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Minutes of the combined Planning and Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** M Cooke (Chair), Cllrs G Hussey (Vice Chair), , G Fleming, G Sallows, M Fillmore, F Maitland-Smith, R Gatt, S White, District Councillor Liz Kitchen, District Councillor Tony Hogben, District Councillor Liz Kitchen.

**Also present:** There were 2 members of the public.

*Meeting commenced 1900hrs*

#### 30-24 **Apologies**

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr G Adams and County Councillor Katie Nagel.

#### 31-24 **Declaration of Interests**

Members were reminded to make any declarations of a personal and/or pecuniary interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. Cllr Fenella-Maitland Smith declared in interest in Agenda item as Chair of SWOI. Cllr M Fillmore is a Trustee at Courage Dyers.

#### 32-24 **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.

#### 33-24 **Minutes of previous meeting**

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the previous combined Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and the Extra Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### 34-24 **Open Forum**

Noted the hedge cutting in Rusper Road had also cut through a post which needs to be replaced.

#### 35-24 **Reports from other Authorities**

District Councillor T Hogben – Kingsfold have put in planning applications with water taken from Dorking as their supply, Thakeham Homes at Buck Barn have also put in planning applications and are proposing building 2 reservoirs to supply water. The Council has applied to make some of Rusper greenbelt again but no mention of this within the Local Plan. There are two by-elections: Southwater and Henfield. Henfield's election arose following the passing of its Councillor. . Council tax is going up as previously reported. Horsham Town Centre may try to form a Parish Council. Car Parking going up in price, green bin waste increasing as well as parking season tickets. Money is going to the refurbishment of Capitol Theatre. Adur and Worthing claimed a £3M Government Grant for their theatre but Horsham have not applied for a Grant to help towards the Capitol refurbishment. "Asset of Community Value" has been put on the building to limit future

development. The glass at the front is not environmentally friendly, the theatre is in good order, but the seats do need refurbishment.

District Councillor Liz Kitchen – feedback from the Planning advisory meeting – there were 600 representations on the Local Plan and 57 have come from west of Ifield, so far. Not many Parishes have responded yet. It is proposed that HDC Planning Committees have a major and minor Committee rather than North and South. This idea is at the beginning stages but the District Councillor will keep the Parish Council up to date.

Question - is it legal to have no elected representatives on the Committee? Yes, it is legal. 95% of Councils do it this way.

Noted that the roads within the Parish are in a terrible state and have been reported to WSCC Highways.

### 36-24 Active Planning Applications

*Cllr G Sallows Chair of Planning chaired this section of the meeting.*

It was **noted** that a resolution was passed to use the phrase as part of all planning responses: *“In the event that the officers are minded to propose the acceptance of this application, Rusper Parish Council would ask for it to go to full committee and that the Parish Council is allowed to speak to their objections at the meeting.”*

- a) The Council **agreed** to meet Stonebond at Rusper Village Hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4pm prior to the public consultation re Millfields Development. **Action** Clerk to arrange.
- b) DC/24/0237 Barn South East of Normans East Street Rusper Horsham West Sussex RH12 4RD
- c) Prior Notification for Change of Use of an Agricultural Building to a single dwelling house.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application. No details for access to site, no description of curtilage, no water neutrality, not enough details of the applications to make a decision on the application.

- d) DC/24/0236 Normans East Street Rusper West Sussex RH12 4RD  
Conversion of existing triple car port to ancillary residential accommodation.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application. No details for access to site, no description of curtilage, the Council do not feel there is not enough information to make a decision.

- a) The Council **considered** the signage for the North Horsham Development. The Council were shown examples of signs for the access points. It was **agreed** to use the gated sign as they have in Yelling. Signage to include wording. Rusper on top and with underneath *Protect this Rural Area* to be situated as close to the roundabout as possible. Action Cllr Gatt to go back to the developer with the choice.



- b) **Noted** the minutes following Six Acre View site visit as provided by the applicant. Feedback from Council was that HDC have created the situation, and it should not be allowed to continue where there are dwellings amongst agricultural areas which are currently not desirable but in a rural location. The Council discussed options to move the equestrian area and tidying up the site prior to the Parish Council considering the application.

37-24 **Agree** responses to planning applications received since publication of the agenda. None.

#### 38-24 **Enforcements**

- a) Update on enforcements – carried to next meeting.

#### 39-24 **Reports from Representatives**

- a) **Cllr G Fleming** – clearing the phone box of mouldy books.
- b) **Cllr S White** – new battery for the SID received. Cllr White to chase WSCC Highways on an update on actions.
- c) **Cllr M Fillmore** – Sussex Local Nature Recovery strategies. There is Environment Act 2021 Nature Recovery Strategy to reverse decline in species. Cllr Fillmore – to send all information around to protect the areas within the Parishes.
- d) **Cllr G Hussey** – Information Counter Terrorism Security Unit for briefings from Feb to April. No specific threat to Councillors now but there could be in the future. There are localised briefings which Cllr Hussey will be attending on behalf of the Council and feeding back. It is security advice. Noted the local PCSO is still in training. Noted vehicle damage to The Star pub by an HGV. Evidence is being gathered via CCTV. Noted Rusper Stores was burgled twice but had no feedback from the Police, blood samples have been taken and they have identified the person responsible.
- e) **Cllr M Cooke** – dead tree in Parish Car Park has been removed.
- f) **Cllr G Sallows** – Rusper Sports Recreation is fully booked and cannot take anymore football clubs. Still waiting for the work to start for the second court. School is using it for rugby seconds and is getting utilised as much as it can be.

