

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
10 MARCH 2025, 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), T Carter, D Imlach, W Renney and D Summerfield.

IN ATTENDANCE:

G C Burt, Clerk to the Council

Approximately 25 Members of the Public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Cornwell and Mrs J Jackson due to prior engagements. The apologies and reasons given was approved.

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. Questions from Visitors

The Chairman permitted several residents to comment during consideration of the next item.

4. SDNP Local Plan Review ref. land in north east Cocking for housing

- a. To consider draft objection to allocation of land at north east Cocking in SDNP Local Plan, prepared by Tony Fulwood Associates.

The Clerk gave an overview of the report which had been commissioned by the Council: whilst it was fairly easy to read, it had centre on quoting the many SDNPA and Government policies which the proposal was at variance with, particularly on the key areas of: impact upon landscape; biodiversity; nearby listed buildings and conservation area. In addition it also cited the lack of local facilities meaning the site was not sustainable plus vehicular access. Many other reasons were highlighted but the consultant had focussed on those issues with the most compelling arguments.

Several residents spoke against the plan also highlighting the impact upon dark skies, increase in traffic and lack of facilities. The Chairman reassured them that the report covered all their points.

Several amendments were suggested including: possible inclusion of successful challenge by Dedham Vale Society; making the objection executive summary at each end more *punchy!* Stressing that the chalk stream was RARE!

RESOLVED that the **OBJECTION** as amended be submitted accordingly.

- b. To note comment from Midhurst Town Council plus local resident on proposed allocation of land at Pitsham Farm. A local resident spoke against the allocation of this site although Midhurst Town Council indicated they will not object however they did have concerns about the number of houses allocated. Although the issues were slightly different at this site, **RESOLVED** that an **OBJECTION** be made, on grounds of loss of land for food production etc. Clerk to liaise with interested parties accordingly.

c. To receive any updates or new information.

Andrw Griffith MP had commended the Council on its draft objection. He would be making his own similar objection and had also written to over 100 local residents encouraging them to object.

Cllr Tim Carter volunteered, with the help of some keen local residents to collect signatures against the main allocation, to *capture* those unlikely to write. Whilst petitions were only counted as one representation, it was still a useful exercise for PR purposes etc.

5. To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.

None.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 3 February 2025, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. Clerk's Report

None

8. Planning

Comments on planning applications were **RESOLVED** as follows:

| Ref. No | Address | Details | Comment |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------|
| SDNP/25/00397/LIS | Bankside, Bell Lane, Cocking, GU29 0HU | Remove 1 no. chimney, replacement roof tiles and guttering. Repoint 1 no. chimney and roof edges. | NO OBJECTION |

9. Highways

- a. To receive Speedwatch report for January & February- **NOTED**
- b. To consider draft specification for new SIDs in the village. Subsequent to the site meeting held with WSCC which had looked at sites for SIDs, a specification had been commissioned upon which to seek quotes. **RESOLVED** that the specification be approved and tenders invited accordingly.

10. Updates on Parish Matters

- a. Playground – Cllr Imlach, concerned at the ROSPA report which seemed to want to make existing kit compliant with latest design regulations, had invited Wickstead to come and review the report on site with him; they had supplied much of the existing kit. Hopefully a reasonable pragmatic program of works could be identified and agreed.
- b. Village Hall – CDC were offering grants of £250 per parish to assist with any VE/VJ Day commemorations. Clerk to circulate details to all Cllrs in case they knew of any activities that could benefit.
- c. Annual Parish Meeting of Electors. A reminder that this would take place on Friday 21st March 7pm – Speaker Andrew Griffith. The Chairman has purchased the wine, Clerk to get apple/orange juice. Wayne Renney to give annual report from Village Hall Committee.

11. Finance

- a. Payments since last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts NOTED – Appendix A.

- b. Bank Reconciliation to 11 February 2025 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Chairman

12. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 7 April 2025 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.33pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

| INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 10 MARCH 2025 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------|---|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | | |
| | | | | Net | VAT | Gross |
| 10/03/2025 | Wilbar Associates | 1131 | SID spec/location plan | £135.00 | £22.50 | £112.50 |
| 10/03/2025 | G Burt | 1132 | Clerk salary - Feb | £270.62 | | £270.62 |
| 10/03/2025 | HMRC | 1133 | Clerk Tax - Feb | £67.60 | | £67.60 |
| 10/03/2025 | Cowdray Estate | 1134 | Hist Col Gd rent | £20.00 | | £20.00 |
| | | | Rec Field Gd Rent | £100.00 | | £100.00 |
| | | | Village Hall Gd Rent | £143.66 | | £143.66 |
| 10/03/2025 | Tony Fulwood Associates | 1135 | Planning advice SD Local Plan Review | £3,062.55 | | £3,062.55 |
| | | | | £3,799.43 | £22.50 | £3,776.93 |

APPENDIX B

| BANK RECONCILIATION | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------------------|---|--|--|
| CASHBOOK | | | | | |
| Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2024 | | £8,778.43 | | | |
| Add Total Receipts | | 33,014.68 | | | |
| Less Total Payments | | (19,692.88) | | | |
| TOTAL | | £22,100.23 | ◀ | | |
| BANK | | | | | |
| Lloyds Treasurers A/C (11/02/2025) | | 22,244.23 | | | |
| Less unrepresented cheques | | | | | |
| 1073 | 144.00 | | | | |
| | | -144.00 | | | |
| Plus unrepresented deposits | | - | | | |
| TOTAL | | 22,100.23 | ◀ | | |

TALLY