable. The only clause that the Group would have liked to have changed was that of not being able to sub-let part of the site – it was all or nothing. However, there was a precedent set with the Barnham Hall project in that where the lease was changed by West Sussex County Council and extended to 99 years. At the moment, the Parish Council's lease was for a maximum of 50 years. The lease did demand that the Council had a Joint Management Group for the management and maintenance of the Common Areas consisting of 3 Councillors from the Parish Council and 3 members from Easebourne Primary School. The Steering Group met last week to discuss the funding for taking over the field. The Finance Panel had suggested a budget of £6,500 - £1,500 to cover professional fees, which could be used to cover the planning application needed to move the playground. The field would also need to be fenced, certainly along the eastern perimeter where the footpath is. This needs more than a post and rail fence and it is anticipated that the field will be made a dog free, or a dog on a lead at all times, area. It was proposed to set aside £5,000 to cover this cost. A quote had been received for the fencing of £2,600. Mr Taylor undertook to seek more quotes.
- Resolved:** 1) that Mrs Grantham check the lease and report to the next meeting of the Council; and 2) that once Mrs Grantham's report is available and the lease has been received, an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened to consider the matter.

Mr Heustice proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Grantham for all of her hard work, patience and diligence with this matter. **All in favour.**

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had been offered 3 apple trees from the National Trust for planting on the field. Their removal from Woolbeding would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Mr Taylor undertook to ask Cowdray Estate if they could assist as a gesture of goodwill. **All in favour.**

It was pointed out that if the trees were planted on the field, it could be seen as "an addition" to the lease and the lease may not allow this. Mrs Grantham undertook to check this and report back to the Council.

The Chairman also advised that the Vicar had requested to hold the church fete in June as a combined event with the school fete and hold it on the field. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to the Vicar and the Head Teacher of Easebourne Primary School to advise that once the lease was signed, then the Parish Council would be happy to hold the event on the field.

- 87. King Edward VII:** Mr. Heustice reported that he had attended The KEVII Liaison Group meeting on 13th January, which had been the first meeting for nearly four months. Simon Vernon-Harcourt of City and Country reported that they and, he believed, the other developers had experienced a shortage of labour which had resulted in the developments being in the region of two months behind schedule. Nevertheless in the former hospital building 6 units are nearing completion, which will initially be “show apartments” and a further 8 units were not far behind. Millgate and Carla Homes were not represented at the meeting and consequently no detailed updates on their progress were available.

At the former hospital building 50 % of the scaffolding has been removed.

It is likely that a supplementary planning application will be submitted to reduce the number of assisted living units changing them to private residential, which may affect the section 106 payment. City and Country are also applying for retrospective planning permission for the signs on the A286 at the end of Kings Drive. Carla Homes are considering applying for some minor changes to the layout of their Brackenwood site. The developers reported that the visitor centre has generated much interest since its opening estimating approximately 100 expressions of interest in purchasing property on the development. Sales are expected to commence at the end of March. Mr. Heustice mentioned that the developer’s definition and distribution of Welcome Packs is rather different from the Parish Council’s as they are issued to people expressing an interest whereas the Parish Council’s packs are delivered when a new resident physically moves in. Nonetheless it will be necessary for the Council to prepare a significant number of packs when units are being sold.

With regards to the highways matters Mr. Heustice advised that City and Country appear to have resolved their issues with WSCC and they should soon be commencing work on the first two passing bays as well as improvements to the junction of Kings Drive with the A 286. Local residents had reported several incidents of near misses on Kings Drive, including two comparatively serious events and it is hoped that the passing places may do something to alleviate these. Road names had been discussed and Carla Homes had been advised of the Parish Council’s preference of the suggested Superintendents Drive being re-named Sir Geoffrey Todd Walk.

The Liaison Group again discussed the infrastructure for the whole development which had been a concern voiced by the Parish Council in their comments on the original planning application for the site. Of particular concern has always been the capacity at The Riverbank Surgery in the light of potentially some 800 new residents in their area.

- 88. Telephone Box (Dodsley Lane):** Mr Calego advised that this work was now complete and the light in the telephone box was working.
- 89. Replacement Bus Shelter at Dodsley Lane/Hollist Lane junction:** The Clerk advised that she had been in correspondence with Carole Heather if WSCC regarding the grant for the bus shelter. The grant of around £1,750 was imminent.
- 90. Community Assets:** The Clerk advised that she was in the process of completing the forms for the registration of the White Horse Public House in Easebourne and the Duke of Cumberland Public House in Henley. The forms required detailed information which the Clerk was in the process of collating. The forms would be submitted at the earliest opportunity.
- 91. Correspondence and notices received:**
- Adult Social care consultation;
 - WSCC Connect and Support leaflets.

Mr Heustice advised that he forwarded crime information to the Clerk. There had been a recent spate of thefts of older Landrover vehicles, which were soon to go out of production. He advised anyone who owned one to take extra care.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 11th March at 7.30pm.

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