

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

4 MARCH 2019 AT 6.30PM

AT THE VILLAGE HALL, BELL LANE, COCKING

PRESENT: Cllrs Imlach (Chairman), Mrs Jackson, Marks and Miss Russell.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Burt, Clerk to the Council
District Cllr Mrs C Neville
County Cllr D Bradford
5 Member of the Public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs L Burgess and P Craig – prior engagements. The reasons given were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered.

3. Questions from Visitors

A resident asked if signs could be erected to discourage traffic from the part of Church Lane that residents were responsible for? They had just paid to have it repaired and traffic constantly looking for the Church and having to reverse was causing wear and tear. Having established that they wanted the sign/s erected in advance of the private road on public highway, they were encouraged to contact West Sussex Highways in the first instance.

A resident commented on the need for improvements to the surface of the dog-leg footpath adjacent to Bumblekite.

4. County & District Councillor Reports

County Cllr D Bradford reported that: the issue of Velo South had been referred to the Environment Committee of WSCC; he was against a 2020 event. *Cats Eyes* were being stolen from highways. The WSCC part of the Council Tax was rising, the reasons for this were well covered in the *Connections* Newsletter.

District Cllr Mrs C Neville reported on: a *Task & Finish Group* she had served on at CDC looking at the need for more police. The leader of a car crime gang had been jailed; over 200 car break-ins had been recorded in the last quarter. She was concerned about the lack of youth provision in the Midhurst area, which could lead to vulnerable youngsters becoming involved in so-called *County Lines*. She would appreciate details of any cases where youngsters had got drawn into such behaviour, which she could use as evidence to campaign for better youth provision.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 4 February 2019, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

7. Planning

Comments on applications received since the last meeting were **RESOLVED** as set out below:

Ref. No	Address	Details	Comment
SDNP/19/007 86/LIS	Bankside Bell Lane Cocking GU29 0HU	Repair works to external cracks and damaged timbers.	NO OBJECTION
SDNP/19/007 23/TPO	Land to East of The A286 Cocking Hill. Site of Cocking Limeworks.	Fell 125 no. Ash trees and 6 no. Sycamore trees (marked with green spray paint) within areas marked A, B and D on the attached plan (alongside the A286 - Cocking Hill as part of tree safety work) within Woodland, W1 subject to CK/84/00365/TPO.	NO OBJECTION

8. Bluebell Inn – to receive an update if available from the Council’s representative.

Cllr Miss F Russell, the Council’s representative reported that: a Community Share Offer had been launched; approximately ½ the funds required (approximately £315k) had been raised to date. A certain amount had to be raised by the end of March deadline to enable the pub to be purchased. A program of community events including a Quiz Night were planned, not just to raise extra funds, but also to engage with the community. The pub would be open again this Saturday 10am - noon for visitors to see what was planned. NOTED

9. Highways

a. Village Gateways

Members were shown some designs/wording which they agreed. They were reminded that several villagers had expressed a preference for brown features rather than white which some considered incongruous for a rural location; this would be the Council’s preference. Cllr Imlach would now double-check with WS Highways that they were happy with the designs suggested for the location, prior to a formal licence being applied for.

b. Other Traffic Calming

There was little interest in a local group. Although the future lay with working with other villages, it was agreed that this be removed from future agendas.

c. Footways and Footpaths

Positive comment were made on the recent work undertaken by the Parish’s contractor at various sites. (Some cleared silt deposited on verges would require spreading out.) Cllr R Marks was due to attend a Pathwatch meeting the following day, work allowing.

d. Cycleway

Nothing to report.

e. Other

Potholes and overhanging trees in Bell Lane were causing concern.

10. Parish Matters

a. Playground

Wicksteed had provided a quote of £864+VAT to undertake various works at the site to bring everything *up to scratch*. AGREED

b. **Newsletter**

A proof had been circulated and a further proof would be shared.

c. **Events**

Nothing to report.

d. **Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

e. **Bus Shelters**

The replacement acrylic panels would be fitted shortly. Cllr R Marks would report to Southern Water that the water main may be leaking again at this location.

f. **History Column**

Cllr Mrs J Jackson reported that the Column would be cleaned soon. It was suggested that the remains of a wicker fence nearby should be removed by Saxon-Wield.

