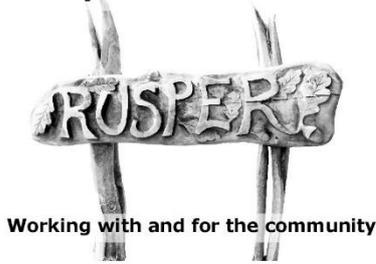


Rusper Parish Council



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MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Present: G. Hussey (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chairman) M. Cooke, M. Fillmore, R. Gatt, G. Adams, V. Bender and G. Fleming
L. Bannister (Clerk)
HDC & WSCC Cllr Kitchen
HDC Cllr Hogben
Chairman of Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions (CAGNE)
Peter Barclay, representative of Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC)
Chris Hill, representative of Rusper Sports Club
9 members of the public

1. Chairman's report

Cllr Hussey welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the councillors and staff and explained about the things that Rusper PC is responsible for. Cllr Hussey made the following points:-

- Current and past councillors and staff were thanked for their work for the community.
- The precept was increased this year by 86p per the average Band D property.
- Rusper PC has been involved in various Operation Watershed works over the year.
- A roads and transport working group has been set up to look into and improve signage in the parish, reduce traffic and speed of vehicles, and implement the ideas in the Neighbourhood Plan (Rusper Village Home Zone, pinch points and entrance gates).
- Community Speedwatch has been set up and is open to volunteers.
- A flashing speed sign has been bought and will be up in different locations soon.
- The playground has been inspected and was found to be low risk.
- After a lengthy legal battle, a new 15 year lease has been negotiated for the Recreation Ground.
- Two new notice boards have been bought.
- A new bench showing the war horse will be installed on the Recreation Ground.
- The oak bollards in the High Street have been replaced.
- Thanks were offered to the covid-19 volunteers. This hub was set up in response to the first lockdown and more than 50 volunteers came forward. They made essential deliveries to people that were isolating.
- Everyone was thanked for their efforts to collect litter from the parish, especially Mr Oickle, who regularly collects litter from every road in the parish.

2. Planning update from Cllr Sallows including Land West of Ifield and the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sallows updated as follows:-

- The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be held on 6th May, and people were encouraged to vote.

- The Plan covers the whole parish of Rusper and has been put together by a group of local people from views that were gathered from the whole of the parish at various different events.
- The key vision of the plan is to value, protect and promote the unique rural parish of Rusper by respecting its heritage, appreciating its current community, protecting its environment and being aspirational with planning in the future, ensuring that Rusper remains safe and sustainable for people, wildlife and the environment generally. The aim is to keep the rural aspect, which is the main point that people responded to.
- The Plan recognises the existing approved developments, such as Kilnwood Vale and Land North of Horsham which spill over into Rusper and provide around 800 new homes. There are also new housing sites on Rusper Road in Ifield. These have more than doubled the housing in Rusper and deliver any housing that Rusper needs.
- The biggest threat to the Plan is the Homes England proposal for the West of Ifield. The Plan details why this shouldn't go ahead, but it will need a real requirement from Horsham District Council to ensure this doesn't go ahead.
- The first phase would be to develop on the golf course which would be a sad loss of a local amenity. The plan is for initially three housing sites in and around Ifield Brook. This is a significant area that was originally set as a buffer around Crawley. Developing this now is contrary to the original ideas of Crawley New Town.
- The Government has recognised the global environmental crisis but since then seems to be doing little to ensure we retain our green countryside.
- Rusper PC has written to Horsham District Council, local councillors and MPs expressing views and explaining how the ideals of the Neighbourhood Plan countenance against the Homes England proposal.
- People can express their views clearly to Horsham District Council in the Local Plan consultation process.

3. Questions for PCSO

The PCSO was unable to attend the meeting, but any questions raised will be passed along.

4. Presentation from CAGNE

The Chairman of CAGNE gave a presentation. This can be seen at Appendix 1 below.

5. Report from/questions for County and District Cllr Liz Kitchen and District Cllr Tony Hogben

Cllr Kitchen updated on behalf of WSCC as follows:-

- WSCC has been involved with the pandemic over the past year which has taken up a huge amount of time.
- The enterprise park at the old Novartis site is now going ahead and work has started.
- The fire station at Broadbridge Heath has now been approved.
- At Broadbridge Heath a retail park will replace the depot.

