

SLINDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Slindon Parish Council
Held on Monday 12th November 2018
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.
Katie Archer, 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 Mr Derek Whittington, West Sussex County Councillor.

3. TALK WITH US

There were no members of the public present.

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 8th October 2018

- 5.1** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND URGENT ITEMS

- 6.1 URGENT MATTERS** – there were none.

6.2 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It had been a busy month with Councillors carrying out maintenance at the Memorial Garden in readiness for Remembrance Sunday and a working party with the National Trust at the pond. The "Tommy" silhouette had proved very effective and with the help of Councillors Fenton and Thomas, the silhouette had been temporarily moved to the Memorial Garden for Remembrance Sunday. This had been welcomed and consideration would now be given as to whether it should remain there permanently or be taken back to the original site. The Chairman and Councillor Thomas would review this and report back to the next meeting. It was noted that the garden would need pruning next spring. The Chairman thanked the National Trust staff and volunteers for their support with the pond maintenance which had again highlighted the need for some action regarding the trees near the pond. In particular concerns remained that the root system of the Willow tree was impinging on the drainage system and it was thought that two trees had died and should be removed. Again, Councillors would examine the area in between meetings and revert with comments. Finally, Members had received a tour of the Slindon Estate from Katie Archer and her team at the National Trust. This had been very welcome and informative, and the Chairman thanked the National Trust team for giving their time to make this happen.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

- 7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

7.1.1 Planning Application SDNP/18/05303/HOUS - Newholme School Hill BN18 ORA

The Council received details of a planning application (previously circulated) for single storey extension which if approved would be sited beneath the existing arch. It was noted that the arch provided access in favour of the neighbouring property, Richmond Cottage and that the neighbours were not opposed to the plans providing there was no further narrowing of the archway access. Members proceeded to review the plans and observing the comments from the Historic Buildings Officer, agreed that the arch was one of the more distinctive and original features of the building which should not be compromised. The property was also sited within the Conservation Area boundary and as such, it was considered that the proposed extension represented an intrusion which was harmful to the Slindon Conservation Area. The Council therefore supported the comments of the Historic Buildings Officer and **RESOLVED** to object to the application.

7.1.2 Planning Application SDNP/18/05090/LIS - Flint Cottage School Hill BN18 ORA

The Council received details of a planning application (previously circulated) for internal alterations to the property. It was noted that this was a retrospective application and the Council had no objection to the works.

7.1.3 Planning Application SDNP/18/05023/HOUS - Mill Lane House, Top Road BN18 ORP

The Council received details of a planning application (previously circulated) for extensive work to the existing front and rear elevations, partial demolition of the existing two storey extension and greenhouse to be replaced with a single storey kitchen extension and the addition of a garage. This was a further submission of an application (ref: SDNP/17/03485/FUL) from 2017 which was refused by the SDNPA and whilst it proposed lesser changes, a garage had been added. Members proceeded to review the plans and noted the ongoing reservations of the Historic Buildings Officer regarding the proposed replacement of the front bay windows. Whilst Members had no objection to the alterations that were proposed to the house, concerns were expressed about the large garage that was planned, particularly in terms of its scale and design and they questioned whether it was necessary. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council's views be submitted to the Planning Authority.

7.2 SDNPA DECISIONS / PRE-APPLICATIONS/ UPDATES – there were none.

8. HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

8.1 A27 Arundel Bypass Community Representatives' Forum

The first meeting of this forum had been rescheduled and would now take place on Wednesday 21 November at 6.30pm at The Town Hall, Maltravers Street, Arundel. It was expected that the Highways England project team would provide an update on the latest developments for the scheme. Councillors Fenton and Wilkinson would be attending and would report back to the next meeting. **It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

