



Established 1894

## Angmering Parish Council

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ANGMERING PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE KING SUITE OF THE ANGMERING VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016

**Present:** Councillors Bill Evans; Susan Francis (Chairman); Norma Harris; Mike Hill-Smith; Steven Mountain; John Oldfield; Roger Phelon; Peter Thompson; Sylvia Verrinder.

**In Attendance:** Rob Martin, Parish Clerk; Paul Barley, Deputy Clerk; County Councillor Deborah Urquhart; District Councillor Andy Cooper; District Councillor Dudley Wensley.

#### Action

**15/172 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Received from Councillors Paul Bicknell (illness), Lee Hamilton-Street, and Nikki Hamilton-Street (both personal business).

Apologies for absence had also been received from PCSO Rebecca Bernier.

**15/173 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**  
None.

**15/174 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2015**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 were **AGREED** as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**15/175 COPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**  
The Chairman noted that the co-option application for Mrs Lorraine Tarrant had been deferred to the 8 February meeting.

**15/176 REPORT FROM SUSSEX POLICE**  
PCSO Bernier's report, circulated prior to the meeting, was taken as read.

Councillor Thompson noted that the public's attention needed to be drawn to a number of recent incidences of individuals impersonating police officers in order to carry out distraction burglaries. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council website would be updated with a suitable warning.

The Deputy Clerk noted that there had been further instances of individuals misusing off-road motorcycles on the BMX track, in Mayflower Park, and in various locations around the village. Residents were urged to report all instances of anti-social and illegal motorcycle use to the Police on 101.

**THE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS, BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA**

The Clerk reported as follows:

- a) **Community Christmas Day Meal** – this event took place in the Village Hall on Christmas Day and a total of 26 people were fed a full lunch and took part in what was seen by those attending as a very successful event. Thanks should go to all those that took part and contributed with special thanks to the volunteers who gave up their day for others to benefit. In addition, appreciation should be shown for the contributions made by Meat in the Square for the turkey, Sainsbury's for £100 worth of goods and Culberry Nursery for vegetables at cost. Cash contributions were also received from some of the beneficiaries and others towards the cost of the event.
- b) **Governance Framework** – this long-awaited document was in an advanced state of preparation and would be presented to the next Governance and Oversight Committee on 3 February. Following that, the expectation was that it will be presented to the Parish Council for adoption at its meeting in March.
- c) **Angmering Parish Council Community Action & Business Plan** – this was still being worked on and would be circulated to councillors in its draft form before being considered by the Council. Once again, it was the intention to have this ready for adoption in time for the May meeting of the Parish Council. The urgency caused by the possibility of the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy had been reduced, since the information to hand indicated that this will not happen until Summer 2016 at the earliest.
- d) **Community Centre Car Park** – one quotation had been received to date for the extension of the car park, and other contractors were being contacted to see if they intend to put in a price for the work. A full report would be produced for Council in February with an expected date for the work being over or immediately after the Easter holiday period.
- e) **Angmering Community Land Trust** – this continued to progress with a number of options being considered by the Trust. Further work was being done on a Business Plan for the option of acquiring some CALA Homes affordable properties, the cost of which was being underwritten by the Parish Council. The maximum grant available from the National CLT Network to support this work, of £4,000, had been awarded to the CLT. The combination of the budget allocated last year of which there is £1,650 reserved, and this year of £2,000 together with this grant made a total of £7,650 for the legal work already done and the Business Planning cost of £3,800. This was currently sufficient budget to enable the work to be done.

The Clerk noted, with regard to the Community Christmas Day Meal, that thanks were also due to Simon McGovern for a most generous donation of wine.

The Clerk also noted that since the preparation of his report, a detailed report for the Board of the Community Land Trust had been prepared, which outlined the actions to be taken over the next few months in order to get the Trust's activities off the ground.

15/178

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman referred to her report, circulated prior to the meeting, and reproduced below:

**"Joint Downlands Area Committee (JDAC)**

"I attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The committee was updated by Mr and Mrs Gaylor that the farmer had undertaken considerable work south of the A27 to clear the ditch and bank. There had been considerable overgrowth covering one of the pipe outlets restricting water flow. There is still work to be undertaken on the culverts under the road.

