

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Easebourne Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th  
May 2013 in the Refectory, Easebourne**

**Present:** Mr I Heustice, Mr A Revill, Mr B Gowar, Mr D Pack, Mr A Thomas, Mrs H Grantham, Mrs J Macdonald-Lawson, Dr A Guyatt, Mr F Martin, Mr M Taylor, Dr I Goodall, Mrs E Hamilton (CDC), Mr M Brown (WSCC) and the Clerk.

**AGM Business**

**13/14**

**1 Election of chairman:** Mr Adrian Revill was **proposed by Mr Heustice** and **seconded by Mr Martin. All in favour.**

**2 Election of Vice-Chairman:** Mrs Judith Macdonald-Lawson was **proposed by Mr Revill** and **seconded by Mr Martin. All in favour.**

**3 To appoint members to serve on the following panels:**

**Planning:** Mr Gowar, Mrs Macdonald-Lawson, Mr Pack and Mr Thomas.

**Playing Field:** Mr Taylor, Mr Pack and Mr Thomas.

**Burial Ground:** Dr Guyatt and Mrs Macdonald-Lawson.

**Footpaths:** Mr Gowar, Mr Revill and Mr Martin.

**Finance/grants:** Mr Heustice, Mr Martin and Mrs Grantham.

**4 Date and time of meetings for the coming year:** 10th July 2013, 11th September 2013, 13th November 2013, 8th January 2014, 12th March 2014, 9th April 2014 (Village Meeting) and 14th May 2014 (AGM). All at 7.30pm except the Village Meeting and the AGM at 7pm.

A presentation was then made to Mr Heustice, from fellow Councillors and Clerk, in appreciation of seven years service as Chairman.

**Council Meeting**

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

**5 Apologies for Absence:** none

**6 Declaration of Interest:** Mr Pack and Mr Thomas on **Agenda item 15** (King Edward VII Hospital)

**7 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2013** were accepted as a true record. **Proposed by Mr Heustice, seconded by Mr Martin, All in favour.**

**8 Report from County Councillor:** Mr Brown, who was re-elected as Easebourne County Councillor, reported that the next few years would continue to be dominated by the economy. Apart from further cost-cutting measures the County Council are entering in to fundraising schemes, such as building houses for rent and care homes. This is a purely commercial undertaking in order to raise capital to help provide the services that would otherwise need to be cut. Mr Brown also confirmed that funds had been set aside for flood defence schemes "Operation Watershed" and works at Easebourne are included in the

schedule. It was asked if WSCC were encouraging parishes to undertake certain works themselves, such as grass verge cutting. Also mentioned was the increase in road signs, some of which were obscuring visibility at road junctions. Mr Brown suggested a list of the offending signs be brought to the next County Local Committee meeting.

**9 Report from District Councillor:** Mrs Hamilton reported that CDC needed to make financial savings over the next 5 years. Core services will be maintained wherever possible and the savings will be made by more efficiencies, reducing management levels and other working practices. Fewer planning applications are being decided by CDC and therefore the North and South Planning Committees are being merged. "Choose Work" is a scheme for young unemployed to go into local businesses to gain work experience. Football and rugby in the school holidays will be repeated in the summer, with football in Midhurst and rugby in Fernhurst. Parking at the Post Office car park in Midhurst has been changed from 'permit holders only' to 'pay and display'. Midhurst Rother College continues to be available for general parking at weekends and school holidays.

## 10 Finance

213	KerryType, Village meeting leaflets	25.30
214	Rother Valley Together, grant	300.00
215	Cowdray Estate Playground rent 25.3.13 to 28.9.13	87.50
216	SALC, LCR magazine subscription	16.00
217	St Mary's United postage	6.50
218	R.Page Playground repairs	139.20
219	R.Wallis, burial ground maintenance 1.1.13 to 31.3.13	900.00
220	I.Heustice, Chairman's Honorarium 1.10.12 to 31.3.13	50.00
221	C.Allen, Clerk's salary for 1.1.13 to 31.3.13	1050.00

221	C.Allen, Clerk's expenses for 1.1.13 to 31.3.13	81.74
222	Petty Cash	49.00
223	SALC, subscription for year from 1.4.13	531.57
224	Playsafe Playgrounds, replacement swing seats	162.00
225	R.S. Hall & Co. Internal audit of accounts for year to 31.3.13	264.00
226	Petty Cash	43.20

- b) The internal check of accounts for April 2013, by Mrs Grantham, was noted
- c) Receipt of the Precept for 01.04.13 to 30.09.13 in the sum of £6250.00 was noted
- d) Receipt of VAT refund for 01.10.12 to 31.03.13 in the sum of £359.48 was noted
- e) Approval of the Statement of Accounts for year ended 31.03.13 was **proposed by Dr Guyatt and seconded by Mr Heustice. All in favour.**
- f) Payment of an Honorarium to the Chairman, in the sum of £100 pa, was **proposed by Mr Heustice, seconded by Mr Taylor with all in favour.**
- g) The re-appointment of R S Hall & Co as internal auditor was **proposed by Dr Goodall, seconded by Mr Thomas with all in favour.**
- h) Discussion of burial ground income/expenditure to be postponed to July meeting in order to clarify the financial position with St Mary's Church.

