



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 4 March 2020
Billingshurst Centre at 7.30pm**

Present

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

In attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp

Dis Cllr Mrs K Rowbottom

Dis Cllr N Jupp (From Minute 21/20)

Christina Cattermole, New Social Prescriber for Billingshurst and Storrington.

6 Members of the Public.

13/20 Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman announced that the Fire Exits were as signed; no fire alarm tests were planned and that mobile phones should either be turned off or silenced. Coughs and sneezes should be suitably caught!!

14/20 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Edna Benger (prior engagement). On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes, **RESOLVED** that the reasons given be accepted.

An apology was not received from Cllr Sue Rogers, contrary to Standing Order 1u.

15/20 To Receive Declarations of Interest and consider any requests for a dispensation.

None.

Adjournment for

16/20 Christina Cattermole, New Social Prescriber for Billingshurst and Storrington.

Christina Cattermole introduced herself. She was part time and spent just over one day in each of the two parishes, being based in the local surgeries from which she took referrals. In due course people could self-refer although they will have to be registered with that surgery. The idea was that quite often, for many complaints, the answer lay not in prescribing tablets but doing an activity or interest. Volunteering, for example, was

considered to be extremely beneficial on a number of fronts. She had already met the Neighbourhood Wardens, and it was suggested that if she came to the *Showcase*, she would be able to *clock* many more groups to add to her database. Having answered some questions, the Chairman thanked her for attending and wished her well in her role.

17/20 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Cty Cllr Mrs A Jupp reported that the Highways Department was being restructured and that the County Director of Public Health was in constant contact with Government health bodies on the Coronavirus matter. She added that all hospitals and surgeries were now routinely swabbing any admission with a respiratory problem for the virus.

Dis Cllr Mrs K Rowbottom mentioned the Local Plan Review public consultation, Cedars Pond and the new flats in Rowan Drive which were now being occupied.

18/20 Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman).

A resident asked the Council to send various documents relating to flooding in the Parish to statutory agencies, as set out in Appendix A. AGREED

Resume Meeting

19/20 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2020.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2020, previously circulated, were taken as read. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Sue Kingston **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted and signed as a correct record.

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

None.

21/20 Cedars Farm Development – to consider request of support from local resident.

A resident had formerly asked for the Council to ask Horsham District Council (HDC) *to end plans to sell the Orchard site for development and ask HDC to fulfill its obligation with respect to the pond and orchard areas.*

The Chairman then invited comment from residents and District Councillors present.

Residents commented that:

The Orchard had now gone as it had been chopped down in phases including rare fruit trees.

Residents had stopped HDC from removing further trees.

Residents had made HDC put fences around trees to be retained, a practice which HDC would normally insist on from developers.

The original agreement with Taywood Homes clearly shows the orchard (and pond) as public open space (POS).

HDC had reneged on a duty to provide and maintain the two areas as useable open space.

If HDC is determined to develop the orchard, then it should give something else back to the community to mitigate a perceived loss. This could be anything but it must be over and above a restored pond plus commuted sum to the Parish Council.

Why didn't the District Councillors for the ward know of the plans?

Would the Parish Council consider part-funding some legal action?

District Councillors commented that:

They had not been party to discussions at HDC or been kept informed.

It was not included in a circular of HDC forward plans/decisions as the site was quite small.

Some of them would have preferred it to be for Social Housing.

Parish Councillors commented that:

Whilst decisions are taken by Cabinet Members at HDC, why isn't there scrutiny by the various Scrutiny & Overview Committees?

They believed that the pond etc. had been offered to the Parish Council before (as part of a larger parcel of land) but it had been declined.

HDC had admitted it had not looked after the so-called Running Track POS for which it was responsible and promises of improvement had been slow to materialize.

Councillors agreed that the story was one of a lack of action, either negligent or deliberate, on the part of HDC in providing and maintaining an open space which the community felt should have been provided. The way that HDC had failed to keep its own District Councillors for the ward informed about what was going on is of great concern, as is the failure of the scrutiny system to oversee Cabinet Member decisions. The way that HDC seemed to have cleared the site, in ways that they would ordinarily prosecute third parties for the same actions, is also disgraceful. Also, why clear a site that is not open to the public, when a planning application has not even been lodged, other than to increase its value to a would-be purchaser?

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council:

Formally requests that HDC cease its plans to sell and develop the orchard site.

Pursue with HDC suitable recompense for the community if they refuse to halt their plans.

Insist HDC restore the pond and suggests suitable transfer terms to the Parish Council including an appropriate commuted sum.

Consider a formal complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman over the way HDC has handled this matter.