Cllr Hogben updated on behalf of HDC as follows:-

- Rusper PC councillors were thanked for their work in the community.
- HDC is busy working on the Local Plan.
- Jonathan Chowen, Deputy Cabinet Minister of Leisure and Communities, has stepped down. Mr Chowen was in favour of the Rookwood development proposal.
- Cllr Hogben encouraged everyone to keep the pressure on for Land West of Ifield.
- Homes England are acting as if they already have planning permission. MP Henry Smith is against the proposal and a lot more active than MP Jeremy Quin.
- Homes England hold planning authority powers and, on paper, could override the Local Plan.
- The rest of the Local Plan is still being debated. There is a further delay as all of the councillors cannot come to an agreement on the number of sites to be included. The Buck Barn proposal is looking to be one of the more sustainable sites.
- There is pressure to build three new secondary schools.

6. Presentation from GACC

Peter Barclay from GACC presented as follows:-

- The Government will announce in early May to confirm if international travel can resume. Nobody knows the details yet of what this will entail.
- Indications are that travel in May and June will be relatively quiet.
- Mr Barclay heard at GATCOM that the airport is lobbying Government for more details as soon as possible.
- When flights resume people will really notice the noise difference, and the flights are likely to be busy; starting early and an intense arrival pattern while airlines attempt to evade the night flight restrictions.
- It's disappointing that Gatwick hasn't taken the opportunity to look at changing night flights. Last year these were proportionally higher than normal.
- People need to be encouraged to complain when flights resume as noise has a detrimental impact on people's health.
- Climate change is one of the biggest and most complex challenges of our time. It leads to temperature changes and extreme weather, food insecurity, flooding, forest fires and rising sea levels.
- Carbon dioxide has a life span which is measured in centuries which makes reducing it very challenging.
- Aviation has a policy of offsetting climate change by, for example, planting a tree.
- Aviation is almost completely dependent on fossil fuels. This makes it one of the most carbon intensive forms of travel.
- In the UK aviation is increasingly representing a larger percentage of co2 emissions, even though other forms of travel are reducing.
- Government reset their targets for carbon emissions which has included aviation and shipping for the first time.
- Mr Barclay spoke about the different types of fuels that are potentially available. These are unlikely to be available before 2050 in the quantities needed to make a significant contribution.
- Aviation needs to have a place in the net zero future.
- New technologies need to be encouraged and there needs to be proper investment in this.
- GACC began in 1968 to challenge a second runway and to ensure any development is sustainable. The airport was difficult to engage and consultation with residents was poor.
- Cllr Kitchen and Cllr Fillmore were thanked for their support to GACC at GATCOM.
- Members of the public are welcome to contact GACC with questions or concerns.

7. Update from Rusper Sports Club

Chris Hill is the newly re-elected chairman of Rusper Sports Club and explained that they have had a difficult year due to the pandemic, but in fact their membership has increased. The new lease for the ground gives more funding opportunities. They have some new committee members but are still looking to fill a couple more vacancies. They currently have 56 members, although around half of these are family memberships.

8. Questions from members of the public

The following questions/comments were made:-

Question/comment	Response
A member of the public reported that they were burgled recently. They published this on Facebook and received a large amount of support. They understand that this was not an isolated incident and they would like to find out what they can do to help.	This will be on the agenda at the next council meeting and the member of the public was invited to come along and speak to the council.
Regarding Land West of Ifield, they were upset to hear that Homes England could potentially overrule HDC. What can they do to stop this?	It was recommended that members of the public should contact their MP to ensure that Homes England do not use these powers. Cllr Hogben

	recommended stepping up any campaign against the site as these seem to have been extremely effective and organised in other areas.
There is now a campaign group against West of Ifield/East of Rusper. Rusper PC has been invited to send a liaison to their meetings. Henry Smith MP has agreed to raise the Homes England issue with Government.	Noted. It was suggested that Rusper PC get in touch with Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex. Cllr Sallows added that Rusper PC is not suggesting that the additional housing goes elsewhere in the district. In fact, they believe that the housing figures for Horsham are unfair and too high.
Out of all of the agreed new housing sites in the Horsham District, how many homes are still empty?	Cllr Kitchen doesn't have the figure for this but thinks they are not that high as the developers are not building the homes if they're not selling.
There are some signage issues in the High Street.	These will be reported and rectified.
There is an issue on a footpath by Bonwycks Lodge.	Cllr Adams will be in touch to discuss this.
Cllr Bender has read a report that says that no more secondary schools are required.	Cllr Hogben clarified that the new houses being planned for will require new schools.
Cllr Fillmore reported that the Courage Dyer Trust has substantial funds available for sporting and pleasurable activities. People are encouraged to get in touch and request funding.	

The meeting ended at 9 pm

APPENDIX 1

CAGNE PRESENTATION

2014 was a game changer for communities around Gatwick Airport. Rusper was at the heart of forming CAGNE, now the trusted umbrella aviation community and environment group.

Communities were hit hard by the introduction of concentrated flight paths, a new flight path over our area here in West Sussex, and a realisation that arrivals had changed.

