

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Fulking Parish Council
held in the Village Hall, Fulking
on Thursday 14 October 2010 at 8.00pm**

Present: Chairman Mr Tony Brook, Vice Chairman Mrs Pamela Rowland, Councillors Mr Richard Corner, Ms Jo Hudek, Mrs Jennifer Parmar and Clerk to the Council Mrs Paula Hazard.

Apologies for Absence: None

Declarations of Interest by Members (if any) are shown against the relevant items in the minutes.

County Council update - County Councillor Peter Griffiths addressed the meeting. He talked about how West Sussex County Council were preparing for the Comprehensive Spending Review and were also looking into how it would be possible to incorporate the "Big Society" theme. He gave an update about Highways issues including the parking problem in Clappers Lane. He confirmed that although WSCC could provide support if residents wished to buy land for the purpose of parking, it would not be possible for the County Council to fund the purchase of land.

Minutes -The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2010, as previously circulated, were approved, accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Highways Flooding problem by the Shepherd and Dog stream culvert – The Shepherd & Dog had cleared the stream on their land and WSCC Highways had cleared the part of the stream running alongside the road. Highways had also cleared the ditch further along Edburton Road towards The Perch. This should solve flooding caused by the stream overflowing. However the problem with water that flows down the hill during heavy rain onto the northern side of the road still remained. The Chairman said that he wanted to press Highways again for a culvert to be built on the northern side of the road. He felt this would be a better solution than the current drain as this blocked easily. CC Peter Griffiths had spoken to Highways about this issue and their view was still that the current system of unblocking the drain was sufficient. It was agreed that this problem would be closely monitored to see how badly the road flooded in the winter.

North Town Field Play Area Surface – The PC had applied to Viridor for a grant to cover the cost of replacing the barkpit with a wet pour surface. Viridor planned to do a site visit that week and a decision was expected by the end of the month.

Public Liability Insurance – NTF Trust had now received a draft contract from their lawyer which they were currently reviewing.

Field clear-up – A clear-up had been arranged for Saturday 30 October with all volunteers welcome.

Diverted Footpath 4dF There was no further news from the Rights of Way Committee.

Reopening of Bridleway 11F There was no further news from West Sussex Rights of Way.

Local Winter Management Plan Following the severe weather last winter, WSCC had advised all councils to put together a Local Winter Management Plan. The purpose of the plan was to define when and what actions the local councils would undertake during

adverse weather. As part of this plan the PC was trying to restore the old system whereby the County Council had an agreement with local farmers to clear the snow from local lanes. This has been agreed with the local farm, Perching Manor Farm. The next step was for WSCC to approve this arrangement. It was also contingent on WSCC agreeing to the PC's request for the loan of a snow plough attachment. It had been arranged that a new grit bin would be installed by the junction of The Street and Clappers Lane. One further area that was being explored was the provision by WSCC of bulk bags of salt and grit mix.

- Village Plan** A Village Action Plan team had been formed and had met twice. It was envisaged that a draft plan would be completed by the end of the year.
- Ram House** The National Trust had responded to the PC's request for help with repairing the Ram Pump House by agreeing to carry out the repairs at no cost to the PC. The first part of this work, which was to remove branches from the nearby tree which was causing damage to the roof, was planned for that week. The next step was to replace the damaged roof tiles. The National Trust had also agreed to give serious consideration to the PC's proposal that they take over ownership of the pump.
- Lower Kents** Mid Sussex Development Control had written to the landowner chasing up the planning application. The Chairman had spoken to the landowner's son who had given an assurance that he would chase up the planning application. It was agreed that the PC should write again to Development Control reiterating the need for it to take action given the very lengthy period without any planning application being submitted.
- Motorbikes On South Downs** The Clerk had spoken to the local PCSO about the problem with motorbike riding on the Downs. The police had been up on the Downs to investigate the problem and although no suspects had been detained, the problem appeared to have improved for now. Residents were advised that if they spot motorbikes on the Downs, they should report it via the non-emergency Policy tel no (0845 6070999) quoting 'Sussex Pathwatch'.
- Powered Microlights** The PC had written to the South Downs National Park Authority requesting that they deal with the increasing problem of microlights flying low over the Downland villages by prohibiting all such powered microlights/hang gliders/paragliders etc. in the National Park area.
- Offshore Wind Farm** The PC had been consulted by the Infrastructure Planning Commission regarding a route for a proposed offshore wind farm on the Brighton Coast to Bolney sub-station. The applicant E.On was currently preparing an environment statement. The PC had replied to IPC giving their views that: there should be no overhead cables over the South Downs; the path of the underground cables needed to be assessed in terms of likely long-term damage to the land; if underground cables passed through the Downs then a horizontal drilling method should be used which would not involve digging up the Downs. The letter had been copied to the South Downs National Park Authority and Poyning's Parish Council. It was agreed that a copy should also be sent to the National Trust
- Electricity Power Cuts** The recent power cuts and low voltage problems were discussed. It was agreed that it would be helpful to make residents aware that in order to get power cuts or low voltage problems fixed, EDF must be phoned. The more people that rang EDF the quicker the problem would get fixed as EDF often needed to be made aware that there was a problem. The issue of low voltage problems damaging appliances was raised. It was agreed that an article about

both these issues would be written for the Pigeon Post.

Rural Crime Prevention Show

The Police planned to run a Rural Crime Prevention Roadshow. This would be in Fulking on Saturday 13 November between 10-11. This date would be put on the website and in Pigeon Post.

Financial Matters

The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed off the interim audit, cheque list and cheque stubs. The Annual Accounts for 2009/2010 had been signed off by the external auditors. The PC thanked Nick Hughes for carrying out the internal audit.

AOB

The meeting was opened up for local residents to raise any issues.

The PC was asked whether they knew why the WSCC Rights of Way Committee was taking so long to deal with the diverted footpath 4dF. WSCC Rights of Way had been queried on this before but had said that they were not able to give any further information than the fact that when the diversion application came up before the Rights of Way Committee, the Parish Council would be consulted.

The issue of how MSDC were planning for the expiry of the temporary planning permission on the Market Garden site was raised. Previous discussions with MSDC had raised concerns that a gypsy site within the area might not be available in time. The query was raised as to whether a site in another District Council area within in West Sussex could be offered. It was agreed that the PC would raise this query with MSDC and follow up how the provision of a permanent gypsy site was progressing.

The purchase by Preston Nomads of the ground that the garages are on was discussed. The process was taking longer than expected which meant that the the issue of parking could not be progressed any further.

Branches from the hedge running alongside the west side of Clappers Lane by no 3 were significantly overhanging the road which was causing a problem for traffic. The PC was asked if they could request to have it clipped back.

The issue of unclear marking of the footpaths running across the fields north of the North Town Field was discussed. The Chairman explained that the method now being used to mark the footpaths was to run a quad bike across the route of the footpaths. However, in the recent dry weather the marks were not that clear. The footpaths would be marked again in wetter weather.

Date of Next Meeting: 13 January 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.05

Signed Date: