

PARISH OF COCKING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

HELD ON 25 APRIL 2017 AT 7PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BELL LANE, COCKING

PRESENT

Parish Councillors Imlach (Chairman in the Chair), Craig, O'Neill and Miss Russell.
14 residents

IN ATTENDANCE

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 25 April 2016, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Report from the Parish Council

The Chairman, Cllr Imlach presented the following report:

Full council with 7 members who have not been idle with plenty of topics being discussed monthly.

One asset we have is that of the services of Greg our Parish Clerk and we are lucky to have one as many councils are without.

Speeding is a concern and we have asked villagers to let us know what they think of a gateway at the approach from Midhurst to the village also the use of a non-attended Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Main concern at the moment is the amount of vandalism occurring and a meeting has taken part with the Police and they are being notified of every incident.

We have issued two newssheets in the last year and the last had a good feedback and it is helpful to give the contact details of Clerk and Chairman.

New web site is up and running and is hoped to be a good information tool for all wanting to know about Cocking.

Village Hall. Well we are so lucky to have a brilliant team running the bookings and maintaining the hall under the leadership of Gill Buchanan.

The Croft. There is frustration that a representative has not attended council meetings from Hyde for some time. This matter is being chased by Greg.

There is concern about how the village looks and the path up to the Heyshott turn has been cleared and part of the hedging cut. Congratulations to those maintain Bumble Kyte area and to our grass cutting contractor for keeping the playground and sports field well cut.

We have I feel strengthened links with CDC, WSCC, Savills, SDNPA and regularly attend Forum meetings.

Welfare is a concern and we are looking at car scheme and other welfare initiatives but it will be driven independently. One task already done is the issue of salt containers to the retired.

I am happy to take any questions.

3. Parish Council Accounts

The Clerk, G Burt, presented the following report:

Copies of the Annual Return for 2015-16 have been circulated. Whilst not very informative, these are the way the law states that local councils must set out their end-of-year financial information.

I am happy to take questions on these but the salient point is that the Council's medium term policy of increasing its net balances is clearly being reflected in the accounts.

This is being done by careful management of all expenditure. Whilst the precept increased in 15-16, there was no increase in the year just ended or in the year we have just started.

The Council continues to only undertake significant projects where all the funds can be secured from grants and other sources.

I am happy to take any questions.

4. Village Hall Report

Cllr Craig, Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee (CVHMC) reported that work had started this week on the hall extension, that was mainly to be used to house tables and chairs, currently in the hall alcove. Drainage would be to a new soakaway. Funds had been raised via successful grant applications submitted by Cllr Miss Russell to CDC, WSCC and iGAS. Work should be complete by the end of May. Other minor electrical works would be undertaken simultaneously.

Cllr Miss Russell, who also sits on the CVHMC reported that the level of bookings remained high.

Cllr Imlach reported that the Council may utilise the next tranche of New Homes Bonus (NHB) funds to improve the car park. He thanked the Village Hall Committee for their hard work.

5. Questions from Electors

Mr J Mabelson commented that some photos on the new website were inappropriate and/or in need of re-positioning.

Mrs N Barnett commented that numbers for her village walks were low. The Chairman said that if she let Cllr Keefe know the dates, he could promote them via the website.

The meeting finished at 7.26pm