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Minutes of the combined Planning Committee and Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs M Cooke (Chair), G Hussey (Vice Chair), G Sallows, M Fenton, R Gatt, M Fillmore, Fenella Maitland-Smith, Simon White, D Matthews.

**Also present:** There was no members of the public.

*Meeting commenced 1901hrs*

#### 217-24 **Apologies**

It was resolved to accept apologies in advance of the meeting from County Councillor Katie Nagle, District Councillors Liz Kitchen and Tony Hogben and Cllr Gill Fleming.

#### 218-24 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr F Maitland-Smith declared that she was the Chair of the Save West of Ifield should a report on the Local Plan be made under Agenda item 6.

#### 219-24 **Climate Crisis**

The Council **acknowledged** that there is currently a climate crisis, and to ensure that all decisions made within meeting have consideration to this.

#### 220-24 **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### 221-24 **Open Forum**

No comments were made.

##### a) **DC/24/1818 Westons House Wimland Road Rusper West Sussex RH12 4QU**

Change of use for the conversion of existing barn previously used as a day nursery (F1) to residential 1no. dwellinghouse (C3) Retrospective.

It was **RESOLVED** no objection to the application as long as the annexe is kept as part of the main property and does not become a separate dwelling.

##### b) **DC/24/1787 Winterfold Farm Wimland Road Rusper West Sussex RH12 4QU**

Erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling house for equestrian workers (to replace an existing mobile home granted planning permission under ref: DC/20/0937).

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application as it an over intensification of the site, the council questions the wastewater disposal is as it is so close to the water course and there is no description

of how waste will be managed. The council would like to see a rural workers tie condition on the property.

**c) HRA/24/0019 Jacaranda Whitehall Drive Ifield Crawley West Sussex RH11 0LP**

Application under Regulation 77 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to install a swimming pool.

It was RESOLVED to object to the application as the water is not defined as being sourced outside of the Arun Valley and has been reported as possibly being used by the mains water supply. The council would expect that a similar condition as for Quincefold in Horsham Road Rusper DC/21/2363 could be applied to avoid an adverse impact on the Arun Valley SACSPA and Ramsar sites see [https://iawpa.horsham.gov.uk/PublicAccess\\_LIVE/Document/ViewDocument?id=F44B111834AA40638E3B86CCDA98ADAE](https://iawpa.horsham.gov.uk/PublicAccess_LIVE/Document/ViewDocument?id=F44B111834AA40638E3B86CCDA98ADAE)).

**7. Agree responses to planning applications received since publication of the Agenda.**

**8. Planning Appeal**

To consider planning appeal **APP/Z3825/W/24/3341965** and to agree a response.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: 27th November 2024 APP/Z3825/W/24/3341965

Horsham District Council Reference: DC/24/0036 Name of Appellant(s): William Farmer

Description of Application: Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to no 5 dwellinghouses. Site at: Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ.

It was RESOLVED to apply the objection made to DC/24/0036 to be copied to the planning inspector.

**221-24 Water Neutrality Question**

The response to correspondence to HDC regarding water neutrality was **considered** and **accepted**.

The council were grateful for the answers provided but since the halting of the Local Plan Regulation 19 the issue of water neutrality has now become confused. The inspector criticised HDC handling of water neutrality and there was only reference made to SNOWS rather than approving other opportunities that were not part of the SNOWS scheme. Therefore, projects that are providing alternatives such as bore holes have been rejected as it does not fall as part of the SNOWS scheme. The issue that has not been adequately answered is the accumulative effect of people using lots of boreholes. It was **agreed** that Cllr F Maitland-Smith will write a further response to the water neutrality answer to be issued back to HDC by the Clerk.

**222-24 Enforcements**

The council **accepted** the report issued at the meeting outlining ongoing enforcements within the parish.

**223-24 Reports from other Authorities**

The Clerk read out the report issued by District Councillor Tony Hogben.

**224-24 Rusper Sports Club Management**

An email update was emailed to councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed to make the sports club a CIO charity. The committee have been given the new proposal and are considering it. The next committee meeting is being held in the new year. All comments from the draft to be issued to Cllr Fillmore. Carry item to the next meeting.

**225-24 Gatwick**

- a) The Gatwick report movements report was **noted** and is on the website. Cllr M Fillmore received a report on night flight restrictions which is currently being reviewed.
- b) Noise Management Board of Gatwick airport as a representative Cllr Fillmore gave feedback.