Residents' voices were not being heard, we were being kept in the dark and we became aware of deals and secrets – all communities were not being consulted or informed and sadly this is still the case today.

We saw lots of noise groups formed, most far from the runway, some took legal action to ensure things were changed and we saw the biased arrival review that did not take into account parishes such Rusper

Rusper suffers 70% of multiple departure routes and all arrivals.

The new departure route, ADNID in 2014, the threat has not gone away as we see the modernisation of airspace progressing with government £5.5m handout.

First stages of modernisation of airspace involved 'Design principles'.

Due to lack of wide engagement Gatwick has removed Noise Preferential Routes from the stage 2 document. Noise Preferential Routes, the departing routes by which planes fly within, established over 40 years ago.

I quote Gatwick of last week 'over future new routes will need to be considered as a fundamental aspect of the FASI-South airspace change process. Airspace changes sponsors (Gatwick) gather views from a range of stakeholders on their 'design principles.'

'These inform how future flightpaths are designed and ensure the best balance of priorities between stakeholders.'

CAGNE is lobbying government and Gatwick to start stage 2 again as this narrow engagement stinks of lack of transparency if they go ahead with the stage 3 public consultation.

CAGNE as the environment group working with other groups welcomes the news from government of the inclusion of aviation in carbon budget, especially departures, but we need to ensure words become policy.

This development must now question Gatwick 2, G2 as it is being called. In the master plan it states that the emergency runway (G2) has to be rebuilt 12m north. G2 will fly departing planes predominantly on route 4, the

westly departing route that turns north over Holmbush towards Salfords. This route would impact new areas of Charlwood says the Master Plan.

Rusper residents and council really do need to object to Gatwick expansion plans as it will be the west that suffers the most from the 34,000 increase in air movements from G2 on top of a 40% growth of the main runway. – there is no current planning or policy that allows us to challenge this growth – the 106 agreement and noise action plan having just been agreed by Crawley and West Sussex councillors.

My calculations are over 70 planes an hour during the day plus the night flights of 11,200 during the summer months as Rusper council rightly state in their response to the government night flight consultation. Night flights carry real health impacts.

Will deals we done? Will more traffic be moved from Route 4 onto the 3 departing routes over Rusper. Will there be a new route over Rusper as in 2014 to 'share the load' as noise groups put it?

This expansion plan could make Rusper an aircraft noise ghetto, especially if they introduce new flight paths.

CAGNE is very aware of the economic downturn due to Gatwick's demise but we have lobbied elected members for years to look to sustainable jobs, a greener future so elected members do not look solely to Gatwick for employment.

Our very active environmental campaign does not seek to demonise the flyer, is not anti-aviation, but educated and puts pressure on the aviation sector to reduce carbon and find alternatives.

As a result, CAGNE have MP support as illustrated at our well attended virtual AGM this year and have had the government noise body ICCAN attend our AGM for the past 2 years as well as CAGNE being consulted by government.

CAGNE consulted widely, councils and residents over the Gatwick noise workplan and presented the results to Gatwick. Sadly, the biased forum put forward a study that they had campaigned for years to have the Secretary of State night Noise Abatement Procedures removed.

Gatwick wrote recent that this workplan proposal was, I quote - 'something that was **proposed by local communities for inclusion in the NMB Workplan**'.

I can assure you CAGNE did not support this for very good reasons nor did many councils but then they were not consulted. This night noise abatement procedure was put in place to protect communities such as Rusper.

Bringing planes into land closer to the runway creates more noise for those communities close to the runway, those that suffer multiple routes with little respite, so planes instead of gliding in with low power, they will drop wheels and flaps early to take off speed increasing noise by 3-5dB. Even with a government consultation history tells us we can expect a campaign to be launched as was the case with the arrival review.

Rusper council has already donated to the CAGNE campaign, as have other councils and residents, to oppose Gatwick expansion plans and we would urge residents to join us as we are most active.

Thanks to residents CAGNE is highly respected and trusted

Our environmental campaign is stronger than ever

You are the first to know that we have lined up international panels of experts on climate change and air quality at Gatwick, with 5 virtual talks this autumn with panellists from UCL, Imperial College, youth groups, all supported by Friends of the Earth, Campaign to Protect Rural England and Aviation Environment Federation.

CAGNE is clear in its ethos and has grown thanks to you; We thank Rusper council and residents for their continued support and membership which has enabled CAGNE to expand our committee, and engage a legal team that continues to advise us in our efforts to protect all communities and the planet from the impact of aviation.

Working with CAGNE, who works with many groups, to ensure one aim is achieved and that is what is fair for all communities and the planet.

Gatwick continues to remove jobs through automation, let's find green transport solutions for tomorrows generations, to prosper whilst protecting our planet for our children's children and reducing noise for all communities.