EASEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Notes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017**

**at 7.30pm in The Refectory, Easebourne**

**Present Councillors:**

H Grantham (HG), A Guyatt (AG), A Keeling (AK), D King (DK), J Hines (JH) J Galego (JG), M Noble (MN), D Pack (DP)

**In attendance:**

District Councillor F Hobbs (FH), Parish Clerk S Hurr (SH), Lawrence Trowbridge from Wildwood Uk Ltd and 39 members of the public

**Apologies:**

Parish Councillor S Lloyd, County Councillor M Brown

1) Chairman HG welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Parish Councillor C Moller who has stepped down from the Parish Council for her work, County Council M Brown who will also be stepping down shortly and District Councillor F Hobbs for their contributions and all the volunteers who have assisted with the Burial Ground tidy-up, installation of the Village Gateways, the village litter-pick and Speedwatch. HG described the work the Parish Council had undertaken in the previous year and plans for the next year.

2) Vice-Chairman MN gave information about the work of the Highways Working Party which included the installation of the Village Gateways, Speedwatch and potential installation of a crossing for Wheelbarrow Castle.

3) Chairman of the Finance Committee DK gave information about the income and expenditure of the Parish Council and explained that funds were being accrued for Wheelbarrow Castle Field.

4) Chairman of the Planning Committee HG gave information regarding the work of the Planning Committee and briefly touched on the housing allocations policy for the parish.

5) Chairman of the Field Working Party HG gave information regarding the plans for the Wheelbarrow Castle Field and introduced Lawrence Trowbridge.

6) Lawrence Trowbridge from Wildwood UK Ltd gave a power point presentation of previous projects for playgrounds completed by his company and community spaces using oak tree trucks and logs.

7) Outline of Questions and Comments from Members of the Public:

* Why are the Parish Council not considering a more conventional playground?

HG explain that more natural environment would suit the surrounding rural area and that a space within the field would be allocated to more traditional play equipment.

* Would there be an issue with access via the school?

HG explained that school were heavily involved with planning of the field and it was accepted that access would be via the school parking area.

* The maintenance of High Path is poor.

MN explained that the Parish Council are in continuous communication with West Sussex County Council Highways and requests were being made to improve High Path.

* Safety is issue when driving out of Dodsley Grove, could a highway mirror be positioned to aid this manoeuvre?

MN explained that this had been considered previously and was not supported by West Sussex County Council.

* The new Village Gateways don’t slow everyone down.

MN explained that the Gateways are part of the raft of measures and data loops were currently required to gather information to support further speed reduction measures. The Parish Council are also considering the purchase and installation of a ‘Vehicle Activated Sign’ to remind drivers to slow down.

* Could traffic calming be installed on A286?

MN explained that this is not an option for a class A road.

* How quickly could the new playground in Wheelbarrow Castle be installed?

HG explained that plans were progressing well, but this is a big project which would take time to be completed.

* Will there be sufficient parking at the school when the new playground was in place?

HG explained there has been close liaison with the school and this was not considered a concern.

* It will be good to able to walk through the Field to access the school.
* Will dogs be permitted in the Field?

HG explained this is currently being debated.

* Has the scheme for the Field been costed?

HG explained money has been put aside and the Parish Council will also consider accessing grants and other methods of fund-raising.

* Will there be a maintenance budget for the Field?

HG explained this will be considered within the plans for the cost of the project.

* How quickly can work on the Field begin?

HG explained that plans are being progressed as quickly as possible but this is big project for the Parish Council and will take some time to organise.

8) HG invited all attendees to stay for refreshments, and have informal conversations with all the Parish Councillors and Lawrence Trowbridge.

Signed as notes by the Chairman:

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HGrantham

12th July 2017