



WESTHAMPNETT PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Westhampnett, Maudlin and Westerton

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Linda Lanham
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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors for the Parish of Westhampnett held at 7.30pm on Monday 16th April 2018 at the March C of E School, Westhampnett

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr W P Harding (Chairman), Cllr J L Hardstaff (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R Fabricius, Cllr S James, Cllr C McLeish.

The meeting was clerked by Parish Clerk, Mrs Linda F Lanham.

WSCC Cllr J Hunt, CDC Cllr M Hall, Mr Andrew Ball (Rolls Royce Motor Cars Ltd), and 17 members of the public also attended.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>40/18</u>	<u>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> The Chairman opened the meeting, and welcomed all. Apologies received from Cllr S Burborough, Cllr P Clingan, Mr. Mark Gibb (Goodwood)	<u>WPH</u>
<u>41/18</u>	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 th March 2017 are approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr McLeish and seconded by Cllr Hardstaff.	<u>WPH</u>
<u>42/18</u>	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> None.	
<u>43/18</u>	<u>ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL</u> The Chairman gave a summary of the work of the Parish Council over the last year: <u>Westhampnett Parish Council Chairman's Report March 2018</u> I would like to record my thanks to all the Parish Councillors and our new Clerk Linda Lanham for the assistance and support they have provided during the past year. Additional thanks go to our Clerk of the day Lisa O'Sullivan whom we unfortunately lost due to her full time clerking duties, we had the assistance of Locum Clerk Joanna Cadman who helped us enormously and prepared our, now new, Parish Clerk Linda Lanham for the role. Linda was and still is heavily involved with the Neighbourhood Plan and the Bellway saga. In addition to the Travellers illegal encampments the Lay-by burger bar was broken into and various items stolen. This event was reported via email to Steve Hansford the same day, unfortunately, it being a weekend, no one was managing the Transit site, something we had been assured would never be the case when the site was forced upon us. However, the Travellers moved out of the British Home Stores service yard and joined their associates on the grass verge. Steve Hansford did take immediate action and they were gone by the following Monday. I called for an emergency meeting of the Liaison Committee to establish what may be done to prevent this intrusion in future. That meeting led to several others with representatives from the Police, County and District Councillor's, Traveller Management, Highways and Goodwood, all seeking a solution to the illegal parking.	<u>WPH</u>

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In order to deter indiscriminate illegal parking on the verge leading up to the Chichester Park Hotel Roundabout, we explored the use of wooden planting troughs positioned along the grass verge, both sides of the road. I made application to CDC for a £1000 grant as a contribution to the costs; the team was scheduled to approach Chichester Park Hotel, Jewson's, Rolls Royce and others to make financial contributions towards the costs. As it happens this was not necessary as the CDC grant covered all costs indicated by the West Sussex Volunteers group. It was agreed, after a lot of prevarication by Highways, to incorporate timber bollards as a preventative access device. After much discussion I prepared plans of the proposed bollard arrangement for both sides of the Road, thanks to Highways involvement only one side of the road was scheduled to receive the bollards. West Sussex Volunteers kindly agreed to install the bollards, funded by our grant. Highways produced a document indicating an incorrect layout of the bollards and maintenance conditions for my signature, which I declined, as it committed Westhampnett PC to costs and involvement of our volunteers plus maintenance of the bollards that we stated were unacceptable from the outset.

The West Sussex Volunteers have now completed the installation with the exception of the last few posts and have provided a first rate job that should result in no further incursions along that strip of green verge. On completion of their work we intend to hold a thankyou afternoon tea for the workers.

I together with Cllr Sharron Burborough, Cllr Jean Hardstaff attended the A27 Workshop called by Mrs Goldsmith at the Chichester College; it was poorly represented by the northern Parishes and hugely represented by the southern groups. Councillor Rod Fabricius and I have attended all subsequent meetings where a lot of ill-informed comments were flung around about Goodwood and still get rolled out at every meeting. There was no sign of a civil engineer to advise on the physical requirements of any scheme and no suggestion as to how the ideas would be funded.

The so called workshop produced nothing in the way of constructive ideas but an exercise in management speak, manipulated questions and answers which ended in a ballot box collection, just in time to remind everyone that the elections were coming up and the next meeting of this Workshop was delayed until after the elections.

