

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 21st July 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr O Hydes OBE (Chairman), Cllr N Bryant (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Assassi, Cllr J Chaytor, Cllr D Harber, Cllr W Ingram and Cllr C Kenny.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Hall (Parish Clerk), District Councillor Toni Bradnum, Steve Douglas (WSCC Highways) and seven members of the public.

- 065-21/22 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS AND RULES FOR THE SAFE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING**
The Chairman welcomed the Councillors, members of the public and Steve Douglas to the meeting. Steve Douglas was invited to attend to provide professional advice on agenda item 072-21/22, Safety outside St Andrew's School. The Chairman explained the rules which needed to be followed to keep everyone as safe as possible during phase 3 of the Covid pandemic.
- 066-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the apologies for absence from Cllr R Cato, Cllr J Mercer and County Councillor Nigel Jupp. Cllr J Bromley and Cllr T Nelson were absent, subsequently apologies were received from Cllr J Bromley and Cllr T Nelson.
- 067-21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.
- 068-21/22 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
It was **RESOLVED** the [Minutes](#) of the Full Council meeting held on **23rd June 2021** be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. (Vote – seven members approved the contents of the minutes; Cllr R Cato did not approve 063-21/22).
- 069-21/22 CLERKS STATEMENT**
Statement on the Complaint lodged against Cllr R Cato.
“At the end of the June meeting, Cllr Cato asked me to make a Statement about the Complaint against him. However, as the Monitoring Officer has not fully dealt with all matters connected with the complaint against Councillor Cato, I am not in a position to say anything further.”
- 070-21/21 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
“It was disappointing that HDC’s Cabinet voted to keep the massive development at Buck Barn, including a 50-acre industrial complex, in the draft Local Plan.

There were no announcements about the numerical result of the Cabinet vote, just that the motion has been “carried”. And, I do not know whether this motion was “whipped” or not.

So, what comes next? This draft Local Plan will be voted on by all forty-odd District Councillors on the 28 July. Once again, I think the Parish Council should attend this HDC meeting, ask a question and try to influence the decision.

The line I suggest we take is this and it's because all the very sound planning arguments that have been put forward to date by us, as well as by others, have all been rubbished or ignored by the planners who advise the District Councillors. So, the suggestion is that we say something along the lines that, the consequences of a brand new town at Buck Barn will be immense. We know that our communities are thoroughly opposed to this version of the Local Plan. This is simply not the way to plan a whole new town. And then we ask District Councillors to vote for NO PLAN rather than this version. The consequences of NO PLAN can hardly be worse than having this version and may even be better.

If District Councillors approve the draft Local Plan on the 28 July, it must go out for Local Consultation. This will probably be in September for a six week period and once again, we need local residents to be very pro-active and "roar" their opposition because every single comment will go before the Independent Examiner who makes the final decision.

I feel the Parish Council must give a strong lead in challenging what many of us believe is a very flawed Local Plan."

Cllr C Kenny commented that there was no evidence that more industrial units were required and something needed to be done about improving the medical facilities in Horsham District.

071-21/22

PUBLIC SESSION

A Nuthurst resident commented that she was pleased to see the report on safety outside St Andrew's School. Sensible options were being considered and it provided a good capture of situation. However, there were additional issues which needed addressing;

- Dangerous manoeuvring of vehicles in Harriots Close, exacerbated by parking in Harriots Close
- Vehicle's parking in the turning circle
- Only one bus now bringing/collecting children from school has caused number of cars to explode, can WSCC be asked about re-instating the second bus?

A Maplehurst resident commented on a matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting, item 044-21/22 Clerk's Statement.

"I am 'surprised and somewhat dismayed' to learn that complaints had been made about the Chairman of the Parish Council for breach of conduct, generally arising from sites in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Having worked very closely with the Chairman in the making of the Neighbourhood Plan I can only say that your approach throughout was fastidious at all times.

You will recall that I too was the subject of a complaint from a Mannings Heath resident seeking to have me removed from the plan. When this manipulation failed a Mannings Heath action group then tried to take the plan away from the Parish Council and have it executed by a consultant, who stated he could 'knock it out' within a matter of weeks. This would of course have been a fundamental breach of the Statutory Code of Practice and would have resulted in the instant dismissal of the plan.