#### 40-24 **Clerk Update**

- a) **Parking behind Rusper Stores** – a member of the public made an enquiry for signage to stop vehicles blocking private driveways when using the shop. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council cannot pay for signage. Clerk to advise homeowner to look at their lease and access rights.
- b) **BBC report** - noted following Rusper Parish Council extra meeting on the Local Plan, SWOI group have sent images to the BBC for use on an article on their website.
- c) **Streetlights** – Council to **consider** the quotation for repair of light in Cooks Mead. It was **considered** whether to go for like for like lights or to replace all lights with the new lights. It was **proposed** to replace the lighting with an alternative lighting in the area subject to a neighbour consultation. It was **agreed** that Cllr M Fenton to go ahead with the project and report back at the next meeting. **Action** Chair to speak to Cllr Fenton after the meeting.
- d) **Reports to authorities** – reported **noted**.
- e) **Car Park** – Council to consider request to use the Car Park for the Church works, it was **agreed** that the Church can use parking space size area in the Car Park which is to the side and out of the way of users as long as it is tidy and properly marked in accordance to highways standards at the Church's own risk.

#### 41-24 Local Plan

- a) It was **proposed** to submit the response to the Local Plan Regulation 19 which was distributed to Council in advance of the meeting and can be found on the Parish Council website. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr G Sallows would submit the response on behalf of the Clerk. Noted Homes England are arguing that the Tennis Court and football pitches are sufficient to replace the current golf course. Website does require to submit responses via Policy. The objections will be emailed to planning but it will be against HA2 and main document HA15 online. The 2 Rusper specific policies to include 6 documents which will go with the response.
- b) It was agreed to **adopt** Landscape Policy to be included within the response as agreed. **Noted** that the Biodiversity Myth document is to be included within the submission and was also been **adopted** by Council.
- c) **Noted** the issues raised by members of the public regarding the HDC Local Plan Regulation 19 Consultation response website and its failure to load properly to allow members of the public to comment.
- d) It was **agreed** to send a thank you letter to Cllr John Milne. **Action** Clerk to send.

#### 42-24 Rusper Sports Club Management

- a) An **update** on the tenure for the current Sports Club – item carried.
- b) It was **agreed** to send the grant application for Courage Dyers for the maintenance works to the existing tennis court. Noted one abstention Cllr M Fillmore.

#### 43-24 CAGNE/GATWICK

- a) **Noted** the Gatwick report is on the website. Update given on meeting with Jeremy Quin MP by Cllr Fillmore. Cllr Fillmore will give an 8-minute presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024; wording was **agreed** by the Council. Feedback to be given at next meeting.

#### 44-24 NPSG

Feedback from the last meeting – Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith – the group has not met since the last Council meeting, but several individuals have done huge amount of work on the Local Plan response and the Council extends their thanks to the residents. Noted that future NPSG meetings are to be held in the Village Hall after the planning committee meeting.

#### 45-24 Emergency Planning

It was **RESOLVED** that the website page was **approved** and the webpage to address emergency planning information is now to be published. Action Chair to double check the wording of 'medical support'.

#### 46-24 Playground Inspection Report

It was **RESOLVED** to **adopt** the report and it was **agreed** the playground needs some attention particularly the slide and the bench. It was **proposed** to find quotations to replace the playground equipment, playground users to also be consulted. It was **agreed** that Cllr G Hussey will feedback at the next meeting. Item carried. Noted Gatwick Airport Community Trust has funding available if proposal to be put forward by 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was **agreed** that the slates on the bench are to be purchased for maintenance purposes.

#### 47-24 Annual Litter Pick

It was **agreed** to hold a Community Litter Pick again this year. It was **proposed** to hold next litter pick on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 10am. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the 2024 litter pick on 24<sup>th</sup> March 10am and to meet at the Recreation Ground as in previous years.

48-24 **Streetlights**

Item agreed under Clerks report.

49-24 **Financial**

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the report, including the bank reconciliation.
- (b) It was **agreed** to send out tender documents to ask for grass cutting quotations. Carry to next meeting for approval of quotation.
- (c) The Council **noted** that the Precept band D advice from HDC.
- (d) It was **noted** that the Village Hall has increased its room hire rates slightly, the Council notes the rates are higher than neighbouring Village Halls.

50-24 **Schedule of payments**

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

**Next meeting is Planning Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and Full Council meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 commencing at 7pm.**

*Meeting closes 2115hrs*

*Signed..... Date.....*