- c) Noted that the Department of Transport have raised queries as part of the DCO which could mean the process is held up.

#### 226-24 **Fingerposts**

The Clerk noted that the fingerpost report and maintenance charges have been received. Item carried to next meeting.

#### 227-24 **Speed Watch 20mph**

- a) The 20mph TRO was discussed and a meeting has been arranged with WSCC Highways.
- b) It was **considered** to place 2 new solar powered SID (Speed Indication Devices) in two of the licenced locations to provide traffic information for the speed watch campaign and to slow traffic down. The council were provided with 3 quotations for SID's, 2 of which have been used by neighbouring parish councils. It was proposed to purchase 2 SID from Elan at a cost of £3999 and a contingency will be set aside of £1000 to install the signs. Clerk to provide options on different SID styles and costs. Carry to the next meeting.
- c) It was **considered** that the two locations to place the new SID would be Gardeners Green and Ghyll Manor and to leave the battery sign in Lambs Green. The council will make a recommendation at the next meeting. Carry to next meeting.

#### 228-24 **Representatives**

- a) **Police** meeting – Cllr G Hussey attended a focus group with parish councils. Shoplifting was mentioned as police now only attend cases which involve violence, Horsham has the highest risk for shoplifting. The PCSO has to wait for calls to come via a 101 report before she can attend, the meeting was made aware of this. The police will increase their precept by 3%, feedback given was that parishes prefer to employ more PCs with the extra funding.
- b) **Playground** – roof of the chatroom is being repaired and so far there has been one quote back for new play equipment.
- c) **Hedge in East Street** – a meeting was held with WSCC to discuss the hedge as it is in a conservation area. WSCC have decided that it needs to be cut and there are no other alternatives presently. Noted that the parish council had reported the pavement in front of the hedge as it needs maintenance as the path is narrow, unlevel and is causing pedestrians to create a desire path through the grass which is slippery in the winter months.

#### 229-24 **Financial**

- a) It was **resolved** to **approve** the reports as attached - Reconciliation, Budget and Unity Bank transactions for November. The finance appointed councillor signed the reconciliation, Chair signed the bank statements.
- b) It was **resolved** to **note** the Parish Action Plan and this will be updated.
- c) The council **considered** 3 tree survey quotations. All quotations were of a similar price and all companies were local to the parish. It was **proposed** to use Gale Trees to survey the trees on this occasion. It was unanimously **agreed**. It was **resolved** to appoint Gale Trees as the preferred supplier for the tree quotation.
- d) The council **noted** the updated UMS certificate and the energy supplier quote from Clear Utilities. It was discussed that the quotation did not have a standing charge, but the Kwh was slightly higher. The Clerk explained that not many companies were offering a UMS contract and the SSE contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The council **agreed** to search for a new provider during February for the March meeting. Clerk to go back to Clerk Utilities. Item carried to February 2025.
- e) The council **considered** the streetlights maintenance contract. It was **agreed** that the lights in Cooks Meadow were new LED and would need little maintenance and Cooks Mead would need upgrading to LED. The Clerk advised council that a new LED top was around £370 plus VAT per

light. It was **agreed** unanimously to not to go ahead with the maintenance contract but to add the streetlights upgrade to the parish action plan.

**230-24 Schedule of payments**

It was RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments.

**231-24 Annual Litter Pick**

It was **agreed** to be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Clerk to contact HDC to book in the pickers and bags.

**232-24 Matters Arising**

It was **agreed** to add bus shelters to the next agenda as a separate item.

*EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council have the right to exclude the public and press from a meeting in respect of confidential or sensitive information which is prejudicial to the public interest and may pass a resolution, without notice, to do so.*

**233-24 Award Contracts**

*Cllr Maitland-Smith left the meeting at 2102hrs to attend a prior arrangement.*

The Clerk received 3 tender quotes for council consideration following the advertisement of the contract which was closed on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The grass cutting contract is for a 3-year period as advertised. A report was issued prior to the meeting and displayed on the projector. The council considered each contract, looked at costs against projected budget and discussed each contract. It was **proposed** to appoint supplier C for the next 3 seasons. A vote was taken, and it was unanimously approved.

It was RESOLVED to appoint supplier C for the grass cutting tender. Clerk to issue letters to all 3 tender applicants as all three had offered a good range of options for council to consider.

**Next meeting is the planning committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.**

*Meeting closed 2109hrs*

Signed..... Date.....