We are now told that a very small group of Mannings Heath residents are still unhappy with the way the Parish Council conducts its business. It would be helpful to me, if any of these

residents could speak at this meeting, in the public forum, so that those of us who are happy with the way things are run understand why some are so unhappy.

To my mind a very large number of residents are content with the way the Parish Council conducts its business and some are very grateful that we've got such a dedicated and committed collection of volunteers to carry out this onerous task.

Under your stewardship, ably assisted by a very professional and competent Parish Clerk, Vice Chairman and all Councillors, this Parish Council conducts its business in an exemplary manor and is an example to other parishes."

The Chairman thanked the resident for his comments.

072-21/22

SAFETY OUTSIDE ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, NUTHURST

The Chairman opened the discussion on safety outside St Andrew's School with the following statement;

The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk held a small, focused meeting with Steve Douglas from WSCC Highways outside the School one morning between 7.30 and 9.15am. We observed what happened and listened to his advice about possible safety measures. You will have read in the circulated Report that Mr. Douglas felt that speeding was not a significant issue ... but that parking outside the School, Church and in Harriots Close was causing some very dangerous situations.

Additionally, we observed:

- *that the many safety markings on the road surface were worn out*
- *that the pavement did not extend far enough beyond the church gateway*
- *that there was no disabled parking for one pupil*
- *that it was impossible to see what traffic was travelling along Nuthurst Road whilst exiting out of Harriots Close because of the parking*
- *that few people were parking in Architectural Plants*

You will see from the Report that Mr. Douglas is recommending a School Safety Zone with a 20mph advisory speed limit as the best way forward because it can address the full range of issues outside the school.

Additionally, I can report to you that the Clerk, Vice Chair and myself met with the School's Chair of Governors. The school supports an application for a School Safety Zone but would like the PC to take the lead.

The school is the main stakeholder, but local people living in Nuthurst are also stakeholders.

Cllr J Chaytor commented that very few residents in Nuthurst were aware of the proposal to erect SIDs in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The issues at drop off and pick up time continue with the school have not always being supportive of residents' concerns. Cllr J Chaytor stated that she was very pleased with the contents of the report.

Questions for Mr Douglas

- 1) Cllr J Assassi commented that her children attend St Andrew's and usually catch the daily bus, which provides an excellent service. Today she had to collect her daughter

from school and it was an absolute nightmare, speeding was not the problem it was the parked cars.

Reply

Parking is an incredibly common problem outside primary schools. The problem is with driver behaviour and WSCC options are limited. It is illegal to park within 12 metres of a junction, this is enforceable by the Police but they do not get involved with parking issues. HDC could be asked to attend, but they have limited resources and drivers would continue to ignore the parking restrictions.

Could suggest putting parking restrictions in the turning circle but the restrictions would also apply to the residents.

The parking is so hazardous that it reduces the speed of motorists. More concerned about parking than speeding, 2014 data shows that the average speed is under the speed limit.

- 2) Cllr N Bryant commented that it would help if the red areas and slow signs were re-instated in the highway. The parking issues will never be resolved because people will always park illegally. The chaos slows down the traffic.

Reply

Report the faded road markings on the Lovewestsussex website, quickest and most efficient way to report a problem on the highway. There is a legal obligation to address the issue.

- 3) Cllr J Chaytor commented that a few years ago Architectural Plants offered the use of one of their car parks to the teachers and that this would have helped considerably. A report later suggested that the teachers were reluctant to use the carpark.

Reply

WSCC are in a difficult position, if there are no parking restrictions people can park anywhere. Would be nervous compelling the teachers to park where there is no footpath and no lights. There could be liability issues.

- 4) Cllr W Ingram commented that there were no disabled parking facilities, these should be available for pupils, parents and visitors.

Reply

There are two sorts of disabled parking bays, advisory bays can be effective but there is no legal comeback. A TRO backs up highway restrictions but needs legal authority for a disabled parking bay to be constructed.

The entrance to the school cannot be used, this should always be clear for emergency access.