Cllr Jean Hardstaff and I attended the All Parishes Meeting, and all subsequent so called workshops, which proved as pointless as the first with a showman offering all sorts of unsubstantiated solutions heavily slanted to a northern bypass. I attended every workshop with Councillor Fabricius with a diminishing level of hope and interest up to the last meeting which was just one step too far, as any expectation of a viable solution was not in sight.

Lavant Parish Council ran an open information and opinion gathering exercise to establish available information and what the parishioners of Lavant and surrounds felt about the A27 proposals being promoted by Louise Goldsmith and West Sussex CC. Four Westhampnett Councillors and four parishioners attended. A document was prepared indicating the feelings of Lavant and pointing out the irregularities of information pushing for a northern bypass. Westhampnett has associated itself with all of the items raised and issued it to Gillian Keegan and CDC.

We have seen a herculean effort by our pathway and hedge cutting volunteer group, who are mostly made up of councillors and a few parishioner's, they have cleared overgrown footpaths and mowed miles of grass verges. A small and inadequate token of the Parish appreciation was arranged by way of a fish and chip supper.

Rolls Royce offered to host the 2018 Volunteers Supper which we gratefully accepted. The supper was held at Bob & Josie's home and will be funded by RR. Another group of individuals worthy of our appreciation, under the chairmanship of Councillor Jean Hardstaff, is the Neighbourhood Plan Group, they have worked so hard and long on this thankless task, it is no wonder that less committed councils pay over thirty thousand pounds for the job to be farmed out to others.

The Plan has reached a point of development that required a specific eye, we therefore appointed Henry Adams Surveyors to manage the final push.

The Parish Hall has occupied even more of our time than last year, Cllr Jean

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Hardstaff, Linda Lanham and myself have made every effort in attempting to get Bellway to provide the agreed sum for the Hall and the adjoining Land. Bellway's refusal to honour the 106 agreement has caused us considerable delays, cost and inconvenience, due to the delays the quotations provided by contractors have become out of date, construction costs have risen and the interest that should have accrued on the sum identified for the Hall has been delayed by Bellway in contravention of the 106 agreement. We cannot appoint a contractor to commence the build until we have the long overdue money.

Bellway had submitted the Planning application for the Hall indicating our agreement to a full variation of the 106 monies which was inaccurate. However, the application could not proceed without our written approval, which will be withheld until Bellway's financial agreement is received. It was resolved that we should accept the identified sum of £500,000 from Bellway and the associated site while appointing an alternative Design and Build contractor more experience in Hall construction. Three contractors were invited to tender including Bellway's and a selection will be made as soon as the Bellway monies are released.

At the time of writing we were still awaiting Bellway's legal letter of agreement and financial contribution. A meeting was scheduled for early February to determine the money and land transfer; this will be reported on towards the end of this report.

Rolls Royce have applied for and obtained planning permission for a 40 car carpark opposite the March School which will greatly assist parent parking at school drop off times and reduce the dangers of mixing children with traffic.

The Old Place Farm site, originally identified to receive part of a 1500 housing development, was amended to provide 2 Football pitches and a Pavilion on the banks of the Lavant, served by a temporary road from Old Place Lane. It is now being promoted as a northern route for the A27.

A temporary road serving the proposed football pitches has developed into a permanent cycle and pedestrian path no provision for parking has been considered. Southern water has indicated the need for a pumping station squarely in the middle of the farmland off Old Place Farm, a formal objection has been logged by the Parish Council but as with most things resident opinion and wishes are secondary to remote design teams' artistic scribblings.

Attendance at the Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultative Committee and the Goodwood Aerodrome Consultative Committee has provided us with a voice regarding the activities that adversely affect us as a village. However, the number of flyover complaints has dropped significantly and reflect the effect of the runway being out of action.

We have been addressed by the Goodwood Aerodrome and Helicopter companies who have agreed to tighten-up the flight path arrangements and provide us with a suggested new flight path for helicopters and fixed wing planes. Unfortunately the digital maps of the flight plans did not materialise for accurate reports to be sent to Goodwood. A new director Dave Ford assured us the lack of a survey provision would be addressed and a plan would be issued shortly. We invited the Airfield Management to attend the January meeting; unfortunately they failed to attend the meeting.

