

PARISH OF WESTHAMPNETT
ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS

Held in the March C. of E. School on Monday 16th March 2015 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Holman (Chairman, Westhampnett Parish Council)
Parish Cllrs W Harding, R Fabricius, Mrs C McLeish, Mrs P Wood, and Mrs J Hardstaff.
District Cllr A Smith
County Cllr J Hunt
Mr. N Carter, Rolls Royce
PC D Emmett
Mr G Burt (Clerk to the Council)
5 Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 6.00pm.

1. WELCOME

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr R Holman, welcomed all those present.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 MAY 2014

The Minutes, having been distributed to electors prior to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Harding reported that the Police had had some recent success in apprehending two of the vehicles responsible for *Drifting* at the hotel roundabout. Suspicious vehicles in Claypitt Lane had been looking to steal logs, not Dogs!

4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman presented his report (Appended to Minutes - Appendix 1).

5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Smith advised that no date had yet been set to determine the Madgewick Lane planning application. An added complication was that whilst capacity expansion for the Tangmere Wastewater Treatment Works at Easthampnett had been approved, this was not likely to be on-stream until 2019; this capacity was needed to serve the Madgewick Lane scheme. The Local Plan Inspector was currently writing their report, and it was envisaged that there would be no major *shocks* contained within.

Opening of the Traveller Site, which he had voted against, was imminent. He had attended the site visit earlier. For the first year, it was to accept Police referrals only. It should enable the Police to move on unauthorised encampments, of which several local villages had experiences in recent years.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Hunt read out a written report (Appended to Minutes - Appendix 2)

Mr A Blanchard reported that the pump at Dairy Lane had already been in operation.

Cllr R Fabricius asked in what way had WSCC improved care of the elderly? Cllr Hunt reported that significant work had been done on Dementia care and to implement the *Care Act*. The £5 million added to the budget for older peoples services last year had been repeated this year. Much work was being done to not only *sign-post* older residents to services available, but also ensure that all related service providers, such as CCGs and Surgeries were working together. This meant for better *coal face* delivery to those in need as well as ensuring money was best spent. One aim of all such work was to enable residents to stay in their homes for as long as possible which was good for them, and society.

Cllr Hunt also reported on the *Think Family* initiative, which aimed to support families, where required, at an early stage.

7. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

PC Dickie Emmett reported on initiatives at the Hotel roundabout where *Drifting* had blighted local residents' quality of life for some time. Covert cameras had been ruled out as they would be too intrusive. As a result of CCTV and patrols, two vehicles had been seized for being without insurance. There had been a significant reduction in the amount of noise as a result.

He handed out some *You're on CCTV* posters for display around the village.

One problem that the Police were currently dealing with, was *Courier Fraud*, where criminals attempted to empty victim's bank accounts online, using a combination of phone calls and innocent courier firms.

Overall though, he reassured residents that crime in the area was relatively low.

He agreed to try to source more of the temporary plastic *Slow Down* signs to go up in Stane Street.

8. ROLLS ROYCE REPRESENTATIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Nigel Carter reported that:

- a. The plant was working to capacity this year.

- b. There had been announcements about new vehicles, including an SUV, which would be produced there.
- c. The recent visit by the Prime Minister was good for publicity, image, and orders!
- d. The new T.L.C. at Bognor would reduce some vehicle movements to the Westhampnett plant. (Large vehicles going to Bognor would not use the A29)
- e. Whilst the plant assisted Goodwood with some of their events by way of car parking etc, new no events had been added to the calendar.
- f. Plans to improve the bus service for staff, and the public, were ongoing.
- g. Work to improve a footpath along the boundary was imminent.

9. GOODWOOD REPRESENTATIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT

No report.

10. TO RECEIVE THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2014

The Clerk advised that copies of the Annual Return were available on the table. Whilst he was unable to comment on these, as he is new to the role, he explained that the amount that the Parish Council was collecting from Council Tax Payers in the coming financial year had been increased due to the needed to budget for elections as advised by CDC, and also to enable to the Council to take forward the Neighbourhood Plan, once the Local Plan had been formally adopted. The Council's opening balances at 1st April this year would be much greater than last year, due to S106 funds secured and ring-fenced for the Village Hall project.

