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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

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

Also present: There were 2 members of the public.

Meeting commenced 1900hrs

51-24 **Apologies**

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

52-24 **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. None were declared.

53-24 **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.

54-24 **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the previous combined Council meeting held on 27th February 2024.

55-24 **Open Forum**

56-24 **Reports from other Authorities**

District Councillor Tony Hogben – food waste being mandated and soon there will be food waste collections from all Horsham residential properties. This is still in the process of being organised and further information will be announced later in the year. The Drill Hall has been sold/donated to the Lifespring Church but it will continue to be used for community use and will be run under the Lifespring Church within the current covenants; it will remain a community asset. There is nothing to report within Rusper but nearby Kilnwood Vale is experiencing disturbance from the new 24 hours bus service and manholes not fixed properly in the roads; there is also a problem with streetlights – these problems arising as the roads had not yet been adopted by WSCC.

District Councillor Liz Kitchen – noted that the Rusper Parish Litter pick was hugely impressive. A question was asked about the woods in Capel Road and what is happening after the trees were cut down. Noted that the Forestry Commission had been in attendance on the site but there was no further information.

57-24 Reports from representatives

Cllr Marion Fenton – Cooks Meadow streetlighting. 2 lights not working 1 is faulty. Residents do want the streetlights repaired rather than dark skies. Action: Cllr Fenton to ask the residents if they want a replacement light on the broken light or new street lights to the new design as reported at the previous meeting. This item is to be carried to the next meeting.

Cllr Malcolm Fillmore – Gatwick - night Noise Consultation is due by the end of May. There are 2 reports further reports due on medical effects of night noise and particulates. Gatwick have announced their annual profits.

Cllr Simon White – still in touch with James Strachen WSCC Highways with regard to traffic calming in the Village. Further reports at the next meeting.

Cllr Ritchie Gatt – Village Hall meeting date has been moved to a Monday. Proposed changes to the Village Hall access, toilets, heating, decoration, including new curtains. Noted a community fund at Gatwick is available for the Village Hall if they require more funding. There was an Incinerator meeting the only significant feedback was that the contract for operations to commence has not yet been signed.

Cllr Geoff Hussey – Operation Watershed is delayed due to the bad weather but s expected to commence soon. There is no news on the new PCSO for the area. Noted PCSO Erica Baxter is just for rural concerns such as farms and wildlife.

Cllr Michelle Cooke – Horsham District Old Peoples Forum – it was reported that there were community pharmacy problems due lack of funding and access to prescription is becoming a problem; this is under constant review by the NHS (Integrated Care System) and Health England. Meals on Wheels was also discussed with a taste test at the next meeting - all run by WSCC. Village Agent – the appointment is going ahead with interviews to appoint a new person to the role.

58-24 Annual Parish Meeting 25th April 2024.

The Council considered the agenda. It was **agreed** to include SWOI - Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith to arrange, Rural Crime officer Erica Baxter and the new PCSO - Cllr G Hussey to arrange; M Fenton Dancing – Cllr M Fenton to arrange, Gatwick Expansion - Cllr M Fillmore to be covered by the Councillor himself if he cannot persuade a guest speaker, Sports Club - Cllr G Sallows to update as he is also the Chairman of the Committee. Carry to next meeting.

59-24 Streetlights – Cooks Meade

This item was covered in the reports from representatives but is to be carried to next meeting.

60-24 Rusper Sports Club Management

- a) It was **agreed** the **update** on the tenure for the current Sports Club is to be carried to the next meeting.
- b) Noted that the contractor for the Tennis Court refurbishment wants stage payments but this is to be discussed at Sports Club Committee meetings for recommendation to Council at the next meeting.
- c) Noted that Courage Dyers Grant application will be considered at their next meeting which is likely to be around 11th April, this item is to be carried to the next meeting.

61-24 CAGNE/GATWICK

The Council received the report from Cllr Malcolm Fillmore which is also available on the website under the dedicated Gatwick page. Noted Clerk to upload the other reports issued.

62-24 NPSG

Noted that the NPSG is not meeting until there is more progress on the Horsham Local plan.

63-24 **Playground Inspection Report**

At the last meeting it was agreed that the playground equipment could be looked into for replacement. 4 brochures had been received with replacement equipment quotations. Due to the higher than expected costs, Cllr G Hussey will look into maintaining what equipment that is there and how costs can be kept down, this item is to be carried to the next meeting.

64-24 **Annual Litter Pick**

The annual litter pick was held on 24th March 2024, 180 bags were collected along with WSCC signage and other larger items. The Council thanks the residents for their support. It was agreed that in future decision on the date will need to be made 2 months ahead of the pick so that an advert can be put into the magazine within the deadline.

65-24 **Financial**

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the report, including the bank reconciliation.
- (b) The Council considered the 3 tenders received for the grass cutting contract in the Village. It was **proposed** to appoint contractor C on a year contract; the proposal was seconded and there was a unanimous vote.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint contractor C, Clerk to arrange a meeting with Contractor C to make the necessary arrangements along with Chair, Vice Chairman and Cllr G Sallows.
- (c) Noted that the Internal Audit date Mulberry and Co is 25th April 2024, 12 noon.
- (d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve **the** rental payment on the Rusper Recreation Ground in accordance with the lease of £1925.00 due 1st April 2024.
- (e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of a new Parish Council laptop with an agreed spend £1000.

66-24 **Schedule of payments**

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

Next meetings are the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April at 7.30pm and the Combined Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 30th April 2024 commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closes 2029hrs

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