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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at Copsale Hall on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs D Cotton (Chairman), Cllr C Kenny (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Catterall, Cllr W Bayley, Cllr K McGovern, Cllr S Newell.

Also Present: County Councillor Nigel Jupp, District Councillor Dennis Livingstone.

Apologies: Cllr V Court

Clerk: Lisa Wilcock

There were 15 members of the public.

Meeting commenced 1930hrs

496-24/25 **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was RESOLVED to NOTE that apologies for absence were received from Cllr V Court

497-24/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was RESOLVED to NOTE that no declarations of interest were made, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct.

498-24/25 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A lot of meetings going on at the currently including with HDC, Monks Gate association and a meeting with Lower Beeding Parish Council in connection with the TRO Speed Watch campaign application. Chairman will not be around from 18th February 2025 and will be away for one month. Apologies were given for the council meetings during that time. Chairman wished the meeting a Happy New Year.

499-24/25 **PUBLIC SESSION**

MOP spoke about the proposed shared warden scheme. Noted that any meetings on this should be made public, the idea of a warden came up in the past and was thought unnecessary due to cost and the parish council has rejected the idea in the past.

MOP Winterpit Close resident raised concerns about the Local Plan Regulation 19. The MOP wrote to the district council on 2nd Jan. Noted that there is high importance of the housing plan to the entire district, and it was requested that the council adopt the Local Plan as an agenda item going forward. HDC Barbara Childs reported that on the 3rd day of the 4-week hearings the Government announced a pause in proceedings, but no feedback had been shared with HDC. The agreed targets are sustainable, and the likely outcome of the delay is more housing which district will struggle to accommodate with infrastructure. Noted that councillors are attending a HDC Local Plan update Webinar on 28th January 2025. MOP noted that Barbara Childs letter also says that further development could be added into the LP when it resumed. MOP raised an issue with the proposed new cycle track being considered by the council and that it will make Monks Gate and Mannings Heath more attainable for development and council should think very carefully about any proposal for a new cycle track.

500-24/25 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING-**

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 11th November 2024 were accepted and approved as a true record of the meeting, **It was agreed that the chair of the meeting duly signed the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2024 as a true and accurate record.**

501-24/25 **PLANNING – to agree responses to the following planning applications.**

i) Council to **consider to adopt** the wording as follows to be included in all planning application objection responses.

In the event that the Horsham District Council officers are minded to propose the acceptance of this application, Nuthurst Parish Council would ask for it to go to full committee and that the Parish Council is allowed to speak of their objections at the meeting.

ii) DC/25/0006 Great Steeds Farm House, Copsale Road, Maplehurst, West Sussex, RH13 6QY. Application to confirm the use of the 'Woodstore' building as a self-contained independent dwellinghouse. (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing).
Deadline 30th January 2025 Officer Alice Johnson

It was RESOLVED no comment to the application.

iii) Planning Appeal

Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/Z3825/C/24/3352762

Site at: EN/24/0316 Woodlands Farm, Broadwater Lane, Copsale, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6QW.

Description of Application: Without planning permission, the material change of use of the Land from equestrian use to a mixed use of equestrian and the stationing of mobile homes for the purposes of human habitation together with the associated operational development comprising the importation of soil and waste material to create a hard surface, change of land levels, the installation of a septic tank, and excavation of land for services on the land.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr D Cotton will attend the hearing.

502-24/25

REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

County Councillor Nigel Jupp

- Met with Clerk, Chairman and resident about the locations of SIDs on A281 along with WSCC Highways Officer. 5 Locations that have been proposed. The SIDs are being paid for by the Parish Council out of CIL monies 4 are in the parish of Nuthurst and one is in parish of Lower Beeding. The TRO Speed reduction scheme is moving along in the system.
- WSCC will discuss Budget for 25/26 but the proposal is for an uplift of 4.99% ; 2.99% for ordinary cover and another 2% for Adult Social Care costs. The Adult social care continues to rise as elderly numbers are increasing and there is a need for more care. Salary costs in social care is outsourced and those organisations have become more expensive due to living wage increase and employers NI increases. All salaries are being moved up to attract staff and keep them.
- Devolution White Paper 16th December 2024 was published. First stage is mayoral areas, Government is keen to have Mayors, West Sussex Brighton and Hove and East Sussex Councils have all agreed to make an application to make the whole area into a Unitary Authority. If that application is successful there will be mayoral elections in May 2026 and after that there will then be considerations to create Unitary Councils. Mayoral area must have a population of 1.5M, each unitary area is 500,000. HDC will be having discussion to have 3 unitary areas in Sussex. Then there will elections for unitary authorities in May 2027 with a shadow authority running it with the Unitary Authority taking over in May 2027. If that is the case, then the County Council elections for this May will be suspended for a year. There will be a public consultation process. A question was asked about the Crawley Horsham gap. The elected Mayor will oversee the housing numbers. An approved second runway at Gatwick airport could also encourage development.

District Councillor Dennis Livingstone

- White paper was in December, the County Councillor has covered the points that needed to be raised. HDC has been around for 50 years from last year. Possibility of a Crawsham is now likely. The county councillor elections were due to take place in May this year, Lib Dem feel that is premature to commence a unitary authority application.

