



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 8 January 2020
Billingshurst Centre at 7.30pm**

Present

Cllrs Paul Berry (Chairman), Graeme Acraman, Barry Barnes, Edna Benger, Garry Commins, Alan Grant, Dave Homer, Sue Kingston, Roy Margetts, Ken Peters, Sue Rogers and Sarah Wilson.

In attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp
Dis Cllr Mrs K Rowbottom

01/20 Chairman's Announcements.

- a. The Chairman paid the following tribute to former Councillor Paul Leaney, who passed away a few days ago. *I have spoken to Paul's widow, Sheila and offered the Council's condolences and a card has been sent from the Council too. I understand that Paul first joined the Parish Council in 1998 so, with a short couple of gaps, had been on the Council for the best part of 20 years. Paul was a passionate man and had very strong morals. He was a real grafter, not content with just helping to make decisions, he would often then roll his sleeves up and help to actually get things done, particularly perhaps when it came to matters dealt with by the Council's Property Committee. Even as his health deteriorated, he was the first person to offer help if any jobs needed doing, he was also very keen to offer support to staff members and his fellow Councillors, myself included, particularly when the Council was going through difficult times. The Council has been a quieter place since Paul left in May last year, a decision he really agonised over, as he was worried that if he didn't stand, he would be letting people down; I think that sums up Paul really. I like to think that Paul is now somewhere with Ken Longhurst, with a pint in his hand sharing stories about their many years in Billingshurst and putting the world to rights.*
- b. The Chairman reminded Cllrs, if they haven't already done so, who are willing to do internet banking to let the Clerk know.

02/20 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sandy Duck, Jon Perks and Mary Wild (prior engagements). On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Sarah Wilson, **RESOLVED** that the reasons given be accepted.

03/20 To Receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for a dispensation.

None.

*Adjournment for***04/20 Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman).**

None.

05/20 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors.

Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp reported that she would share with the Clerk suggested dates for a meeting with Chris Stark from West Sussex County Council (WSSC) Highways Department, to look at various outstanding issues, most notably post-spine road opening changes to East St and High St. A resident had asked that the weight restriction on Marringdean Road be removed – she would pass the details onto the Parish Council to see if it is something it could support. If anyone knew of nasty potholes, please let her know direct as she has a hotline! East Sussex County Council has become WSSC's *Corporate Improvement Partner* and they now share a CEO. The CEO of Hampshire County Council had been appointed as Commissioner for Children's Services in West Sussex following a *poor/inadequate* rating last December. Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp was optimistic for future improvement.

Cllr Edna Benger asked if a disc could be issued to residents to stick in car windows when using the Household Waste Recycling Centre, rather than produce I.D? Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp replied that this had been looked at, but had been told it would be too expensive.

Dis Cllr Mrs K Rowbottom reported that a new Protocol on Standards in Public Life was being launched by the Government; this would be mandatory/universal. Training on this was being held and encouraged as many as possible to attend. She reminded all of the ongoing consultation on the new Local Plan.

District Cllr Mr N Jupp had tendered his apologies.

Cllr Alan Grant paid tribute to County & District Cllrs for regularly attending Parish Council meetings and all they do to fight the parish's corner. He went on to ask if the Horsham District Council (HDC) Parking Disc could be made more robust? Also, he felt that the way in which the different elements of the Council Tax was broken down on bills was misleading.

*Resume Meeting***06/20 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2019.**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019, previously circulated were taken as read. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted and signed as a correct record, subject to the replacement of Cllr Jon Perks with Cllr Sarah Wilson as seconder in 113/19.

07/20 Matters Arising – that are not separate agenda items.

None.

08/20 Neighbourhood Wardens

- a) **To receive Wardens' Reports for November and December. NOTED.**
Members expressed thanks for the Wardens' ongoing excellent work.
- b) On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Garry Commins **RESOLVED** to note the success of the scheme to date and ratify the Parish Council's continued support of this service.

09/20 To consider RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **From the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 18 December 2019 to approve a revenue Budget of £423,387 for 2020-21.**
On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Ken Peters **RESOLVED** to approve a revenue budget of £423,387 for 2020-21.
- b) **From the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 18 December 2019 to approve a Precept of £373,325 for 2020-21.**
On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes seconded by Cllr Ken Peters **RESOLVED** to levy a precept £373,325 for 2020-21 upon HDC accordingly.

10/20 To receive Minutes as approved by the following Committees:

- a. On the proposal of Cllr Dave Homer seconded by Cllr Garry Commins **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** of 3, 16 & 31 October 2019 be received.
- b. On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **F&GP Committee** of 30 October & 27 November 2019 be received.
- c. On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes seconded by Cllr Sue Kingston **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Property Committee** of 18 September 2019 be received.

11/20 Any other matters for information only.

- a. The Chairman reminded Cllrs that if they want the Parish to lobby HDC or WSCC about a matter, they should suggest Agenda items to the Clerk
- b. Cllr Barry Barnes also paid tribute to the late Paul Leaney.

12/20 Date of Next Meeting – 4 March 2020 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.54pm.

Chairman

Date