8.2 A29 - Department for Transport Major Road Network (MRN) Consultation

The Council received a report (previously circulated) that set out details of the proposed changes by central government to the status of the A29 and the implications for the Parish. It was noted that the creation of an MRN lead to a specific new funding stream, dedicated to investing in roads that were classified as such. Enquiries made with the Department for Transport (DfT) had revealed that if the A29 was included on the MRN, the Local Highways Authority (LHA), i.e. West Sussex County Council, would be eligible to apply for funding for improvements,

the nature of which would be down to the LHA to develop in consultation with local parties such as Parish Councils. **It was RESOLVED that the progress with the MRN consultation be monitored and the update be noted.**

9. WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

9.1 Members were concerned to note that Councillor Whittington was unwell and wished him a speedy recovery.

9.2 Joint Western Arun Area Committee (JWAAC)

Cllr Brimblecombe reported that the Committee had received a presentation of the latest crime statistics from Sussex Police. It had been disappointing that the figures for the parish had been combined with neighbouring Walberton. Individual parish statistics had been requested for the future. It was reported that the Police had made arrests in connection the recent spate of car break-ins and the issue of the lack of Police presence had been raised with them. It was understood that the process of resurrecting the Joint Download Committee was in hand. Cllr Brimblecombe had also been able to speak to the West Sussex Highways representative regarding the expected traffic measurement exercise and had received an assurance that this was also in hand. **It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.**

10. ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

10.1 Councillor Dingemans reported that the District was working with the Bognor Regis campus of Chichester University on plans to expand student accommodation. It was thought that this would be very beneficial for the Town's economy. The District Council was also preparing to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was noted that the Parish Traffic Management Scheme was currently registered with the SDNPA CIL scheme.

11. NATIONAL PARK MATTERS

11.1 Councillor Dingemans reported that the Public Enquiry regarding the Local Plan would start the next day in Midhurst. Updates would be posted regularly on the SDNPA website and members of the public could attend. Following the decision to re-consult on the A27 Arundel Bypass options, the SDNPA had withdrawn its request for a Judicial Review. The SDNPA would be hosting a party of Czech MPs with an interest in landscape management.

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).

12.2 Sports Association and Recreation Ground Update

12.2.1 The Council received a report (previously circulated) which contained an update following the break-in at the Recreation Ground that was reported to Members at the October meeting. The insurers had now settled the claim in respect of the stolen mower in the sum of £1649, including the £250 excess that was due. The claim had been minimised as the footballers had a team sponsor who had repaired the lock-up container free of charge and Mr Wyatt had replaced the fence posts and rewired the fence in the area where the boundary was breached using the existing materials also at no charge.

12.2.2 Two further requests had been received from the Association, to bring the grassed area adjacent to the football pitch back into use as a training ground and to redecorate the pavilion with the help of a group of young offenders. Regarding the redecoration plans for the pavilion, providing strict supervision was in place, Members were content with the proposal. **It was therefore RESOLVED that:**

1) The action taken following the break-in be endorsed and payment of the insurance settlement to the Association to secure a replacement mower be approved and that the asset and insurance records be updated accordingly.

- 2) **Mr Wyatt and the footballer's sponsors be thanked for their assistance in carrying out the repairs to the storage container and the boundary fencing.**
- 3) **The request to bring the training ground back into use and the proposals to redecorate the pavilion be approved.**

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 October 2018. The quarterly check was completed on 30th October by Councillors Adamson and Wilkinson with no matters arising.

Slindon Parish Council		Bank Balances @ 31/10/18
HSBC C/A @ 31/10/18	£ 20,232.38	
HSBC D/A @ 31/10/18	£ 26,101.24	
Pettycash balance @ 31/10/18	£ 66.50	
Less uncashed cheques *	£ -	
Total @ 31/10/18	£ 46,400.12	

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 8/10/18 -11/11 /18
Coronation Hall Committee	£14.00p	N/a	£14.00p	Standing Order - Hall hire for Oct 18 Mtg
Streetlights	£61.25p	£12.25p	£73.50p	Half yearly paymt re streetlight maintenance contract.
Slindon Sports Association	£1,649.00p	n/a	£1,649.00p	Chq Srl 100265 - settlement in respect of insurance claim re stolen mower

It was also noted that a cheque from Ecclesiastical Insurance was paid into the account on 2/11/18 to settle the claim in respect of the stolen mower in the sum of £1649 (net of the policy excess).