- New NPPF also came through in December, Local Plan will affect the Neighbourhood Plan and any changes to the NPPF affects both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. The Government are very keen to increase housing and want to make it as easy as possible. Changes to the NPPF are now live. There is a new standard for calculating the number of homes this year. That could result in substantial increases with a possible allocation of 1600 homes a year in the District of Horsham. The NPPF also includes green belt and grey belt – Horsham does not have green belt land. HDC LP was submitted for inspection the hearing started and was paused and HDC are mystified why the inspector walked away. There is possibly a technicality, the lawyers are confident they have a sound plan.
- 74 bus service which is once a week used by 4 people, the more people who use it there is more of a chance to get a better service the district council has been in contact with the bus service and will write to the MP to get some support.
- Neighbourhood Wardens – a meeting at the council offices for parish council Chairs or representatives to speak to the officers who may be interested in knowing about it is yet to be arranged. There is support for the service as there is a real benefit.
- Proposed shared path/cycle path – the district councillor is very keen on cycle path as the A281 is dangerous and he will support it, noted that it will not lend itself to housing development around the path.
- A question was asked about houses being built and not sold and how that can be managed. The response was that HDC will stop any more planning applications if houses are not being sold. A question was asked about another option to a cycle path? There is a need to decarbonise the environment by sustainable bus services and cycleways to get people out of cars and cycle path and bus use has got to be a way forward.

503-24/25

PARISH WARDENS

Noted that the item was covered by the district councillors report. Chairman noted that the council are not making any decisions and at this stage the district council are offering information to the council as part of a learning curve, but council appreciates the residents feedback on this matter.

504-24/25

SPEEDWATCH APPLICATION

i) It was noted that the TRO is with WSCC Highways for processing. The form required council to consider a contribution towards the cost of the application. It was **proposed** that the costs required to support the TRO was £5000. The vote was unanimous.

It was RESOLVED to approve a payment of £5000 for the TRO to be paid out of CIL monies.

ii) It was noted that County Councillor Katie Nagel had supported the TRO application as part of application unexpectedly fall within the Lower Beeding Parish boundary. The Chairman will attend the Lower Beeding Parish Council meeting to ask for their written support. Item to be carried to the next meeting.

iii) The SID licences are displayed in the relevant locations, have been reported to the speed watch group, on the parish website and part of the agenda paperwork. The licences are now in a consultation process, the council considered the licence applications and RESOLVED to support all 5 licence applications to help reduce the speed along the A281.

505-24/25

STREETLIGHTS – the council noted the updated streetlights inventory and approved the maintenance costs going forward. It was **agreed** for the project for LED lighting roll out will be considered at Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee. The Clerk noted that there is a green grant available via the Climate Action Group at HDC, it was agreed that an application for the grant should be considered to help towards the costs. Clerk to ask about use of CIL/S106 money and the Climate Action Group at HDC to apply for the green grant.

Carry item to Roads , Footpaths and Open Spaces meeting.

506-24/25

CARBON BUSTERS – a meeting was held and attended by the council. There is an event being held at the Cricket Pavilion which will be advertised by the organisers and advertised in due course. Noted Cllr D Cotton cannot attend the next Carbon Busters as he will attend the Local Plan meeting at HDC.

507-24/25

VILLAGE GREEN AND PLAYGROUND

- i) The playground report was distributed at the meeting and a copy is attached to the minute book. ([Document](#))
- ii) It was **noted** that the new playground signs have been put up, item now closed.
- iii) It was **noted** the damaged fence has been reported to Horsham Fencing and is due to be replaced on 29th January, item now closed.
- iv) It was **noted** the installation of the verge bollards is completed, item now closed.
- v) It was considered that the playground needs a scope of works to cover the issue of grass cutting, weed killing on the mulch and wet pour and edging. It was **agreed** the Clerk will write a draft playground grounds maintenance scope of works for the management of the grass and weeds in the playground area. This will be taken to the cricket club meeting in early February for their input.

508-24/25 **MONKS GATE – Replacement Parish Gates**

It was reported to council that an accident had occurred over the Christmas break which destroyed the gates opposite in Monks Gate. The Clerk has processed the insurance claim which was successful for the purchase and installation of new gates. The new gates have been ordered. Item to be carried until conclusion via Open Spaces Committee.

509-24/25 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES** – to receive any updates from Councillors.

Noted that the PSCO meeting was postponed and the HALC meeting minutes have been distributed to council. Noted that the Clerk will put together a Resilience Policy for edit with Cllr C Kenny and adoption at the next meeting.

510-24/25 **SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATION**

Council to **discussed** parish council social media and it was agreed for a working party to review this. It was agreed that the working group would be formed Cllr S Newell, Cllr K McGovern, Cllr D Cotton and the Clerk. Carry to next meeting.

511-24/25 **FINANCIAL**

- i) It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** Nat West bank reconciliation for November and December.
- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** Nat West bank transactions for November and December.
- iii) It was **noted** that the Clerk has issued the Precept request to HDC.
- iv) It was **RESOLVED** to **approve** the schedule of payments for January.
- v) It was **noted** the St Andrews Grant application was approved and now will be paid.
- vi) To **consider** the Nuthurst Society Grant application. The grant was rejected on the basis that HDC provide hi vis, pickers and bags free of charge. The Clerk to engage with the Nuthurst Society and put them in touch with the service available.

512-24/25 **MATTERS ARISING** - For councillors to raise anything they would like to place on the agendas for the next meeting.

- Fundraiser ideas
- Encouraging new councillors via Link Magasine

513-24/25 **MEETING DATES**

To **note** the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 28th May 2025 at Copsale Hall.

514-24/25 **Next ordinary meeting is 19th February 2025 at Mannings Heath Village Hall.**

Meeting closed 2057hrs

Signed..... Dated.....