- 5) Cllr R Cato forwarded a question to be read out in his absence *“I have had several conversations with Steve Douglas and always found him to be most supportive of the scheme the Parish Community Group proposed. Does he still support this scheme and if anything has changed his mind?”*

Reply

WSCC Highways only look at issuing a licence to the Parish Council for the maintenance of SIDs and only look at the application from a safety perspective. As a WSCC Officer I do not support or not support the installation of SIDs. I'm of the

personal view that I do not think the installation of SIDs would be good value for money as there does not appear to be a speeding issue. If SIDs are well placed and there is a speed issue they can be effective.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following actions:

- i) Submit an application for a School Safety Zone with an advisory 20 mph speed limit before the 31 July deadline, on the understanding that other safety measures can be added to it at a later date.
- ii) To discuss at a later date the contribution the Parish Council could make towards the funding of a School Safety Zone.
- iii) The Clerk will report the faded road markings outside St Andrew’s School on the Lovewestsussex website.

Cllr C Kenny left the meeting at 8.20pm

073-21/22 COMMITTEE MINUTES / REPORTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes approved by the following Committee be **ADOPTED**.

[Open Spaces and General Maintenance Committee](#) – 27th January 2021

[Planning Committee](#) – 17th February 2021

[Roads and Footpath Committee](#) – 17th March 2021

074-21/22 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

District Councillor Toni Bradnum provided an update on District Council business:

- Cabinet members voted unanimously in support of the draft Local Plan this will go to Council on 28th July 2021
- All Councillors must have a negative lateral flow test if they wish to attend the Council meeting on 28th July 2021
- The Local Plan does not just affect Buck Barn, large developments are also proposed in Ifield
- A Wellbeing drop-in centre has opened in Swan Walk for young people and carers
- Footpath 1802 is completely overgrown and has been reported to WSCC PROW
- Food waste trials will start in the new year
- The recycling of small electricals and textiles has been a huge success
- A ‘pop up shop’ for soft and hard furnishings, in good condition, will be trialed in the Hop Oast Park and Ride car park

Cllr N Bryant commented that he was disgusted by the behaviour of some of the Cabinet Members. They had indicated that they would not support the Buck Barn proposal, however, the vote was unanimous.

Cllr C Kenny returned to the meeting at 8.25pm

075-21/22 PLANNING MATTERS

i. New Applications

Comments to Horsham District Council (HDC) on current planning applications were unanimously agreed.

Number	Applicant & Reason
DC/21/1103 13.05.2021	Erection of a front porch extension and single storey and first floor rear extensions. Mickle Cottage, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst

RESOLVED	The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application for extensions to the property because the extensions are not over-development of the site, do not affect the amenities of neighbouring properties and they comply with the Parish Design statement regarding matching materials
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- ii. **DECISIONS** – It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the [decisions](#) of HDC Planning, HDC Enforcement Numbers and the Planning Inspectorates appeals.
- iii. **RE-INSTATEMENT OF FOOTPATH 1806 (WINTHRIFT, NUTHURST STREET)**
County Councillor Nigel Jupp was looking into the matter, there has been no update, the Clerk will chase up.
- iv. **PLANNING UPDATES**
It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE**;
Hawthorns, Bar Lane
Whilst in the vicinity on Friday 16th July 2021 an Enforcement Officer was going to visit the site. There has been no update from the visit.

076-21/22

FINANCE

- i) It was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of invoices totalling **£2,595.87** be **APPROVED** for payment.

Cheque/Ref	Payee Name	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Direct Debit 16 July	SSE Energy (June)	Unmetered Electricity Supply	122.56	6.12	128.68
S/Order 1 July 2021	Profitable Website	Website/Email Support (June 2021)	30.00	0	30.00
002136	S Hall (Clerk)	Expenses	98.17	0	98.17
002137	WSCC	Clerks Salary June (Inv 8001544152)	1,546.88	0	1,546.88
002138	Copsale Hall	Hall Hire 8 July 2021	22.50	0	22.50
002139	Process Matters	Data Protection Officer 2021/22 (inv MAC/NPC1/21)	150.00	0	150.00
002140	Mannings Heath Village Hall	Hall Hire 23 June 2021	23.00	0	23.00
002141	Netcom IT	Microsoft 365 Business Essentials 10 x £4.80 21/06/21 – 12/11/21	227.20	45.44	272.64
002141	Netcom IT	Commission & Installation of Sharepoint	260.00	52.00	312.00
D/D 30 July 2021	Nat West	Bank Charges March	12.00	0	12.00
Total			2,492.31	103.56	2,595.87