"No other information was received that affected the Angmering Parish. A copy of the papers have been passed to the office and will be distributed to all councillors.

**"Community Christmas Day Lunch**

"The lunch went well. There was a total of twenty-five people who attended and some good feedback has been received. Rob and Emma Martin worked hard in the village hall kitchen to provide an excellent lunch for all and many thanks to them for all their hard work. Thank you also to the volunteers who gave u their day to help make it such a success. A special thank you to the village hall for the use of the building and everyone who provided donations towards the day.

**"Black Ditch**

"With the very heavy and prolonged rain over the last week it is good to note that the Black Ditch managed to stay within its banks despite it reaching just below the flooding level and the fields being totally saturated. It is good that the hard work on ditches has paid off. There is still work to be undertaken and we cannot sit on our laurels."

The Chairman added that, earlier that day, she and Councillor Thompson had hand-delivered letters to Water Lane residents, providing advice on flood prevention given the prolonged spell of wet weather in recent weeks and the high level of groundwater. This was needed in view of the number of new residents in Water Lane, and those who had moved there subsequent to the 2012 flood.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public consultation.*

15/179

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

There were no members of the public present.

*The meeting reconvened.*

15/180

**REPORT FROM THE WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Urquhart wished all present a Happy New Year. She noted that the main piece of news from WSCC was the launch on 11 January of the consultation period for the A259 improvement scheme. All residents were encouraged to participate. The consultation period would run until 19 February.

County Councillor Urquhart reported that WSCC had now received details of its financial settlement for 2016-2017 from central Government, and that a cut in funding of some £31 million, or 20%, was being imposed by central Government. This was much worse than had been anticipated and was some way in excess of the national average cut of 12%.

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County Councillor Urquhart explained that the reasoning behind the higher level of cut for WSCC was that it was deemed to have a greater capacity, by virtue of its tax base, to be able to increase its council tax. The implications of the cut were that the rate support grant would in practical terms cease to exist in 4 years' time, and the business rate support grant was now also being eroded. The previously-anticipated increase in council tax of 3.75% would now have to be greater still, at just under 4% - this would consist of 2% plus a further almost 2% in respect of adult social care funding, this being the maximum increase permitted by law without going to a referendum. Additionally, the new national living wage, whilst obviously a beneficial thing for County Council staff, would nevertheless cost £29 million over 4 years.

Councillor Mountain asked when the further cuts that would inevitably follow from this, such as libraries, would be announced. County Councillor Urquhart noted that some of the savings schedules existed in headline form and were in the public domain, but the detail was still being worked on.

Councillor Thompson asked how the information would be passed down to towns and parishes. County Councillor Urquhart noted that there were press releases in existence in that regard.

**15/181**

#### **REPORTS FROM THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

District Councillor Cooper wished all present a Happy New Year. He noted that ADC's full Council meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 13 January, with a very full agenda. As with WSCC, ADC had to identify further savings but the detail of these had not yet been fully worked out.

District Councillor Wensley noted that no decision had yet been taken with regard to council tax – the ADC budget meeting would not take place until February. No detailed decisions would be taken on Wednesday, but officers would be directed to work on areas for savings. It needed to be noted that, as with WSCC, ADC could only put up council tax by 2% without holding a referendum, and furthermore only 12% of total council tax revenue, as collected by ADC, was retained by it.

District Councillor Wensley noted that the only thing that was consistently devolved from central Government to local authorities at County and District level was blame. Whilst much was made of localism and the like, the fact remained that the country was effectively bankrupt.

The Clerk noted that the message for both WSCC and ADC was that the Parish Council was willing to work with WSCC and ADC to take on certain activities where it could, and would continue to liaise with WSCC and ADC officers to bring this about.

Councillor Evans asked whether there was any progress on the matter of community wardens, given that grant funding was available for these. District Councillor Cooper regretted that there was nothing to report.

**15/182**

#### **TREE SURGERY WORK ON BRAMLEY GREEN**

The report prepared by the Maintenance Committee was considered. It was noted that the quotation recommended by that Committee did not include the cost of grinding stumps and that this would need to be considered further.