We are hopeful that Bellway will be releasing the funds owed to us for the Roman Walk development in the very near future, allowing the construction of the Community Hall, commencement of this site will enable us to claim the 106 money owed for the Grange Development which is also outstanding from Bellway.

That concludes my report and I am happy to take any questions.

There were no questions.

44/18	PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS ON:	
1	<u>Goodwood Aerodrome</u> – no report as Mr Gibbs unable to attend.	
2	<p><u>Rolls Royce</u> – a presentation was given by Mr Andrew Ball showing the new model of RR to be launched soon.</p> <p>A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the parking problem having now moved to south side of Stane Street. Mr Ball said that Rolls Royce is aware of the issues, apologises for the problem, and is trying to deal with it. RR believes it is illegal to park on the pavement; however the offenders need to be given a parking ticket by the Police.</p> <p>Mr Jeff Nielsen, resident, asked how the success of the new car park will be measured in regard to parking in Claypit Lane. Mr Ball said the when the community is happy they will be happy. Rolls Royce does have an agreement with staff not to park on local roads, and that the new car park should be of sufficient capacity. Mr Andrew Blanchard, resident, said that he was very grateful for the new car park. He also commented that there had been 3 contractors service buses going up Claypit Lane that day, Mr Ball confirmed he would take the matter up with the contractors. Mrs Ros Craven, resident, said that there had been an improvement in the end of afternoon shift speeding, in that the traffic at 11-30pm was going slower, and it was quieter, however there are still some bad ones. Mr Ball replied saying the Community Speedwatch was getting set up, with Rolls Royce taking part, but not at night unfortunately. He hoped that the speeding will reduce as a result of the speed traps. Cllr Hunt commented that speeding on local roads is everywhere.</p>	
3	Madgwick Park development - no report as unable to attend.	
4	<u>Community Hall</u> – Cllr Hardstaff advised that in the near future the Deed of Variation would be signed, and the monies released to the Parish, and then building can start late summer / early autumn. She advised a plan of the Community Hall was displayed on the Board in the room.	
5	<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Cllr Hardstaff advised that further work on the Plan had been held up by time spent on the Community Hall, but that it is ongoing via Henry Adams.	

45/18

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REPORTS FROM:

District Councillor

Cllr Hall stated he had very much enjoyed his year, and gave an update on matters relating to CDC. He advised the meeting that he would not be standing again next year. Cllr Harding thanked him, on behalf of the whole Council, for the work he done for the Parish.

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County Councillor

Cllr Hunt said he had very much enjoyed representing Westhampnett, and gave an update:

Annual Report by Jeremy Hunt, County Council Member for Chichester North

I can't believe another year has flown by - it seems like only yesterday that we were here having our last Elector's meeting.

For me it has been quite a busy year, with County Council elections last May. I was delighted to have been elected to represent you for another term of office and I look forward to supporting you over the next three years.

I'm aware that I reported fully on the Council tax increases at your last meeting in March. I also realise that you will all have received your council tax bills by now, but as this is the Annual Electors Meeting I would just like to give some background detail regarding the need for those increase.

The County Council continues to face continuing challenges in providing the services we do in the face of ever reducing funding. The National Audit Office (NAO) issued a report in March which clearly demonstrated how councils are 'struggling to juggle' higher demands and cost pressures, against a background of funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010/11.

Our two largest budget spends are on Adult services and Children's Services. Adults, at nearly £195m represents 36.5% of our annual revenue spend and children, at nearly £96m, represents 18% of our budget. Despite both our excellent pro-active 'Think Family' programme - where we support whole families in order to turn their lives around, particularly supporting the children - and the work of our adult services teams, who again do excellent proactive work to ensure that older people can retain their independence for longer, - the numbers and complexities of these cases continues to increase.

Of particular concern is how to fund social care going forward. I'm sure most of you will have seen the many reports in the media around this issue which is of real concern. The Government will be publishing a green paper on the future of adult social care funding in the spring or early summer, so we wait to see what comes forward in that paper.

However, the good news as far as West Sussex residents are concerned, is that despite still having to make savings in the next financial year, we will be investing an additional:

- £2.4m in our Children's services,
- an additional £6.7m in our adults' services and
- an additional £3.3m in our environmental portfolio.