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the receipts in May 2021 totalling **£1,425.37**

Payment Method	Payer Name	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
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FPI	Nat West	Interest April 2021	0.70	0	0.70
FPI	HMRC	VAT Reclaim	1,153.50	0	1,153.50
FPI	Heartbeat	Interest May 2021	271.17	0	271.17
Grand Total			1,425.37	0	1,425.37

- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Nat West [current](#) and [savings](#) account bank reconciliation for May.
- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the [Detailed Receipts and Payments](#) for May 21
- v) It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the VAT reclaim of £1,153.50 has been received from HMRC.

077-21/22

LOCAL ASSOCIATION, OTHER BODIES AND TRAINING REPORTS

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** Cllr O Hydes attended the WSALC Chairman's forum on 14th July 2021. There were three main issues to report from the forum:

- Difficulty recruiting Clerk's and no longer enough to fill the demand
- Some Parish Councils experiencing difficulties with HDC supporting Neighbourhood Plans. Survey to be carried out by WSALC.
- Some Parish Councils experiencing difficulties with Southern Water, they are not addressing issues with sewage. Survey to be carried out WSALC.

078-21/22

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ROADS AND FOOTPATH COMMITTEE MEETING

To **approve** the **recommendations** from the [Roads and Footpath Committee meeting](#) held on 8th July 2021:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following projects being included in the Parish Plan;

- i) Facilitate Safer Crossing of the A281
- ii) Reduce Speed Limits in some areas across the Parish (suggested roads for reduced speed limits in the hamlets Copsale Road, Sedgwick Lane, Polecat Lane and Broadwater Lane)

079-21/22

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OPEN SPACES & GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

To **approve** the **recommendation** from the [Open Spaces and General Maintenance Committee Meeting](#) held on 8th July 2021;

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following projects being included in the Parish Plan;

- i) A project to carry out a renovation of the children's play area
- ii) A project to provide some outdoor facilities for teenagers and adults and to list and signpost other provision available in the community.
- iii) A plan to request from HDC permission for the Parish Council to designate use of the field behind Woodlands Walk and, thereafter, to outline ways to keep the character and current uses of the field and encourage enjoyment of the space by the community e.g., undertaking a project to support Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee project (Treebilee) by planting a number of trees on the field and the provision of a picnic area.

Standing Orders suspended at 8.40pm

A member of the public advised that the field behind Woodlands Walk has been used a number of times in recent years for emergency helicopter landings.

Standing Orders resumed at 8.41pm

080-21/22 OPEN SPACES IN THE PARISH

i) Children’s Play Area

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the content of the [June report](#) on the children’s play area. Issues raised in the report:

- Fence needs to be repaired – Cllr N Bryant to assess
- Wet pour lifting around the slide and on the edges – Clerk to get quotations

ii) Triangle of land outside the `old' Village Store

Cllr W Ingram proposed that a Cornus Norman Hadden AGM and a Mountain Ash/Rowan could be planted on the land.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE**:

- The planting of a Cornus Norman Hadden AGM and a Mountain Ash/Rowan
- The owners of the old village store to be consulted re the species and location of the trees
- Maximum budget £ 200.00
- The Clerk to apply to WSCC Highways for a licence

iii) FunFest 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that due to bad weather the Funfest had been postponed to 25th July. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be representing the Parish Council at the event.

iv) Nuthurst Cricket Club

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the names on the Land Registry Title Deed have been updated for the Cricket Club lease, Mr K Barnes has been replaced by Mr J Willis.

081-21/22 COUNCILLOR INFORMATION ON THE PARISH COUNCIL’S WEBSITE

It was **RESOLVED** to **INCLUDE** a gallery of the Councillors on the Parish Councils website; the photographs will be taken at the September meeting.

082-21/22 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** quarterly surgeries on a trial basis. The surgeries will be held on a Saturday morning and be attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Clerk and Councillors.

083-21/22 AUGUST 2021 MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to not hold a meeting in August 2021.

084-21/22 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA - None

085-21/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the next meeting will be held on 15th September 2021 in Mannings Heath Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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Chairman of the meeting

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Date