

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1 JULY 2019 AT 6.30PM

VILLAGE HALL, BELL LANE, COCKING

PRESENT: Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), D Imlach, Mrs J Jackson, R Marks and T Waite.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Dis Cllr G Mcara
Cty Cllr D Bradford
Mrs P McCullough, Midhurst Vision
1 Members of the public

1. Apologies

None

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. None.

3. Questions from Visitors

None

4. Midhurst Vision

Philippa McCullough gave an overview of the work being undertaken to develop a vision for the town. This largely centred on trying to address a challenging retail environment that led to vacant shops, poor shopper and visitor experience. They were engaging with as many residents and groups as possible, and were keen to also engage with Midhurst's hinterland, such as villages like Cocking, which looked to the town for many of its goods and services. They hoped to develop an action plan and employ consultants who were experienced in such fields. It was agreed that the Parish Council would only be too pleased to ask the Post Office to carry leaflets and display posters in noticeboards, about the forthcoming residents' survey. The Council would also include a mention/update in the next newsletter.

5. WSSC Report

Cty Cllr D Bradford reported verbally and circulated the following

Velo South I attended the Committee Report (ECFSC) and stated in no uncertain terms that we wanted NO road closures. The committee listened and stated that (a) any event had to be approved by all the relevant district councils and that (b) there is about a ONE YEAR lead time to get approvals etc. Nothing appears to be in the pipeline. The committee does like small local events however. Highways Regulations

It should be noted that we have very little say in national highways regulations, which are very strict. We have a good working relationship with both our Highways Officers (Chris Dye & Mike Dare) and the Road Safety Expert (Jon). But it takes ages to get a report after an accident, particularly if the police were involved. Ironically, it is much quicker if there has been a death as they have to set up an enquiry committee immediately. It is difficult to get around regulations but Jon seems pretty accommodating with extra signs. But no Black Spots any more which is a pity. The major Black Spot continues to be the triangle of the A285, A286 and the A29. The worst is the never ending nightmare outside Seaford Collage. But action is being taken on the hedge heights (a District Council matter fortunately). And a close second on the danger league is the exit from Burton Park Road turning right on to the main road. For safety's sake, JUST DON T DO IT. Instead, hook round via the pub lay-by. Policing Katie Bourne is listening so we must keep up the pressure. We need a proper Rural Crime Team, but is the Chief Constable Listening? I think not. West Sussex is out of step with other nearby counties. Drugs Be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour – we are up against highly organised criminal gangs! Schools Regular state-maintained Schools: all quiet on this front BUT with special schools the Council has received a poor OFSTED. Much needs to be done and lateral colleagues from Hampshire have been brought in to help. The Fire Service A poor review has been received. In my opinion we should have got shot of it when the police wanted it last year. Our CEO has better things to do with his time right now! Misc Matters The financial management is very strong, as is Pensions performance and Administration (the latter having been moved from Capita to Hampshire) Politics There is turbulence in all areas which is not helping matters!

6. CDC Report

Cllr G Mcara reported that he was on the CDC Planning Committee, and also Chair of the Licensing Committee. With 198 Parish and Town Councils and Resident Associations in the District, he would like to see more unkempt areas in our communities adopted by these organisations under the District Council's adoption scheme. In response to a question, Cllr Mcara advised that an application for mineral works at Bepton had been delayed as more evidence from the applicant had been requested.

7. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 3 June 2019, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

A thank you letter had been received from 4 Sight Vision Support for the Council's grant.

9. Cooptions

No applications had been received.

10. Planning

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

| Ref. No | Address | Details | |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| SDNP/19/026 04/HOUS | Wolverstone Farmhouse A286 Cobblers Row To Middlefield Singleton PO18 0HL | Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of two storey side extension. Erection of porch on the South East Elevation. Alterations and additions to fenestration and various external alterations. | No Objection |
| SDNP/19/028 24/LIS | Moonlight Cottage A286 Church Lane To Bell Lane Cocking GU29 0HN | Proposed installation of a 100mm diameter cast iron gutter painted black (West Elevation). | No Objection |

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

Cllr Miss F Russell advised that internal work will start this month; they will undertake work as money is secured. Several applications for grants were pending. The Council resolved that its thanks and congratulations to the group be recorded.

12. Highways

a. Village Gateways – to receive an update.

The Clerk had been awaiting a location plan, but he considered he now had sufficient information to submit a licence to WSCC to locate the gateways on the highway; he would though circulate the location plan to all Cllrs beforehand.

b. Footways and Footpaths incl. to consider response from WSCC re. Restricted Byeway 3362

It was agreed that pictures of the Byeway in winter when it was often impassable even in *Wellies*, would be submitted to more graphically illustrate why the surface warranted attention.

Cllr D Imlach provided details of the areas that the Council was requesting one of its contractors to maintain – Appendix A.

c. Cycleways

Nothing to report

d. Bus Shelter Repairs

Sadly, the shelter by the garage had been vandalised, shattering remaining safety glass. It was agreed that when this is replaced with acrylic, any other remaining shatterproof glass would be replaced with acrylic at the same time. Cllr Imlach offered to put his mobile phone number in the shelter so vandalism could be reported more promptly.

e. To consider supporting WSCC Pollinator Action Plan by sowing wild flower seed mix on verge north of village.

Mrs C Beaumont had approached the Council to seek its support to sow wild flower seeds in the centre of the verge to the north of the village, eastern side. Such approaches to verge maintenance were being widely followed and were in compliance with WSCC's Pollinator Action Plan. It was believed that in addition to increasing biodiversity, they could also help slow traffic. The Chairman had already received some free seeds and it was **RESOLVED** to support such an initiative in the area described. Mrs Beaumont agreed to undertake the work on behalf of the Council including removing any arisings. The Clerk would advise WSCC accordingly, so they were not mown down at the wrong time. The importance of letting residents know about the project through the newsletter, was stressed. As part of the scheme, the desirability of only cutting the nearby hedge every 3 years was stressed, although it was understood that this was the respective farmer's current preference anyway.