I briefly mentioned savings just then and of course this has been a major focus for us since 2010/11. I would just like to assure you that, despite having made savings since 2010 of over £200m, with another £75m to be saved over the next four years, we are far better off than many other local authorities.

We are also able to maintain our reserves - a majority of which are allocated - at a

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healthy level. There are a number of LA's who are having to deplete their reserves at an alarming rate in order to fund services. This is not financially sustainable, as is the recent case where Northamptonshire effectively ran out of money - and there are number of others who are facing a similar situation.

However, I can assure you that due to sound financial management over many years your county is in a secure financial position. Yes, perhaps our services are no longer gold plated, but the bottom line is that we are still maintaining those core frontline services.

Finally on finance we also have a very exiting capital programme over the next five years, investing around £800m in our county. Just as an example, over the next five years we plan to invest:

- £167m on education and skills for our children and young people
- £53m to help boost the economy of the county
- £10m on environmental projects
- £192m on highways and infrastructure projects
- £26m on making our community safer and stronger.

So you can see, that this administration has an exciting and vibrant future mapped out for your county - very much supporting you, our residents.

Talking about you, our residents, it is always important to know what you care about and what is important to you. We regularly carry out a 'What Matters to You' survey, the last one being in 2016. I'm pleased to say that a new survey will be launched later this month. It is aimed at engaging you, our residents, on the priorities as set out in the West Sussex Plan 2017-2022.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/the-west-sussex-plan/> Much of this plan is based on what you told us was important to you in that last survey. We want to know your views on what areas need emphasis now, to ensure that these priorities are promoted in the future. An extensive programme of engagement is planned, including use of social media, libraries, West Sussex Connections', the County Council's website and by specific events at your County Local Committee meeting. Keep a look out in the media for the launch of the survey and I will also update your clerk with the website once it is launched.

Now, moving on to a different issue altogether - the A27, Chichester by-pass! Obviously that has taken up a lot of time over the last year with the desire to find a solution that can be supported by the whole community. This community group - known as the BABA27 group - are now nearing a critical point in the process and I thank you for your attendance at these meetings.

I know that there has been an enormous public response - especially from people in the north of the city - since the publication of the 'high line' details put forward by Systra, the highways consultant, last month. I hope the parish put forward their 'official' view - I know that several members attended to Lavant meeting, so hopefully that gave you plenty of food for thought. As I said, I have seen a lot of the recent correspondence on this subject and some of it has been unnecessarily abusive, particularly to the Leader of the County Council. Whatever your views, whether you agree with someone or not, I don't believe there is ever a place for personal abuse. I'm sure no one from this parish has written such a letter or email, but if anyone is tempted could I please ask them to respect all views and not write any abusive comments. It also doesn't help your case.

If you attended our last CLC meeting you will have seen the presentation about crowd funding. As from this coming financial year we have dropped two of our three funding pots - the MBSF and the small grants fund - and we are promote local groups to raise funds through a crowd funding platform, which in turn your local CLC's can choose to support through their CIF fund. The final details of this are being sorted out and it should go live on our website shortly, so watch this space.

