



Slindon Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Slindon Parish Council

Held 'Remotely' via Zoom Software
On Monday 29th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jan Rees (Chairman), Barbara Brimblecombe, Peter Fenton and Derek Thomas.

In attendance:

Sarah Linfield BSc (Hons), CiLCA (Parish Clerk/RFO/Proper Officer)
6 members of the public

172. **Declarations of Interest**

N.B. Councillor Thomas subsequently declared an interest in respect of item minuted under 178 (ii).

173. **Public Participation**

A member of public spoke regarding the A27 consultation process and of the 5 route options, all but one of which, the grey route – in addition to the 'Arundel Alternative' - would have destroyed ancient woodland. Whilst the effect on homes was acknowledged, protecting the ancient woodland that could not be replaced was considered of overwhelming importance and they supported Highways England's choice of the grey route. The meeting was informed that the National Trust are considering an alternative green route to connect ancient woodland on the south and north side. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact of the new highway on the A29 and a vision for the A27 was shared, reflecting on the avenue of beech trees that had once lined the road.

Councillor Rees clarified that the Council had supported the crimson route and confirmed that as a consultee on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, residents' concerns on the new highway, including noise, pollution and safety issues, particularly feedback received in respect of Shellbridge Lane, would inform its response. The Council is also represented on the Highways England's A27 Elected Representatives' Forum, which provides an ongoing opportunity to give feedback on the scheme and share any local issues.

Members of the public spoke regarding the prospect of felling the willow by the pond as part of an application under 'Operation Watershed', to understand the process, the full options explored to deal with the issues of flooding on Church Hill and any alternatives to the removal of the willow.

The Clerk had updated the website to include a briefing note in respect of the proposed application together with the preliminary reports that had been obtained.



The pond has not been desilted since 2000 when the parish benefited from a grant as part of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. Operation Watershed had been considered in 2017 to address flooding but in 2018 the Parish Council decided against this citing lack of community support within its minutes – Annual Council Meeting May 2018. Although the area had not flooded this year, it did so in 2020, causing significant damage to a visitor’s car when it hit a submerged pothole. A member of the public who had previously been a councillor recollected that such matters had been discussed going back 8 or 9 years.

The willow’s roots were discussed and the use of ‘eco-plugs’ to destroy them as part of the felling process, with ongoing management necessary as they have a tendency to come back. The Clerk had been informed that if the tree was left in situ during engineering works it was very likely to be harmed during the construction process.

The possibility of moving the pipework to avoid felling the willow was raised and whilst it was felt the level of the road might prevent this. The Clerk undertook to raise with Paul Cann, Principal Drainage Engineer at Arun District Council, copying in interested parties, with prior consent to sharing their email addresses being provided.

The engineering work under Operation Watershed would include reinforcing the roadside bank of the ditch, which appears to be deteriorating although ordinarily, riparian maintenance responsibilities fall to the owner of the property neighbouring the ditch.

Residents’ concerns regarding the willow and a lack of awareness of recent developments in this regard highlighted the need for an effective communications strategy. The current option to join parish council meetings remotely was welcomed.

Mention was made of dog-fouling issues which is already on the Council’s radar with additional waste bins being provided.

174. **Apologies for Absence**
Not applicable, all Parish Council members present
175. **Minutes from the Council Meeting Held On 8th March 2021**
It was **Resolved** - to approve the minutes of the meeting as a true record of the decisions of that meeting and the Chairman be authorised to sign them.
176. **A27 Arundel Bypass Environmental Impact Assessment Notification**
This matter had been discussed in part during the public session and the Parish Council’s response is being formulated for approval at Wednesday’s extraordinary meeting to reflect all feedback from its residents, including that received via emails. Walberton Parish Council had undertaken to share its response once finalised.



177. **Slindon Recreation Ground and Sports Pavilion**

Councillor Rees reported that work continued at the pavilion, ramps had been installed and it was being repainted. The Sports Association had sent a copy of their Fire Risk Assessment, further detail on the planned use of the pavilion on some weekday afternoons meant that it might be possible to accommodate their requirements with just details of the times and days of use now required for the licence.

It was resolved to exclude members of the public and press, the remaining member of the public entered the waiting room, the others having already left the meeting.

178. **Tree and Hedge Work**

i. **Fell the ailing ash**

Matters were deferred until after Wednesday's meeting and a decision on the Operation Watershed application.

Councillor Thomas declared a pecuniary interest in respect of item and minuted under 178 (ii) and entered the waiting room.

ii. **Hedgework along the A29**

West Sussex County Council had confirmed that the work did not form part of their schedule, and subject to the hedge cutter still being on the tractor

It was - **Resolved** – to appoint Darren Sercombe at a cost of £475+VAT (being the only quote that met the Council's specification).

(Proposed by Councillor Rees, seconded by Councillor Brimblecombe, by unanimous agreement of all present).

Councillor Thomas returned to the meeting from the waiting room.

iii. **Tree Survey Work**

Resolved - to appoint Beechdown Arboriculture Limited to undertake the work prioritised as required within the next 6 months at a cost of £600 +VAT.

(Proposed by Councillor Rees, seconded by Councillor Fenton, by unanimous agreement of all present).

The member of public returned to the meeting from the waiting room.

179. **Planning Matters**

New applications

- i. SDNP/21/00797/CND Mill Lane House Top Road Slindon BN18 ORP, Removal/Variation of Conditions

It was **Resolved** – to record 'No Objection'.



- ii. SDNP/21/01143/CND The Coppice Sunnybox Lane Slindon BN18 OLX, Removal/Variation of Conditions
It was **Resolved** – to record ‘No Objection’
 - iii. SDNP/21/01406/HOUS Fairbourne Bridle Lane Slindon, Removal of existing wooden garage and replacement with garage of similar footprint
It was **Resolved** – to record ‘No Objection’
 - iv. SDNP/21/00431/FUL Northwood Cottage Courthill Farm Road Slindon BN18 ORL change of use for an existing agricultural field to accommodate tourist accommodation.
It was **Resolved** – to record ‘No Objection’
180. **Date of Next Ordinary Meeting**
The next ordinary meeting will take place on Monday 12th April 2021 with an extraordinary meeting scheduled for 31 March 2021

The meeting ended at 8.17 p.m.

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Dated