### 11 Planning:

The following planning decisions were noted		<b>EPC</b>	<b>SDNP</b>
12/02930/FUL	Verdley Hill House, convert storage unit to 2 B&Bs	Obj	Permit

12/03190/HOUS	Wollaton, Easebourne Lane, add first floor over garage	No obj	Refuse
12/02302/FUL	North Mill, excavate new channel for Rother	No Obj	Permit
13/00061/FUL	Northgate, Dodsley Grove, 2 new homes	No Obj	Permit
13/00273/HOUS	7 Vanzell Road, replace garage with garden room	No obj	Permit
13/00275/HOUS	Nobles, Easebourne Street, replace glass	No Obj	Permit
13/00276/LIS	Nobles, Easebourne Street, conservatory roof with tiles	No Obj	Permit
13/00394/HOUS	49 Budgenor Lodge, install dormer and roof light	No Obj	Permit
13/00697/HOUS	West Heath Cottage, Kings Drive, demolish garages and create 2 storey extension	No Obj	Permit
13/00765/HOUS	Priory Orchard, enlarge sunroom + conservatory	No Obj	Permit

## 12 Reports from the Panels

**Playground:** 3 swing seats replaced. Tree felling work completed by Cowdray Estate.

**Burial Ground:** In good order but damaged gate still awaiting replacement by St Mary's PCC.

**Footpaths:** Recent inspection by WSCC and remedial work carried out. Next WSCC inspection in November. Complaint that footpath crossing Cowdray Golf Club has no warning signs about danger of golf balls. Clerk to write to Cowdray Golf Club manager to

request sign.

**Grants:** no applications

**13 Telephone Boxes:** Request to remove the 2 boxes (Dodsley Lane and Henley) which have no equipment and are damaged and an eyesore. Discussion about removal versus retaining and renovation. Clerk to find out costs for removal and renovation for July meeting.

**14 Village Hall Steering Group:** discussion at the Annual Village Meeting was mostly positive although some negative views were expressed. Awaiting Heads of Terms from WSCC before taking on the lease of the playing field. Various suggestions for keeping the ideas for the playing field in the public's eye include a regular newsletter and a possible family event on the site in July. This event would be to establish wider dialogue with parishioners about their requirements for the village facility. **Dr Guyatt proposed** pursuing the idea of a "Picnic on the Field" day, subject to the terms of the lease. **Seconded by Mr Martin and All in favour.** Steering Group to have a professional meeting with Louise Beaton from AIRS, at a cost of £183.96 (funds previously authorised **Minute 12/13.96**). Mr Thomas mentioned a SDNPA "Sustainable Communities Fund" that could be approached for help to improve access to the site. Grants possible from CDC.

**15 King Edward VII –** Mr Heustice reported that demolition at the site is nearly complete. Services to 9 new homes to be built at the site will need to cross the approach road to Hurst Park. Latest planning applications by City and Country call for the removal of the proposed swimming pool, which would have been the only facility open to all Easebourne residents. Consequently, the Parish Council continues to object to these changes. The SDNPA planning meeting, possibly in June or July, to discuss the request to change the S106 agreement will be attended by the Parish Council, with our representative speaking against the proposal

**16 St Cuthmans, Stedham:** As an adjacent Parish we were represented by Mr Heustice at a meeting of Redford and Woolbeding PC recently. The main objection, on which we commented to SDNPA, is the transport situation of bussing, in and out, 600 children, on a weekly basis, along narrow country lanes. In addition, it is understood that many other large vehicles would also be needed to bring catering and other facilities to the school site. The route has already been changed once, but still causes concern.

**17 Winter Management:** Following the failure of WSCC to adequately supply the parish with the promised grit/salt bags during the January snowfall, some hippo bags have now been deposited at the Cowdray Estate Yard, with the kind permission of the Cowdray Estate. When required in the future, distribution will be carried out by the Estate.

**18 Flooding –** An up-date from WSCC reports that work has started on the collapsed culvert at Priory Orchard, but another problem has been identified with a foul sewer possibly running through the culvert. Investigation is continuing. Once this work is completed WSCC will be able to proceed with a camera survey of the complete system. WSCC have been unable to establish ownership of the wall adjacent to North Mill Bridge which is hindering the enlargement of the grille. The bridge itself is a listed structure. The WSCC Engineering Team is designing a scheme to lift the road on the eastern side to divert the water across the road. No date yet regarding the final design. These works are on the "Operation Watershed" programme. The Council expressed its concern at the delay implementing the work proposed in January 2013. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with WSCC officers, which

County Councillor Mr Michael Brown is prepared to attend.

**19 Midhurst & District Crime Reduction Forum:** Mr Revill reported, from a recent meeting of the Forum, that Midhurst and Easebourne are considered to be areas of low crime. However, residents are encouraged to report immediately any suspicious activity that they may see. Telephone 101 or in emergency 999. Mr Heustice, as acting Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, is forwarding all reports received that are relevant to Easebourne.

**20 Correspondence and notices received:** none

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be held on 10th July 2013 at 7.30pm.**