

SLINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Slindon Parish Council
Held on Monday 14th January 2019
At the Coronation Hall, Reynolds Lane, Slindon at 7pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Niki Adamson (Chairman), Barbara Brimblecombe, Steve Chilver, Peter Fenton, Derek Thomas and Paul Wilkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Norman Dingemans, Arun District Councillor.
Mr Tom Garriock, National Trust.

1. FILMING OF MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1.1 Members and the public were reminded of the procedures for filming and recording the meeting and requested to switch mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies were received from Katie Archer, National Trust and Derek Whittington, West Sussex County Councillor.

3. TALK WITH US

There was one member of the public present and no questions were asked.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

4.1 Councillor Fenton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 14.1, Slindon Community Land Trust as Chairman of the Steering Committee and confirmed that he would leave the room if there was any discussion.

5. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th November 2018

5.1 Regarding Minute 13.3, the Budget Monitor and discussions regarding the Memorial Garden, reference to the sundial had been omitted from the list of repairs to be brought forward and which were subsequently approved. It was therefore agreed that the minute and resolution be corrected accordingly.

5.2 It was therefore **RESOLVED** that, subject to the inclusion of the sundial as set out above, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND URGENT ITEMS

6.1 URGENT MATTERS

Councillor Brimblecombe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter as her property was on the boundary of the application site and did not participate in the Council's deliberations.

6.1.1 Regarding planning application SDNP/17/06404/FUL, Adams Field House, Council received formal notification that the appeal that had been lodged against the SDNPA's refusal to grant planning consent (previously circulated) was proceeding. It was noted that the appeal would be dealt with by way of written representations. Representations made as part of the planning application process had been forwarded to the Inspectorate and the option remained to make further comments until 11th February 2019.

6.1.2 Members recalled that the proposed site for the new dwelling was outside the settlement boundary proposed in the SDNPA Local Plan. Reflecting on the application, and observing the rationale for such boundaries, there was concern among Members that if the application was approved, this could set an unacceptable precedent in respect of the implementation of settlement boundary

policy in the parish in the future. **It was therefore RESOLVED that the comments set out in Minute 6.1.2 above be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.**

6.1.2 South Downs National Park Entry Sign

The National Park had confirmed that new signage to denote entry in to the Park environment was going ahead as approved in planning application SDNP/17/02058/ADV (approved June 2017). Work was planned for the week of the 11th February 2019 on the A29, at the point where it met the A27 on the northbound carriageway after coming off the roundabout at Fontwell. **It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

6.2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Much of the activity since the last meeting was covered on the agenda and the Chairman proceeded to highlight the following matters. A notice regarding the SDNPA Local Access Forum had been circulated prior to the meeting and Members were asked to contact the Clerk if they were interested in participating. The Chairman thanked volunteers and contractors for their support in carrying out ground's maintenance work at both the Pond and Recreation Ground. Next steps in terms of work in both areas would be discussed later in the meeting. Regarding the commemorative Tommy silhouette, Members views were sought about storage and future use. After some discussion it was agreed that the silhouette be safely stored by Councillor Adamson and that a concrete slab be installed to enable the silhouette to be displayed securely in future years to commemorate The Armistice. Regarding the Memorial Garden, the Chairman would be circulating dates for a working party in March to prune the shrubs. **It was RESOLVED that the updates be noted.**

7. PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – There were none.

7.2 SDNPA DECISIONS / PRE-APPLICATIONS/ UPDATES – there was nothing further to report.

8. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

8.1 A27 Arundel Bypass Elected Representatives' Forum (ERF)

8.1.1 Councillor Wilkinson gave a brief summary of the first A27 ERF meeting which had taken place on the 21st November 2018. The main topics were the timeline and reasons for further consultation and the environmental mitigation, design and budget of the scheme. It was noted that Option 5A remained Highways England (HE) preferred option and in this respect, the main interest for the Parish Council would be the configuration of the junction at the west of the Bypass where it re-joined the existing A27 at the Shellbridge Road exit. It was observed that calls for a judicial review of the earlier consultation had prompted a rethink by HE and that a further consultation would allow them to present further evidence regarding the environmental impact of all the route options. HE had also been criticised for using misleading mapping information. In view of the potential impact on the parish boundary at the point where Shellbridge Road met the A27, Members were urged to ensure that any future plans were unambiguous. They were also encouraged to engage with the neighbouring parishes of Walberton and Binstead who were also heavily impacted by the proposals.

