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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 28th January 2025 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, District Councillor Tony Hogben.

Also present: There was 1 members of the public for part of the meeting.

Meeting commenced 1902hrs

234-25 **Apologies**

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

235-25 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

236-25 **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.

237-25 **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 17th December 2024. The Chair signed the minutes.

238-25 **Open Forum**

The prospective county councillor candidate was present and updated council on what will happen if there is a County Council election.

239-25 **Water Neutrality Question**

The second response to correspondence to HDC regarding water neutrality was **considered** and **accepted**. No further action.

240-25 **Reports from other Authorities**

District Councillor Tony Hogben reported that the Local Plan has been thrown out and that the plan was pre-inspected and has been updated in line with legal requirements. The planning inspector has not officially told HDC why the Local Plan has been stopped. 2 developers made a representation in the local plan hearings, both have come up with alternative water neutrality solutions. Duty to cooperate was questioned as there were legal objections from the neighbouring councils. Letter from HDC has been published addressing the Local Plan stating that the plan can be update within 6 months, the letter also mentions devolution.

Devolution – this was announced a week before Christmas which is a concern for HDC staff; timeline is that it will be in place in 2027/28, and there is a possibility that May elections may be cancelled. Mayoral authority election will go through before devolution of the District Council. Elections for County Council may be held off for another year. There is a plan to have a Horsham Town Council in a year, Martin Boffey has offered to talk to parish councils to see what statutory duties and assets a parish council would be willing to take on. Question was asked about merging parish councils together. There are plans to cluster the parishes together to share resources but there is no more information currently. Question was asked about where the planning authority role would sit? There was also a question regarding how to divide up the county - you need 500,000 residents per authority and Sussex is 1.5M, the split has yet to be decided, the county split has been put forward, and there is a meeting on 30th January as to how to resolve the issue. In practice. The Mayor will cover the whole unitary authority, and the parish council will consult with the mayoral authority as the district council will not exist. Planning HDC Governance will remove the north and south planning committees, and this will be changed to a new committee with skilled/professional planning committee members. This may happen as soon as May or June 2025.

Rusper Parish - The Glebe field is coming up for consideration and objections have been made to the application. Noted that Devine Homes are attending the next planning committee meeting.
The District Councillor left the meeting.

241-25 Rusper Sports Club Management

- i) The council received a copy of the proposed underlease and the sports club relationship agreement. It was noted that the underlease cannot be agreed until the CIO has been set up and must be approved by the landowners. At the meeting with the Sports Club on 27th January 2025 there were no objections to the proposal. Trustees need to be agreed but it was raised that the Trustees should not be parish councillors. It was **proposed** that the relationship agreement can be agreed via parish council but the underlease will need to go to the lawyers but there is an EMR set aside for this. It was **proposed** to adopt the relationship agreement. The vote was unanimous. It was **resolved** to adopt the sports club relationship agreement and Cllr M Fillmore will progress with its implementation.
- ii) It was **noted** that the committee had requested a cut to the pitch on 20th January 2025 and the extra cut was within budget and is reported on the schedule of payments.

The member of public left the meeting.

242-25 Gatwick

- i) Cllr M Fillmore attended a Gatwick meeting and a report is attached to the minute book. CAGNE has sent out a crowd funding link. The Gatwick expansion has still not been announced, council will report as soon as there is an update. GATCOM meeting is on 29th January 2025 and a question was tabled about expansion at other airports which may affect the Gatwick expansion.
- ii) Council **received** an update from the Noise Management Board of Gatwick representative Cllr Fillmore.

243-24 Fingerposts

- i) It was **agreed** to compile a list of fingerposts in need of professional maintenance and fingerpost to just be cleaned, each councillor will adopt a fingerpost to manage. This will be brought back to council for final quotation and payment agreement. Noted that Sherlock are willing to quote for the wooden finger posts. Carry to the next meeting.
- ii) To **consider** the quotations for restoration from 2 suppliers and make a recommendation on which fingerposts should be professionally maintained. Carry to next meeting.

244-24 WSCC Highways

- i) Council was updated on the meeting with George Fort from WSCC Highways on 7th January 2025. The TRO will be progressed with the Clerk and Cllr Simon White at a further meeting arranged by WSCC Highways. Carry to next meeting.
- ii) It was **agreed** to apply for a licence for a new salt bin in Ifield Wood. Clerk to apply for a licence.
- iii) It was **agreed** to apply for a licence for a new bollard outside The Star Pub. Clerk to apply for a licence.
- iv) It was **agreed** to place the new SIDs at the licenced locations at Gardeners Green and Ghyll Manor.
- v) It was agreed to purchase 2 SIDs from Elan City at a cost of £4999 plus carriage and Wilbar Associates to install the poles and the SIDs.
It was **resolved** for the Clerk to organise all actions.