11. Finance

a. Payments from 5 February 4 March 2019, totalling £309.30 as set out in Appendix A, were **RESOLVED** and any receipts noted.

b. A Bank Reconciliation to the 12 February 2019 was agreed, Appendix B. Cllr R Marks initialled the corresponding entry on statement number 59.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk had submitted a summary of notable correspondence since the last meeting - attached Appendix E.

13. To note outcome of recent complaints under Code of Conduct.

The Clerk reported that complaints against two serving Parish Councillors had been made before Christmas. The Clerk was obliged to refer them to CDC's Monitoring Officer who investigated accordingly. The Clerk had provided further information upon request. The complaints were subsequently dismissed. Cllr Miss F Russell felt aggrieved that as the subject of one of the complaints (Cllr D Imlach being the other) at no time had they been advised by CDC of the complaint or the outcome and indeed the Monitoring Officer had reported to the Clerk that the complainants hadn't answered e-mails, when they don't appear to have been sent. The only information they had received had been via the Clerk. Cllr Miss F Russell felt Cllrs being complained about were entitled to more consideration. NOTED

14. Any Other Matters for Information

a) Cllr Mrs J Jackson reported that two quarries were due to be reopened to provide silca sand and there was much opposition. It was suggested that communities should work together to provide maximum and effective opposition to the scheme.

b) The Clerk was asked to double-check the date chosen for the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors as the hall was usually in use on Thursdays.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1 April 2019 6.30pm

16. Exclusion of Press & Public

RESOLVED that due the nature of the business about to be transacted (staffing), the press and public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

17. Pay Award

Members were advised of the nationally agreed 2% 2019-20 pay award, negotiated by NALC and SLCC. The Clerk was currently 2/3 between the old SCP 23-24 and was happy to forgo the 2% but to instead be on old SCP 24, £12.15 per hour equating to an increase of 1.0095%. Cllr R Marks advised that this midway point had been paid to the previous Clerk. Members **RESOLVED** instead that the Clerk be put on old SCP 25 now rebranded SCP 17 (12.39 per hour.) The Clerk thanked Members for their kindness.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

FINANCIAL REPORT 4 MARCH 2019						
PAYMENTS: - 5 FEBRUARY - 4 MARCH 2019						
DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO	DESCRIPTION	GROSS	VAT	NET
04/03/2019	G Burt	811	Clerk's Net salary for Feb	£208.58		£208.58
04/03/2019	HMRC	812	Clerk's Tax - Feb	£52.20		£52.20
04/03/2019	Aztec Computers	813	IT support - Jan	£48.52	£8.09	£40.43
				£309.30	£8.09	£301.21

APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION		
AS @ 12 FEBRUARY 2019		
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS		
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2018		£15,001.68
Add Total Receipts		13,370.83
Less Total Payments		(14,018.38)
TOTAL		£14,354.13
BANK		
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (12/02/2019)		14,961.32
Less unrepresented cheques		
761	£51.00	
809	£556.16	
	£607.16	-£607.16
Plus unrepresented deposits		
		0
TOTAL		14,354.16

TALLY

APPENDIX C

NOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE TO 25 FEBRUARY 2019			
Date	From	Subject	Action (Forwarded to all Cllrs unless otherwise stated.)
08/02/2019	SDNPA	Planning Committee Agenda 14 February 2019	
08/02/2019	WSCC	FW: Sussex Pathwatch - Next Meeting Tuesday 5 March	Cllrs Marks and Craig
08/02/2019	SW	Southern Water announces household water and wastewater bills for 2019/20	
24/02/2019	WSCC	Velo South Update	
24/02/2019	NHS	NHS Our Health and Care....Our FUTURE events	
24/02/2019	WSCC	Chichester Proposed Parking Management Plan	
24/02/2019	NHS	Midhurst Community meeting 26 February 2019	
24/02/2019	CDC	Housing Strategy Consultation	
24/02/2019	CDC	All Parish Meeting - July 2019	
24/02/2019	WSCC	PROW parish letter 2018	
25/02/2019	N Barnett	PROW Letter from Naomi Barnett	