

## Rusper Parish Council



Clerk to Council  
c/o Rusper Village Stores  
East street  
Rusper  
RH12 4PX

07871 340986  
clerk@rusper-pc.org.uk  
www.rusper-pc.org.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs G Hussey (Chairman), M Cooke (Vice Chairman), G Fleming, M Fillmore, R Gatt, V Hanstad-Pilcher, F Maitland-Smith, G Sallows, V Saunders

**Absent:** Cllrs G Adams, K Nagle (WSCC) and T Hogben (HDC)

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Adams and T Hogben (HDC)

### 2. Declaration of interests

Cllrs Maitland-Smith and Sallows declared interests for items to be discussed at the meeting.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### 4. Open Forum

Cllr Maitland Smith spoke about the SWOI liaison group and the proposed Landscape Assessment.

### 5. Report from Rural Police Officer (Erica Baxter)

Erica Baxter gave a report on the rural crime in Sussex and covered the four categories that make up rural crime: agriculture, equine, wildlife and heritage as well as environmental crime, which covers illegal waste dumping, fly tipping, polluting watercourses and land.

- Agricultural crime covers working farms, farm machinery, farm buildings and smallholdings. Offences include theft of equipment or fuel, damage to property and livestock worrying.
- Equine crime covers working stables and equestrian centres and includes offences like tack theft and livestock worrying.
- Wildlife crime includes hare coursing, poaching and interfering with protected species.
- Heritage crime is defined as 'any offence which harms the value of Britain's heritage assets and their settings including Night Hawking (unauthorised metal detecting).

PCSO Baxter also mentioned the successful collaboration between Sussex police and the NFU - the main outcome of this being the intelligence reports that the

police now received from the rural community; also of importance was that the public report all crimes that occur in the Parish to the police.

#### **6. Climate Emergency**

To **ACKNOWLEDGE** that there is currently a climate emergency, and to ensure that all decisions made within the meeting have consideration to this.

#### **6. Co-option of a new Councillor**

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Simon White as a Councillor of Rusper Parish Council.

*Cllr Maitland-Smith left the meeting*

#### **7. Terms of Reference for the collaboration between Rusper Parish and Save West of Ifield**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Terms of Reference Terms for the collaboration between Rusper Parish and Save West of Ifield.

#### **8. Expenditure for a Landscape Assessment.**

The £7,000 expenditure for the appointment of a landscape consultant was **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** by the majority of councillors; Homes England were to be contacted in the first instance under the Freedom of Information Act for any reports they had already received regarding the landscape on the proposed West of Ifield site.

*Cllr Maitland-Smith returned to the meeting*

#### **9. Revised Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

It was **RESOLVED** to reform the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and that the Terms of Reference would be discussed at a later meeting.

#### **10. Reports from Authorities**

Cllr Kitchen gave a brief report: the cost of living crisis was the main topic at HDC with food banks getting used more and the donations diminishing; HDC's Local Plan may be available in November with the reminder that the district council elections were in May; water neutrality remains an issue

#### **11. Reports from representatives**

Councillors updated as follows:

- Cllr Fleming cleaned and reorganised the phone box library.
- Cllrs Gatt and Saunders will be attending the North Horsham liaison meeting on 27 October when they would again raise the question of traffic calming at the Mowbray development;
- Cllr Sallows reported that the Sports field and pavilion were being used weekly and bins are now required; a deterrent was needed to prevent cars parking on the verge outside the sports field; the trees for the Queen's Canopy would be planted on 13 November; Rusper Stores were looking to have a semi-permanent large umbrella to cover the outside seating area. Rusper Stores should check with HDC concerning planning requirements as it is in the Rusper conservation area.

- Cllr Cooke reported that she had attended a Horsham District Old Peoples Forum where Cllr Jonathan Chowen spoke and a report would be circulated shortly; Cllr Cooke also attended a Climate Action Day at HDC offices and that the links to the documentation would be circulated when they had been received.
- Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher reported that: the SID would be moved on the 26 October to Faygate Lane; he was still waiting for the report from Highways who had done a survey of the Parish looking at road safety, pot holes etc. The RPC Roads Group are currently awaiting Highways input
- Cllr Hussey reported that the spring on the gate to the playground had been replaced; he also stated that he would be absent from Parish Council for a few weeks;

## 12. Clerk's report

Cllr Cooke reported that:

- there would a locum clerk for the November meeting;
- a wreath had been purchased for the Remembrance Sunday service on the 13 November;
- the Order of Services booklets had been ordered for St Mary's.

## 13. Financial

- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the report for September 2022.
- It was **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £200 to St Catherine's Hospice to acknowledge former RPC Cllr Valerie Bender

## 14. Schedule of payments

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Reason for payment	Amount due
Various	Salaries	662.32
Countrymans	Ground maintenance	352.53
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,014.85</b>

The meeting closed at 21.20pm

October 2022