13. Parish Matters

a. Playground

The Council's insurer had advised that the supplier of the play area would be better placed than itself to advise on wording of signs in the play area. Cllr Imlach would seek advice from Fittleworth PC who seemed to have a very well-worded sign.

The annual ROSPA inspection had been undertaken. Few items of concern had been raised. Cllr D Imlach would go through the items to be done and report back accordingly, and advise of any notable costs.

b. Newsletter

Cllr D Imlach would start compiling the Autumn edition in mid-August.

c. Events

Nothing to report

d. Village Hall

It was reported that the Village Hall Committee were seeking to get a licence from the Cowdray Estate to occupy the adjoining former railway formation, so it could be used by a play group which uses the Village Hall.

14. Finance

- a. Payments from 4 June to 1 July 2019, totalling £994.02. as set out in Appendix B, were **RESOLVED** and any receipts noted.
- b. A Bank Reconciliation to the 14 June 2019 was agreed, Appendix C. Cllr T Waite initialled the corresponding entry on statement number 63.
- c. The Clerk reported that the Council's previous 3-year insurance agreement had ended. The broker had recommended Inspire as being the most competitive on offer. **RESOLVED** to enter into a new 3-year agreement with Inspire, at £1,198.79 p.a.

15. Correspondence

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

16. Any Other Matters for Information

a. Cllr T Waite reported that he intended to create a new Facebook page for the Council and try to close the existing site which had been abandoned. The Clerk asked that he be an *Admin*.

b. Cllr Mrs J Jackson commented on the desirability of a Defibrillator in the village; the Chairman reported that it was intended to put one on the outside of The Bluebell in due course and that grants should be quite readily available. Cllr R Marks suggested that one would be more useful on the top of Cocking Hill!

17. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2 September 2019 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.01pm

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Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

AWAITED

APPENDIX B

| INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1 JULY 2019 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| PAYMENTS: - 1 JULY 2019 | | | | | | |
| DATE | PAYEE | CHEQUE NO | DESCRIPTION | GROSS | VAT | NET |
| 01/07/2019 | Cocking Village Hall Mgmt Cttee | 508 | Insurance Reimb. | £218.00 | | £218.00 |
| 01/07/2019 | CDC | 509 | Uncontested Election costs | 168 | | 168 |
| 01/07/2019 | Andrew James | 510 | Rec Field Mowing - May | £185.71 | | £185.71 |
| 01/07/2019 | Playsafety Ltd | 511 | Playground annual inspection | 90.6 | 15.1 | 75.5 |
| 01/07/2019 | G Burt | 512 | Postage stamps | 63.26 | | 63.26 |
| 01/07/2019 | G Burt | 512 | Clerk's Net salary for June | £214.65 | | £214.65 |
| 01/07/2019 | HMRC | 513 | Clerk's Tax - June | £53.80 | | £53.80 |
| | | | | £994.02 | £15.10 | £978.92 |

APPENDIX C

| BANK RECONCILIATION | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|---|--|
| AS @ 14 JUNE 2019 | | | | |
| RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS | | | | |
| Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2019 | | £14,004.86 | | |
| Add Total Receipts | | 6,710.00 | | |
| Less Total Payments | | (5,616.84) | | |
| TOTAL | | £15,098.02 | ◀ | |
| BANK | | | | |
| Lloyds Treasurers A/C (14/06/2019) | | 15,224.02 | | |
| Less unrepresented cheques | | | | |
| 761 | 51.00 | | | |
| 504 | £75.00 | | | |
| | | -£126.00 | | |
| Plus unrepresented deposits | | | | |
| | | 0 | | |
| TOTAL | | 15,098.02 | ◀ | |

TALLY

APPENDIX D

| NOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE TO 28 JUNE 2019 | | | |
|--|----------|---|--|
| Date | From | Subject | Action (Forwarded to all Cllrs unless otherwise stated.) |
| 31/05/2019 | SSALC | SSALC Training Events - June 2019 | |
| 02/06/2019 | T/Sports | Race to the King 2019 - Event notification | |
| 02/06/2019 | CDC | Amendment to the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme | |
| 04/06/2019 | WSCC | Your Town and Parish Council News for June | |
| 18/06/2019 | SSALC | Sussex Weekly Bulletin 24-2019 | |
| 18/06/2019 | CDC | New community safety events for the Chichester District | |
| 18/06/2019 | SDNPA | SDNPA June newsletter | |
| 18/06/2019 | SSALC | Sussex ALC weekly Bulletin 23-2019 | |
| 18/06/2019 | CDC | CORRECTION TO DATE AND VENUE: All Parishes Meeting - Date: Monday 15 July 2019 Venue: The Grange Community and Leisure Centre Midhurst | |
| 18/06/2019 | WSCC | Ash tree disease in West Sussex - be prepared | |
| 18/06/2019 | WSCC | Staying Safe Online Resources | |
| 23/06/2019 | CDC | Chichester Proposed Parking Management Plan - Consultation Feedback | |
| 25/06/2019 | SSALC | Sussex ALC Weekly Bulletin 25-2019 | |
| 25/06/2019 | SDNPA | Walk the Heath Summer 2019: Programme of Free Walks and Talks | |
| 25/06/2019 | CDC | Reminder: Crime, Dine and keeping safe events | |
| 25/06/2019 | CDC | New initiatives aim to help the High Street | |
| 28/06/2019 | SSALC | Sussex ALC Bulletin 26-2019 | |