On a proposal by Councillor Phelon, seconded by Councillor Hill-Smith: To accept the quotation, subject to further enquiry as to the costs of grinding stumps – unanimously **AGREED**.

15/183

**QUEEN ELIZABETH'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

The Chairman noted that celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday were due to take place between 12 and 15 May 2016, to coincide with the Windsor Horse Festival. The Clean for the Queen weekend event was scheduled for 4-6 March 2016. Residents were welcome to organise street parties and packs for organising these were available online. The Parish Council would help co-ordinate these where possible and local social organisations would be involved wherever possible.

On a proposal by Councillor Oldfield, seconded by Councillor Harris: To assist residents with the organisation of street parties, as appropriate – **AGREED** by 11 votes in favour, 0 votes against, with the abstention of Councillor Thompson.

15/184

**COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS**

No further community grant applications had been received since the previous Parish Council meeting.

The 2015/2016 budget for Community Grants was £3,000 and grants totalling £1,573 had been allocated to date, leaving a fund available of £1,427 for the remainder of the year.

Office

15/185

**QUESTIONS ON THE ALREADY CIRCULATED NOTES OF MEETINGS OF PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

- a) The ASRA Joint; Library; Major Development; and St Nicholas' Working Parties; and
- b) JDAC; JEAAC; ADALC; ASRA; JEAAC H&T and Angmering Village Hall Committees

The Chairman noted that the Twinning Association was due to be added to the above, and was due to meet on 13 January 2016.

Councillor Phelon noted that Councillor Thompson had agreed to deputise for him at the next ASRA Joint Working Party meeting on 18 January 2016.

Councillor Oldfield expressed concern about the Angmering Advisory Group meetings convened by ADC. It was noted that the Advisory Group had been set up at the behest of ADC to discuss implementation of the s106 agreements entered into by the developers on the sites east of Roundstone Lane, and to provide a forum for airing of concerns by the Parish Council and ADC with the developers themselves.

However, it had become apparent that the terms of reference of the Advisory Group were not being adhered to and that items were being introduced at meetings without any prior reference to APC. The Clerk noted that he and the Deputy Clerk had had a meeting with Neil Crowther of ADC to raise these and other concerns, and that formal representations would be made to ADC in the week following the present meeting.

With regard to the Healthcare Advisory Group, Councillor Oldfield noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 29 January, it having been initially uncertain whether any further meetings would take place, the outcome of the inaugural meeting having been very negative. The issue with regard to Clinical Commissioning Groups was, as ever, lack of funding – this would have to be bid for alongside every other NHS institution in the country, meaning that, in practical terms, there was very little scope for increase.

15/186

**QUESTIONS RESULTING FROM COMMITTEES HELD SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

An opportunity to ask questions resulting from the already circulated minutes of the meetings of the following committees:-

- a) The Planning & Conservation Committee meeting held on 15 December 2015;
- b) The Parish Maintenance Committee meeting held on 8 December 2015.

With regard to planning matters, the draft response to the CALA Homes planning application (A/144/15/PL), which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, was discussed at length. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Thompson for his detailed analysis of the housing mix and related matters.

Councillor Thompson queried the procedure for dealing with major applications of this kind. The Clerk noted that these had historically been delegated to a working party, which had divided up the paperwork amongst various Councillors, broadly in accordance with those Councillors' areas of expertise. There was no set procedure.

On a proposal by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Mountain: To note and agree the broad thrust of the response to the application, and to delegate the finalising of the detailed response to the planning committee, which would next meet on 12 January 2016 – unanimously **AGREED.**

15/187

**2015/2016 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The reports were taken as read.

Councillor Verrinder asked what the "other income" items related to. The Clerk noted that these included rent receipts for the Honey Lane allotments, paid over by the Allotment Association.

15/188

**TO CONSIDER ANY URGENT MATTERS, FOR INFORMATION ONLY, ARISING SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THIS AGENDA**

None.

15/189

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 8 February 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**The meeting finished at 21:35.**

  
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Chairman

Date..... *8th February 2016* .....