8.1.2 In terms of future engagement with HE, it was noted that they had requested an informal meeting with parish council representatives. This had been arranged for 24th January and was welcomed. HE had also introduced a 'Community news' section on their web page with information about progress with their work on the Bypass including the creation of the ERF and the Parish Council's website had been updated accordingly. The next meeting of the ERF was scheduled for the 26 February 2019 and it was noted that the Clerk would also be attending as an

observer. **It was RESOLVED that the update be noted, and Members be kept informed of developments.**

8.2 A29 – Traffic survey update

It was noted that the Clerk continued to press for confirmation but the date for start of traffic monitoring yet to be confirmed.

9. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – There was nothing further to report.

10. ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

10.1 Councillor Dingemans reported that the District Council’s budget setting process was well underway and that they faced more pressure with further budget reductions also planned by the County Council. The District Council were also progressing a consultation with a view to introducing a Community Infrastructure Levy scheme in the District. The County Council had confirmed that a review of County Local Committees would begin after the local government elections in May. This would include whether to reinstate the Joint Downland Committee.

11. NATIONAL PARK MATTERS

11.1 Councillor Dingemans reported that the SDNPA Dark Night Skies fortnight would start on 16th February. This included events at Midhurst, Goodwood, Lewes and Devils Dyke.

11.2 Members Workshop

Councillors Adamson and Brimblecombe had represented the Parish Council at this event last November. The workshop had focused on the Management Plan and community projects. This was quite wide ranging and not geared towards small parishes. In respect of the parish, the event had highlighted how fortunate it was that the National Trust were actively engaged in the conservation of the village. This had been fed back to the SDNPA. **It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

12. REPORT FROM THE CLERK

12.1 The Parish Council received and noted the contents of the Clerk’s Report (copy attached to the minutes).

13. FINANCE REPORT

13.1 BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

The Parish Council received and noted the statement of account (copy attached to the minutes) showing that the Parish Council’s bank balances had been reconciled with the known expenditure and income as at 31st December 2018. The quarterly check was due, and Councillor Wilkinson indicated his willingness to undertake the check.

Slindon Parish Council		Bank Balances @ 31/12/18
HSBC C/A @ 31/12/18	£ 19,555.68	
HSBC D/A @ 31/12/18	£ 26,109.96	
Pettycash balance @ 31/12/18	£ 66.50	
Less uncashed cheques *	£ -	
Total @ 31/12/18	£ 45,732.14	

13.2 AUTHORITIES FOR PAYMENT

The Parish Council had before it the list of payments for approval (previously circulated). **It was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:**

Payee	Amount (basic cost)	Amount (VAT)*	Total Amount	Description
Mrs J Harris	£370.10p	N/a	£370.10p	Standing Order - Clerk's Monthly salary payment per timesheet attached for 12/11/18 to 9/12/18
Coronation Hall Committee	£14.00p	N/a	£14.00p	Standing Order - Hall hire for Nov 18 Mtg
Mrs J Harris	£370.10p	N/a	£370.10p	Standing Order - Clerk's Monthly salary payment per timesheet attached for 10/12/18 to 13/1/19
Coronation Hall Committee	£14.00p	N/a	£14.00p	Standing Order - Hall hire Htg Reserve
Beechdown Arboriculture Limited	£1825.00P	£365.00p	£2190.00p	Chq Srl 100267 - tree works at Recreation Ground
SSE Southern Electric	£63.79p	£3.18p	£66.97p	D/D - quarterly energy payment street lights Q3 2018/9
D Thomas	£500.00p	N/a	£500.00p	Chq Srl 100268 - annual grass cutting at Top Playing Field

The Parish Council also noted receipt of the following payments:

1. Contributions towards cost of 'Tommy' silhouette for the village from residents totalling £60.00p received during November and December 2018.
2. £100 half yearly rental payment from The Slindon Allotment Society for the period April - September 2018 on 6/12/18.
3. £5 annual rent from the Slindon Sports Association in accordance with the lease.

