

Minutes of a meeting of Cocking Parish Council held in the Garden Room, The Rectory, Mill Lane, Cocking on Monday 11th June 2007 at 6.30 pm.

Members Present: Miss Frances Russell (Chairman), Mrs Betty Birch, Mrs Gill Buchanan, Mr B Kemp and Mr P O'Neill

Also Present: Parishioners Mr Richard Marks and Mrs Naomi Barnett

In attendance: Mrs Gwen Miles

1. Apologies:

County Councillor Lt Col Tex Pemberton and District Councillor Mr John Cherry

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th May 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record

3. Matters Arising

Bus Shelter

The Clerk confirmed that she was waiting to find out if Cowdray Estate were willing to provide a quote for constructing a wooden bus shelter adjacent to the lay-by opposite the Mouse House. Once the information was received from Cowdray she would go ahead and obtain another couple of quotations.

Osborne Signs

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Osborne had almost completed the signage for the Children's Playground and the refurbishment work to the Parish Council Notice Box.

County Local Committee – 22nd May

FR confirmed that she and BB had been unable to attend the meeting.

Community membership of the Sports Field and Pavilion Management Committee

BK confirmed that Reverend Colin Bradley and Mr Jeff Mableson are happy to continue as community members on the Sports Field and Pavilion Management Committee. The Clerk confirmed that she would send paperwork for them to complete and return to her relating to the form of undertaking by a co-opted member and the register of members interest.

4. Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had received two letters expressing an interest in the two vacancies on the Parish Council from Mr R Marks and Mrs N Barnet. It was proposed by GB and seconded by BB that Mr Marks and Mrs Barnet be co-opted onto the Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Council. The Chairman welcomed them as Councillors and they both completed their declaration of acceptance forms. FR gave an overview of the work of the Council and expressed delight that as the Council now had a full membership of seven an election would not be necessary.

5. County Councillor's Report

Nil Report

6. Mobile Police Station

FR referred to a recent email sent by Chief Inspector Mark Eyre, Chichester District Commander, informing local councils of his decision to redeploy PC Mark Hillman, who undertakes the role of mobile police station officer which took effect from Monday 21st May 2007. In his email the Chief Inspector felt that as twenty Police Community Support Officers are being deployed across three Neighbourhood Policing Team Areas of the District he felt there was no longer a need to routinely deploy the mobile police station. The Council expressed dismay at the decision which had been made without any consultation. They felt that the mobile police station had been highly visible in local villages and provided a useful point of contact. PC Hillman had responded positively to problems reported to him. It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Chief Inspector expressing the Council's concerns. FR said that she would be asking for someone to come along to a future meeting to talk about community policing.

7. WSCC – Rural Strategy Consultation

It was confirmed that P O'N will be attending the first consultation meeting at Billingshurst on the 13th June. P O'N explained there were around 30 policies for consideration including expanding rural post offices, sustainable business and affordable housing.

8. Highways

It was noted that someone from the village had backed into the 30 mph and chevron signs adjacent to Malthouse Cottage, the Highways Department had been informed about the incident

The Clerk informed members that it was proposed to surface the A286 on the northbound approach to the village with a red coloured high friction surfacing material "gateway" in advance of the start of the 30 mph speed limit. The work was programmed to be completed by the end of July.

9. District Councillor's Report

Nil Report

10. Planning

CK/07/02257/LBC & CK/07/02618/DOM – 176 Cocking Village

The erection of a single storey extension to house. The installation of a new first floor bathroom, ground floor utility room and change of use and refurbishment of existing store into a study.

The Council had no objection to the applications.

11. Children's Playground

The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed RoSPA to confirm that the Council did not want them to carry out an annual safety inspection on the playground.

12. Sports Field

The Clerk confirmed that she had not yet received a cheque from the Frensham Heights School for using the sports field for their annual camping exercise. The Clerk reported that she had passed on Mr Hayter's details to Mr J Mableson so that he could obtain a quotation for carrying out repairs to the Council's gang mower. It was agreed that Saturday 27th October was a possible date for the bonfire and fireworks evening, which could incorporate a Halloween theme.

13. Community Centre Project

At a recent meeting of the Community Centre Project Steering Group it was decided that as little progress had so far been made with the community centre project that Reverend Colin Bradley would ask the Parochial Church Council (PCC) if they would consider a proposal to install movable pews in the church and build a small extension at the north end of the Church to accommodate a small kitchen and toilets. It was understood that churches in some areas are being adapted in this way so that they can also be used to provide meeting facilities for the community in the local parish. The PCC in principle had agreed to explore the proposal further.

FR reported that Mr E Samuel had recently attended a community conference and in discussion with other participants he felt that we were not maximizing the floor space in the barn and it could provide a site for commercially viable office space in a popular rural setting. It was agreed that Mr Samuel would be asked to

complete a grant application to secure funding for a full options and feasibility study.

14. Finances

The internal auditor's report on the 2006/07 had been circulated to members for consideration (copy attached to the master minutes). The Council thanked the Clerk for preparing the accounts and approved the following:

14.1 Local Councils in England – Annual return for the year ended 31st March 2007 Section 1 – Statement of Accounts for Cocking Parish Council 2006/07

14.2 Annual governance statement for Cocking Parish Council 2006/07.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts would be available for public inspection from the 23rd July until the 17th August 2007.

The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the Council's application form to open up an account with Lloyds/TSB on the 25th May and was waiting to receive the new account details from the bank.

The following cheques were agreed:

Pavilion Funding Raising - £185

Cocking PCC - £30 for hire of the church for the Annual Parish Meeting

Mrs S Heasman - £50 Honorarium as acting as the Council's internal auditor

The Council had received an invoice from Mrs D Griffiths for £25.58 for supplying wine for the Annual Parish Meeting to mark the retirement of Mrs J Kay and Mr A Marks long serving members of the Council. As well as providing the wine for the evening Mrs Griffiths had provided some delicious refreshments which she had not charged for. It was unanimously agreed that in addition to the Council reimbursing her for the cost of the wine a contribution towards the cost of the food was made and it was agreed to pay Mrs Griffiths £50 to cover the cost of the wine and a contribution towards the food.

15. Correspondence

Items of correspondence were noted.

The Clerk said that she had received an information pack from WSCC who are operating a register of people willing to become clerks to school governors. GB offered to provide a poster using bullet points from the publicity material.

16. Date of next meeting Monday 9th July

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Chairman _____