245-25 Open Spaces Committee

- i) It was **agreed** to form a new Committee called Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces to run as a non-decision making Committee to help alleviate the amount of work in the ordinary meeting of the parish council and to give certain projects for time for consideration and detail.
- ii) It was **agreed** to meet bi-monthly and then to reconsider the frequency of the meetings as the council work through the items.
It was **resolved** that the Clerk will write terms of reference and offer some dates for the remaining year for council approval. Carry to the next meeting.

246-25 Reports from Representatives

- i) **Rusper Stores** – The Clerk met with Rusper Stores manager, the Clerk suggested the application for a tourist brown sign to help indicate that there is a shop in Rusper. The Clerk offered to go back to the shop with the grant application form and discuss how the shop can apply for a parish council grant. Noted that the front door is hopefully being replaced under an insurance claim, the CCTV cameras are in need of an upgrade and the shop air con is failing. The Clerk will go back to the shop to discuss a grant application.
- ii) **HALC report** – Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith and Cllr Ritchie Gatt attended the meeting and a report was distributed to council in advance of the meeting. Noted that Southwater PC are planning judicial review for a planning decision contrary to their made NP. Warnham PC reported unauthorised planning in Warnham which the Clerk is aware of and has shared councils objections to similar applications and put the chair in touch with Capel PC.
- iii) **80th VE Day 8th May 2025** – noted the date for VE Day. It was discussed that the May Day Committee will be consulted to ensure the road closure is in place for their event which is likely to fall on the weekend before 8th. On 8th May itself, council **agreed** to light the beacon and to arrange an event. This item is to be carried to the new Open Spaces Committee.
- iv) **Bench outside the hall** – Cllr M Fenton reported that the bench is broken outside the village hall following the road closure this week. Clerk to contact the Village Hall and arrange a report of the issue. *Since the meeting the Clerk has contacted the contractors to raise the issue directly.*
- v) **Wood delivery for Playground** - chat room in playground is in need of maintenance, the wood has arrived, the chat room is now ready to be repaired.
- vi) **Playground** – site meeting with Wicksteed and Streetscape for quotes have been completed. HAGS meeting is on 4th Feb Playdale and Sutcliffe Play are also visiting to quote. Replacement playground apparatus to be raised in the new Open Spaces committee for detailed discussion.

- vii) **WSALC Chairs meeting** – noted that items have already been covered in the meeting. Issue was devolution and the problems that it may cause and how is the debt passed along. Parishes will be asked to take on more statutory duties. Chair noted that the council may want to consider collaborating with another parish council to use their office space. Displaced district councillors will want to be parish councillors. Lithium battery recycling have been approved at a site in Sussex. A question was raised about Planning appeals and if there is an appeal who will underwrite the costs of that, during the meeting.
- viii) **The tree quotes for the sports field** – a document was distributed to council at the meeting and a quotation for the trees in the sports field to be maintained was included. It was **agreed** that the work in principle was in adherence to both leases. Carry to next meeting.

247-25 **TPO/1579 Wooded Roadside Strip to the East of 10 East Street Rusper**

The TPO to protect the remaining trees along East Street was considered. It was **resolved** to support the TPO application.

248-25 **Financial**

- i) It was **resolved** to **approve** the reports as attached - Reconciliation, Budget and Unity Bank transactions for December. The finance appointed councillor signed the reconciliation, Chair signed the bank statements.
- ii) It was **resolved** to **note** the Parish Action Plan and this will be updated with the SID, Tree and Playground figures.
- iii) It was noted that the **Tree Survey** will occur on 25th February 2025.
- iv) The **CIL and S106** reports were noted.
- v) The **proposed** EMR was noted. Carry to the next meeting for resolution.
- vi) It was **noted** that the Clerk has issued the Precept request to HDC on 8th January 2025.
- vii) It was **noted** that the award of Grasscutting contract to Grasstex, Clerk has published on websites to adhere to Procurement legislation.
- viii) The contract for Grasstex was **considered** and it was proposed to send this contract to Grasstex for signature. It was **resolved** to approve the grass cutting contract which will be sent to Grasstex by the Clerk.

249-24 **Schedule of payments**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

250-24 **Matters Arising**

It was **agreed** to add bus shelters, post for Ifield Wood, TPO on remaining trees close to potential development sites, Leases and Terms of Refences for the Open Spaces Committee will be included on the next agenda.

Next meeting is the planning committee meeting on 18th February 2025.

Meeting closed 2058hrs

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