13.3 Budget Monitor and Draft Precept 2019/20

The Parish Council had before it a report that contained an update on the year to date position regarding expenditure (Appendix A) and a revised budget proposal for 2019/20. At the November meeting Members considered it prudent to bring forward ground maintenance work at various community sites and, in light of inflationary pressures, to increase the budget for 2019/20 by 1.5% (Appendix B). The draft precept requirement had therefore been revised and the maintenance budgets increased accordingly. Based on a confirmed tax base of 289 households, it was proposed that the precept be set for 2019/20 at £16,760, equating to £57.99p per household, an increase £0.86p for an average Band D property. **It was therefore RESOLVED that:**

- 1) **The Budget Monitor and update for 2018/19 as set out in the report and Appendix A be noted.**
- 2) **The 2019/20 draft budget set out in Appendix B be approved setting a precept for 2019/20 at £16,760, which equates to £57.99p per household, an increase of 1.5% or £0.86p for an average Band D property.**

14. COMMUNITY MATTERS

14.1 **SLINDON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (SCLT)**

It was reported that discussion with the National Trust regarding the land identified for the SCLT scheme were progressing and that the SCLT and National Trust hoped to meet and discuss matters further by the end of January.

14.2 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

14.2.1 The Memorial Garden

The Clerk reported that the contractor had been instructed to carry out the repairs to the wall and a start date was awaited. Repairs to the sundial had yet to be scheduled but would be progressed by the Clerk. Members reviewed an assessment of the condition of the gate and discussed options for repairs and potential replacement. The current gate was showing signs of deterioration and in terms of repairs / replacement options, Members were also asked to confirm whether the gate should continue to open outwards. After some discussion, most Members favoured replacing the gate and considered that it should continue to open outwards. The current options were however considered expensive and it was deemed appropriate that a further quotation be sought. In addition, Members also considered it prudent that a security measure be included in case of theft. **It was therefore RESOLVED that:**

The contractor who had created the Commemorative Arch at the Recreation Ground be approached for a quotation for the new gate as specified in Minute 14.2.1 above and the outcome be brought back to Council for consideration.

14.2.2 The Pond

Following the removal of two dead trees over the holidays, an Ash and Cornelian cherry, the Parish Council considered the need for further work at the Pond. Observing that the area around the pond was densely wooded it was not considered necessary to replace the trees. Recalling the effects of last year's prolonged bout of dry weather, Members considered that future maintenance should focus on preserving the ecological environment and keeping the pond clear of debris.

14.2.3 Recreation Ground and Top Playing Field

The Clerk confirmed that the hedges at the Recreation were trimmed over the holidays and that the work had been well received. Regarding the Top Playing Field, the Clerk was having to look further afield for quotes to replace the climbing frame. It was noted that the matting appeared to be in good condition and should be checked before replacement was considered. Having recently inspected the area, Councillor Thomas reported that maintaining the area around the John Moor memorial bench was complicated by the proximity of the hedge. It was therefore agreed that the hedge saplings be carefully replanted slightly further back at an appropriate time to allow clearance for mowing.

14.3 NATIONAL TRUST

Tom Garriock, Ranger, provided the Council with an update on upcoming events and progress with the Trust's building and renovation projects in the village and on the Estate. The village annual Wassail event had gone well, and it was noted that plans to plant the empty garden area at 39 Church Hill with an orchard were being investigated. In response to a question regarding the lining of the pond at Downs Barn, it was noted that the lining comprised of clay and straw. Noting that Ms Archer was attending an awards ceremony that evening, Members wished her well with the nomination.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2019

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Minutes signed as a true record.....Date:
Chairman, Councillor Adamson