13.3 Quarterly Budget Monitor

The Parish Council had before it a report which contained an update on the year to date position regarding expenditure, a budget comparison (Appendix A) and the reserves. In addition, the report updated Members on progress with various projects and sought their views on proposals to bring forward certain works and the projected precept for 2019/20. Members proceeded to consider the proposed budget for 2019/20 and within that, proposals to bring forward expenditure on tree maintenance and repairs to the Memorial Garden wall and gate. In making these recommendations the Clerk explained that the costs could be met from cashflow

which had built over a period of years. Having spent time at the Memorial Garden in the run up to Remembrance Sunday Members agreed that the gate needed replacing and that the repairs to the wall were pressing. Members also considered it prudent to bring forward the planned tree works from 2019/20 as this would aid future budgeting and at the same time to commission further work to trim the trees that were overhanging the highway on the Recreation Boundary with Mill Road. Regarding the climbing frame in the Top Playing Field, whilst a repair could be affected, Members wanted to see quotations to better understand the options for replacement. On this basis, the principles of the draft proposed budget for 2019/20 were agreed and Members judged that a precept increase of around 1.5% would be sufficient to meet the Council's commitments in the coming year. It was noted that updates on the progress with the agreed works and the associated costs would be reported back to Council at the meeting. **It was therefore RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The Budget Monitor and update for 2018/19 as set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report and Appendix A attached to the report be noted.**
- 2) The current EMR position as set out in section 1.3 of the report be noted.**
- 3) The proposals to bring forward tree works be approved, and the Clerk be authorised to commission the Council's contractor to carry out the essential works identified in respect of T44 and T2 and trimming the trees on the highway's boundary with Mill Road at the Recreation Ground.**
- 4) To obtain quotes to replace the the climbing frame at the Top Playing Field and report back to the Council at the next meeting.**
- 5) The proposals to bring forward maintenance work in the Memorial Garden be approved and that the Clerk be authorised to commission repairs to the Memorial Garden wall and the gate.**
- 6) That the principles of the draft budget for 2019/20 be broadly approved and revised working towards a precept increase of 1.5% and brought back to Council for approval in January 2019.**

14. COMMUNITY MATTERS

14.1 SLINDON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (SCLT)

It was reported that Members of the SCLT had recently attended a seminar which had been very useful and that the SCLT was otherwise progressing its work.

14.2 CORONATION HALL

The Council had before it a note (previously circulated) that had been circulated to local village groups seeking new members for the Committee. Cllr Chilver was the Parish Council's nominated representative as well as Chairman of the Committee. It was noted that a member of the National Trust staff would be joining the Committee.

14.3 NATIONAL TRUST

14.3.1 Ms. Archer 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. Regarding the recent Pumpkin event, it was thought that the additional cones and facilities provided during the event had improved event management. Parking would always be a problem and it was suggested that the availability of space within the College grounds be researched as this was close the venue. Ms Archer agreed to take this forward. Regarding the tour of the Slindon Estate, it had demonstrated the range of projects and shown the complexities of running the Estate and the Chairman thanked Ms Archer and her team again for their time.

14.3.2 The Council was asked to consider providing a letter of support to the National Trust regarding the Downes Barn Project and a bid for grant funding. A draft letter had been circulated prior to the meeting and Members were unanimous in their approval of this request. **It was therefore RESOLVED that the Council provide a letter of support to the National Trust in respect of the Downes Barn Project.**

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 10th DECEMBER 2018

The date of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Minutes signed as a true record.....Date:

Chairman, Councillor Adamson

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