

Minutes of a meeting of Cocking Parish Council held in the Garden Room, The Rectory, Mill Lane, Cocking on Monday 16th April 2007 starting at 6.30 pm

Present: Miss F Russell (Chairman), Mrs B Birch, Mrs G Buchanan, Mrs J Kay, Mr A Marks and Mr P O'Neill.

Also Present: County Councillor Lt Col Tex Pemberton and District Councillor Mr John Cherry.

In attendance: Mrs Gwen Miles, Parish Council Clerk

1. Apologies: Mr B Kemp

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record

3. Matters Arising

Children's Playground

The Clerk confirmed that she had received from the Council's insurance company Allianz Cornhill a cheque for £1015 to compensate for the cost of repairing the vandalized play equipment.

Bus Shelter

FR reported that she had had a site meeting with Ms Kate Langmead from WSCC to discuss the possible location of a second bus shelter in the village. It was agreed that the bus shelter could be situated adjacent to the lay-by (near the large tree) located opposite the Mouse House. It would be necessary to obtain permission from the adjacent landowner believed to be WSCC or Cowdray Estate as the work would involve cutting into the bank. The Clerk was asked to write to Cowdray Estate to obtain a quotation for carrying out the work and providing a wooden bus shelter.

County Local Committee

It was confirmed that the venue for the May meeting had not yet been announced.

Spring Clean Day – Sunday 15th April

FR thanked everyone who had taken part in the Spring Clean Day and GB offered to produce thank you notices for the notice boxes.

Parish Council Elections

The Clerk reported that the following residents had been nominated onto the Parish Council: Mrs Betty Birch, Mrs Gill Buchanan, Mr Brian Kemp, Mr Peter O'Neill and Miss Frances Russell. As there were only five nominations for seven seats an election would not take place on Thursday 3rd May, leaving two vacancies on the new Council. Since the meeting the Clerk has received confirmation that the new Council can advertise the vacancies from the 8th May and has seven weeks from that date to "co-opt qualified people to fill the remaining seats". If the vacancies are not filled within the seven week period then it will be necessary to set a date for a further election to fill those vacancies. The full cost of the election will have to be borne by the Parish Council.

4. County Councillor's Report

Lt Col Tex Pemberton circulated the revised advisory lorry route map for WSCC.

5. Highways

The Clerk reported that she had received paperwork from WSCC relating to the review of the speed limit criteria. It was agreed that the Clerk would copy the paperwork to members and place the item on the agenda for the May meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Department about the speed limit along Bell Lane, which they had agreed sometime ago that they would consider reviewing in the future. P O'N noted there were a number of potholes in the village.

6. District Councillor's Report

Mr Cherry confirmed that the proposed car parking charges in Midhurst were not going to be introduced and that the subject would be reconsidered in 2009.

Mr Cherry said that T-mobile (UK) Ltd would shortly be submitting a planning application for a proposed telecommunication installation at Hill Barn, Cocking.

7. Planning

**CK/07/00441/DOM – Box Tree Cottage, Cocking Causeway
Formation of gable and dormer extensions to rear of existing house to
provide bathroom and shower room**

The Council had no objection to the above application

8. Community Centre Project

FR confirmed that it had become apparent that it was not going to be viable to use the whole barn as a community centre. Cowdray Estate the owner of the barn felt that a total solution was needed and with this in mind FR and other members of the Community Centre Project Group were exploring the idea of combining the proposed community centre with a visitors centre and that the next stage was to produce a business plan. FR expressed disappointment with the passive response she had received about the Group's proposals at a recent meeting with local organizations and was especially concerned with the feedback from the representative from the South Downs Joint Committee (SDJC) Lt Col T Pemberton who is Vice Chairman of the SDJC asked for a copy of the proposals discussed at the meeting. He and Mr Cherry expressed their support.

9. Children's Playground

BB confirmed that the playground equipment and the surrounding area are all in a satisfactory condition. It was pointed out the sign which had gone missing stating the age limit for children using the playground should be replaced.

10. Sports Field

In the absence of BK it was reported that a window had been broken in the pavilion. The Clerk was asked to find out if BK had arranged for the pane to be replaced. It was confirmed that the bench had been moved back to its original place.

11. Finances

The following cheques were approved:

Mrs Gwen Miles - Clerk's salary (£328.52) (£100 annual payment for using home as a office) and expenses (£24.44) £452.96
Inland Revenue – Clerk's PAYE £92.62
Allianz Cornhill Council's Annual Insurance Premium - £674.82
Mr S Scott – Repairs to Council's laptop £96
Sussex Association of Local Councils – Annual Subs - £103.78

It was proposed to go ahead and open up a cheque account with Lloyds TSB and that any two of the three signatories would be authorized to sign cheques: Mrs Gwen Miles, Miss Frances Russell and Mr Peter O'Neill.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received the paperwork relating to the Council's Annual Returns and said that she would be working to the following timetable:

- Prepare in April/May the 2006/07 accounts and submit to the internal auditor
- Submit 2006/07 bank reconciliation to the Council for information at their May meeting
- Receive from the Internal Auditor a verbal or written report at the June Council meeting (Clerk to submit copies of the Annual return for the year end 31st March to members with the agenda and minutes for the June meeting)
- Paperwork announcing the date for electors ' to inspect the accounts to be placed on the Council's notice board on the 9th July 2007
- Inspection commences 23rd July 2007 to 17th August 2007
- Paperwork to be submitted to the external auditor 18th August 2007

12. Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Thursday 24th May and that the agenda will follow the same format as previous years.

13. Correspondence

FR reported that she had received a letter outlining proposed changes to the County Local Committees. The main suggested changes are:

- To increase the delegated powers of the County Local Committees.
- The fourteen County Local Committees will be retained
- The realignment of Community Initiative Grant Funding
- Introduction of Community Call for Action
- Meetings increased to six times a year

It was agreed that details of the proposals should be passed to P O'N and BB, who regularly attend meetings of the CLC for consideration

Items on the correspondence list were noted. The Clerk confirmed that she would write to Mr Nightingale about his concerns relating to the location of the Children's Playground. She would also write to Mrs Griffiths about membership of the Parish Council.

14. AOB

AM reported that the ditches along Bumblekyte are blocked and the Clerk confirmed she had passed this information onto the Highways Department.

JK said that the Heyshott bonfire and fireworks event will take place on Saturday 3rd November.

It was noted that Mrs Juliet Kay had decided not to stand again for the Parish Council as she would shortly be leaving the village and Mr Aubrey Marks had decided to retire from the Council. On behalf of the other members of the Council and the Clerk FR thanked Mrs Juliet Kay and Mr Aubrey Marks for all the years they had dedicated to the Parish Council and the local community and that their input would be greatly missed.

The Clerk confirmed that she would be issuing declaration of acceptance forms to members on the new council.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 14th May at 6.30 pm (P'O'N gave his apologies)

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman _____