

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
2 DECEMBER 2024, 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), T Carter, A Cornwell, D Imlach, Mrs J Jackson, W Renney and D Summerfield.

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Approximately 30 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.

Cllr W Renney declared an interest as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

3. SDNPA – Local Plan Review

To receive a presentation from Katharine Stuart, Planning Policy Lead and Claire Tester, Planning Policy Manager at the South Downs National Park Authority on the Local Plan Review.

The Chairman welcome Katherine and Claire who gave an overview of the Local Plan Process. Any landowner could have submitted site during the *call for sites*, and the list to date were those with the most merit, as measured against set criteria. (A list of sites not included would be released in due course.) The site at NE Cocking was one of several submitted in the Parish by the Cowdray Estate. A field adjoining the Recreation Field and another site at Crypt Lane had not made the list and another (Pitsham Farm) which was on the edge of the Midhurst conurbation had made the list. The SDNPA had approved the list of possible sites to be consulted upon, which would commence formally on 20 January and would last 8 weeks, known as Reg 18. It will take the form of events and an online consultation. The next consultation, known as Reg 19, would include sites confirmed by the SDNPA. The only public involvement then would be to see if the Draft Plan was *Sound*. Of 37 sites in the current plan, only 9 have been started, which was blamed on the economic slowdown etc. Guests would not confirm how many houses they were looking to build across the NP over the plan period.

Councillors commented that it would have been courteous for the Estate to have consulted the Parish earlier and asked if the developer would build 25 then try to build more as it seemed a large site for just 25 houses! The guests confirmed that the proposal was smaller than originally sought, and much of the site would be set out as Public Open Space (POS).

Many residents then spoke against the plan, citing the lack of infrastructure in the village, such as health provision and poor highways, although one resident said the village needed new houses for young people.

On the subject of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) where developers are supposed to show-post development net improvement in biodiversity across the site, Richard Marks, the tenant farmer of the site spoke passionately about the biodiversity he had been nurturing for many years on the site, which would be lost.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Jonathan Russell, CEO of Cowdray Estate would be attending the January meeting. In advance of the next meeting quotes would be sought from potential advisors who could help the Council prepare a response. Council would also need to consider when it might expect to approve a response and if a public consultation on its own response was required.

4. Questions from Visitors

See above

5. To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.

None.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 4 November 2024, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported receipt of thank you letter for donation to Tangmere Military Aviation Museum.

8. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

9. Highways Updates

- a. Footpaths & Footways – Slippery footway at entrance to *The Croft* to be reported.
- b. Cycleways – Nothing to report.
- c. Traffic Calming – Cllr T Carter reported on recent activity. A meeting was planned for the 9 December with WSCC to look at sites for a SID.
- d. Potholes in Mill Lane had been reported to WSCC.

10. Updates on Parish Matters

- a. Playground – Nothing to report.
- b. Village Hall – The Ladies toilets were back in action!
- c. Policing – Cllr Cornwell was due to attend a meeting tomorrow. The value of the Rural Policing Team was highlighted and they had used the area to practice flying their drones.
- d. Christmas Tree – it was reported that *The Blue Bell* would be having a tree outside the pub this year.

11. Finance

- a. Payments since last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts NOTED – Appendix A.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 13 November 2024 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by Cllr Miss F Russell.

- c. Members discussed briefly the 2025-26 budget which would need to be resolved at the January meeting. If Cllrs had any additions please let the Clerk know. Bank charges to be added to expenditure code.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6 January 2025 6.30pm

13. 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.

14. Pay Award

Members were advised of the nationally agreed 2024-25 pay award, negotiated by NALC and SLCC. The Clerk was on SCP 17. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's salary be increased in accordance with the national agreement accordingly.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 2 DECEMBER 2024						
EXPENDITURE						
02/12/2024	G Burt	1122	Clerk salary - Nov	£259.12		£259.12
02/12/2024	HMRC	1123	Clerk Tax - Nov	£64.80		£64.80
02/12/2024	D Imlach	1124	Xmas Cards	£7.95	£1.32	£6.63
			Remembrance Day wreath	£20.00		£20.00
02/12/2024	Andrew James	1121	Recreation Field Grass cutting - Nov	£213.75		£213.75
			Play Area mowing - Nov	£213.75		£213.75
			Daffodil bank tidying	£160.00		£160.00
				£939.37	£1.32	£938.05
INCOME						
25/10/2024	SDNPA	BACS	CIL Parish element	£5,158.01		

APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION				
CASHBOOK				
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2024		£8,778.43		
Add Total Receipts		32,303.43		
Less Total Payments		(16,577.72)		
TOTAL		£24,504.14	◀	
BANK				
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (13/11/2024)		24,698.14		
Less unpresented cheques				
1073	144.00			
1118	£50.00			
		-194.00		
Plus unpresented deposits				
		-		
TOTAL		24,504.14	◀	

TALLY