22/20 To consider RECOMMENDATION from the F&GP Committee of 29 January 2020 that the Council's Corporate Risk Assessment be approved. (Minute 12/20 refers)

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Alan Grant **RESOLVED** to approve the Council's Corporate Risk Assessment.

23/20 To review Committees and outside appointments etc.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes **RESOLVED** the list as amended – **Appendix B**. The need for additional members to fill various roles at the Annual Meeting in May was stressed.

24/20 To receive Minutes as approved by the following Committees:

On the proposal of Cllr Dave Homer seconded by Cllr Garry Commins **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Planning & Environment Committee** of 7 Nov, 5 & 17 Dec 2019 and 9 Jan 2020 be received.

On the proposal of Cllr Ken Peters seconded by Cllr Dave Homer **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **F&GP Committee** of 18 Dec 2019 and 29 Jan 2020 be received.

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes seconded by Cllr Sue Kingston **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Property Committee** of 20 November 2019 be received.

On the proposal of Cllr Sue Kingston seconded by Cllr Sandy Duck **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Working Practices Committee** of 23 October 2019 be received.

25/20 To note arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting of Electors: Wednesday 15 April 7pm. Speaker: *The Dogs Trust*.

NOTED. Cllr Dave Homer asked that a microphone be provided for the speaker.

26/20 To receive a progress report on 83a High St.

NOTED. The Clerk added that a planning application would be submitted shortly for change of use and some minor alterations. Cllr Sarah Wilson asked that an update be put in the next Village Tweet – agreed.

27/20 Neighbourhood Wardens

Wardens' Reports for January and February were NOTED. Members expressed thanks for the Wardens' ongoing excellent work.

28/20 To receive notes of the CCTV Working Party 5 February 2020.

NOTED. The Chairman reported that a further meeting had been held just prior to this meeting.

29/20 To confirm Cllr attendance at Billingshurst Community Partnership (BPC) events.

BCP had invited the Council to a series of events to look at its future direction. Cllr Mary Wild was planning to attend the event looking at Young People & Children, in a separate capacity and kindly offered to give them an update on 83a High St at the same time.

30/20 Any other matters for information only.

None

31/20 Date of Next Meeting – 6 May 2020 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Chairman

Date

B Flood Action Group.

As the Council is aware, concerns have been raised recently by residents with regard to Flooding - East of Billingshurst.

Penny Brook and Cedar Brook are part of the catchment area of the Par Brook, which is so important to the surface water drainage of Billingshurst.

May I request that the EA's CCTV of the three culverts, received in 2015, be sent to both HDC's and WSCC's drainage engineers. The CCTV showed capacity concerns.

May I also request that the email from the EA in February 2015 be sent; it stated that the designer of the Billingshurst flood alleviation scheme in 1982 after the flooding of 1981 felt "that it was coming to the end of its lifespan and consideration for development above the scheme needs to be addressed and considered".

BILLINGSHURST PARISH COUNCIL	
COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES	
2019-20	
<i>(The Council has set the max. membership for Committees to 10 members.)</i>	
COMMITTEES	
Planning & Environment	GA, EB, GC , DH , SK, JP, SR, SW
Property	BB , PB, GC, SD, DH, SK , RM
Finance & General Purposes	GA, BB, EB, PB, AG , DH, RM, KP
Working Practices	PB, AG , DH, SK , RM, MW
Billingshurst Centre	GA, AG , SK, KP , SR, SW, SD
Flooding	
Complaints (5 members Max)	PB, SD, SK, RM
Complaints Chairman	SK
WORKING PARTIES	
Neighbourhood Plan	SD, JP , SR, MW
Emergency Planning	GA, EB, AG
Internal Audit	GA, DH, RM
East St Traffic Calming	PB, AG , JP
Youth Liaison	RM, MW, SW
Jubilee Skatepark WP	BB , PB, DH
CCTV	PB, GC, RM, GA
Local Plan	DH, BB, JP , GA

***Bold** indicates Chairman/Vice Chairman*

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES	
Allotments Society	
Adversane Traffic WP	AG, JP
B'hurst Sports & Recn. Assn. (BSRA) x4	GC, SD
Fireworks	BB
Friends of Station Road Gardens x1	BB
HALC (H'ham Assn Local Ccls)	AG
N'hood Warden Steering Group x2	GA, SD, AG + Clerk
Public Art Steering Group	Clerk
SPD Working Group	SD + Clerk
Trustee of Adversane Hall x1	AG
Trustee of Dauxwood Pre-School x1	SK
West Sussex Association Local Councils (WSALC) AGM x2	SD, AG
Youth Council	MW
B'hurst Flood Action Group	