<p><u>45/18</u> <u>2 Cont.</u></p>	<p>Finally, I mentioned our Think Family programme and our support for adults services earlier, but here is just a taster of the wide range of services we provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are with you from conception - not literally of course - but our 1001 days programme is designed to support both mothers and babies who need our help, from conception of the baby through to its second birthday - 1001 days. • We support children in need - in fact all Members of the County Council have a responsibility as 'Corporate Parents' to all the children in our care. • We provide an education for our children, through our maintained schools as well as being responsible for transporting many of those children to and from school. • We maintain the fabric of the highways network, the roads, the pavements, the street lights and the road signs. • The D's and B's Collect your waste, but the County Council is responsible for the recycling and disposal of all that waste. • The Fire and Rescue service is now deeply embedded within the County Council, to the great benefit of both parties. Only last month the F&R service, supported by an emergency team from the CC, was responsible for distributing over 2500 bottles of water to residents in parts of mid-Sussex and Crawley, when many water mains burst following the very cold weather last month. • Another service we provide - meals on wheels - also distributed bottled water with all their meals to ensure that no one in our county went without water. • We support our businesses by investing heavily in our economy - we also promote tourism - all aimed at bringing jobs into the county and improving the GVA. More businesses mean more business rates, a percentage of which your local authorities retain and in turn re-invest in our services. • And finally, we run the registrar of births, Marriages and deaths - so again we are there supporting you and your families from the beginning to the end - and many points in between! <p>So, there you have it - a county council that supports all its residents - and is there with a helping hand when you need us most.</p> <p>I would like to finish by thanking the members of the PC for their support over the last year and I very much look forward to working with you, and your residents, over the coming year.</p>	
<p><u>46/18</u></p>	<p><u>AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNCIL FOR Y/E 31ST MARCH 2017</u></p> <p><u>Report of Parish Clerk Mrs L Lanham, and on behalf of the Responsible Financial Officer Mrs J Cadman</u></p> <p>The Annual Return for 2016-17 was circulated to, and approved by the Council. It was then examined by the internal and external auditors who made no comments on the accounts.</p> <p>The Annual Return for 2017-18, together with a detailed breakdown of the various budget headings is currently being finalised. During the year the accounts have been transferred from a spreadsheet system to a proprietary accounting system used by many Parishes. This Year End needs careful reconciliation which is currently taking place. The Accounts will be available for the next Full Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2018.</p> <p>The Rialtas Business Systems software will allow quick and easy production of reports and Vat reclaims. It will also place the Council in a better position to be able to deal with increased income and expenditure during the building of the</p>	<p><u>LFL</u></p>

<p><u>46/18</u> <u>Cont.</u></p>	<p>Community Hall, and then when it is up and running.</p> <p>The Council increased the precept in 2017-18 to a total of £42,900, and approved that the precept for the coming year 2018-19 should also be £42,900. As there are now more Council tax payers in the Parish the actual amount that a Band D equivalent Council tax payer will pay will be decreased by £14.21 (-12.33%).</p> <p>The reasons for the level of the precept are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In order to ensure that the Community Hall can be built to a useable state, a Public Works Loan Board loan may be necessary to cover any shortfall in funding. A loan of £150,000 would incur costs of approximately £9,500 pa. and there will then be 2 years' worth of repayments available. 2. It is not anticipated that this will be needed, but the Council needs the flexibility and reassurance that the project can be finished. The PWLB loan option would only be used in part or in whole if the need was essential. 3. The first years running costs of the Community Hall will need to be covered regardless of the level of income obtained from letting the premises. This ensures there will be sufficient funds to cover those costs. <p>The Council continues to manage its finances prudently, and significant capital projects are only pursued when grants can be secured.</p> <p>There were no questions.</p>	
<p><u>47/18</u> <u>1</u></p> <p><u>2</u></p> <p><u>3</u></p>	<p><u>QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL ELECTORS</u></p> <p><u>A27:</u> Mr Andrew Blanchard asked Cllr Hunt why he thought he had been kept in the dark in regard to the A27. Cllr Hunt said he had attended BABA27 meetings, and sat in on meetings he should have done, but he has been outside of other meetings that have taken place. Cllr Hunt said people speculate but he has no other information. Cllr Harding asked if Cllr Hunt could explain why by BABA27 has allowed WPC 2 seats, why so few. Cllr Hunt said everyone was entitled to 2 places. Cllr Harding said that the south of the area seems to get a larger representation, and Cllr Hunt said he has no input or understanding of this. Cllr Harding stated that if "they" say it is representative, then it is not. One plan circulating came from Summersdale, and is not viable as it crosses land already being used to build Madgwick Park. Cllr Harding asked why WSCC Councillors are supposed to support roundabouts. Mr Don Milton, resident, stated that there is a case for upgrading the current road with elevated sections over the roundabouts.</p> <p><u>A27 Sound barriers:</u> Mrs Ros Craven asked why is the stretch of the A27 by the Watersports Park the only one without sound barriers? It is very noisy living along Stane Street. Mrs Craven was advised this is a Highways matter.</p> <p><u>Water Main upgrade:</u> Mrs Ros Craven commented that there will be a traffic problem when the Solar Farm work and the Water mains work were both being carried out at the same time in Coach Road. Mrs Craven was advised that this is a Portsmouth Water matter.</p>	
<p><u>48/18</u></p>	<p>The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm. Date of next meeting: 14th May 2018 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council including election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman).</p>	

Signed.....

Chairman of Meeting

Date.....