11. OTHERS MATTER RAISED BY ELECTORS

Mr M Hall asked if the Council would be reiterating its previous comments in respect of the application for Madgewick Lane? The Council would consider this at its subsequent meeting. He also stressed that the new sewage treatment facility at Easthampnett would not be delivered for several years.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ONCE AGAIN THE BUSINESS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY PLANNING ISSUES, NOTABLY THE GYPSY TRAN-SIT AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT OLD PLACE FARM. AS YOU ARE AWARE THE TRANSIT SITE WAS IMPOSED ON THE PARISH DESPITE STIFF OPPOSITION FROM THIS COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS BUT TO NO AVAIL. SINCE THEN THE COUNCIL THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE BILL HARDING HAS SOUGHT TO REDUCE THE IMPACT ON OUR LOCALITY AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

THE PARISH CONTINUES TO RESIST THE PROPOSED OLD PLACE FARM DEVELOPMENT AND ALONG WITH GOODWOOD ESTATE AND ROLLS ROYCE ~~AND~~ MADE ITS OPPOSITION ROBUSTLY CLEAR TO THE INSPECTOR AT THE INQUIRY LAST AUTUMN. THE PARISH HAD ALREADY IDENTIFIED AREAS WITHIN WESTHAMPNETT WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF HOUSES WITHOUT THE NEED TO DESPOIL THE STRATEGIC GAP AND THE COUNTRYSIDE LEADING TO THE SOUTH DOWNS. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO COUNCILLOR JEAN HARDSTAFF HEAD OF PLANNING FOR WPC AND BILL HARDING FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND EXPERITSE THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THESE TWO ISSUES.

WE WERE FINALLY GRANTED A 30MPH LAST NOVEMBER AFTER 5 YEARS OF CAMPAINING BUT ARE STILL WAITING FOR THE SPEED RESTRICTION SIGNS TO BE RE DONE. THESE THINGS DO SEEM TO BE TAKING A LONG TIME TO GET FUNDING APPROVED. WITH THE SALE OF THE HANGING BASKET SITE TO BELLWAY IT IS HOPED THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON THE VILLAGE HALL THE PC IS SOON TO FINALISE ITS OWN SPECIFICATIONS BEFORE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEVELOPER TAKE PLACE. SOUTHERN WATER HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY ARE HAVING TO RE APRaise THE WORK THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT AT MAUDLIN AND THEY WILL KEEP THE PC BRIEFED ON THEIR DELIBERTAIONS BUT THAT THE UPDATING OF THE PIPEWORK WILL GO AHEAD. A LIST OF PROJECTS HAS BEEN FORMULATED TO ULILISE

SOME OF THE 106 MONIES AVAILABLE TO THE PC TO BE SPENT ON SCHEMES WHICH WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE WE ARE STILL AWAITING APPROVAL FROM WSCC.

WPC NOW HAS ITS OWN WEB SITE WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP BY OUR CLERK WHO WAS APPOINTED LAST JULY. MY THANKS TO HIM AS THIS HAS PROVED A GREAT BENEFIT BOTH THE COUNCIL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

WESTHAMPNETT VOLUNTEERS WERE BUSY LAST YEAR KEEPING FOOTPATHS MOWED HEDGES CUT BACK AND PAVEMENTS KEPT CLEAR, MY THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED INTO THESE ACTIVITIES.

FINALLY MAY I THANK ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THEIR TIME AND HARD WORK OVER THE PAST 12 TWELVE MONTHS, ALSO ANDREW BLANCHARD WHO LOOKS AFTER THE PLAY AREA AT WESTERTON ON A REGULAR BASIS.

TO OUR REGULAR OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTORS THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND REGULAR REPORTS.

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

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is my second Annual Report to the Westhampnett PC as your CC representative and I would like to say how much I have enjoyed working with you all over those two years. Obviously there have been some challenging issues, but on the whole I hope that across the broad spectrum of services provided by the CC, you feel that your residents have received a good level of support.

So what has been going on in the Parish as far as the County Council is concerned.

One of the ongoing issues has been the flooding in the parish. Obviously DHL is the main area of concern and following the ditch clearance that happened last year I am pleased to say that we did finally get the silt and scrub cleared away! Luckily last winter was not nearly so wet so no problems arose at bottom of the lane. I am continuing to pursue the HA to try and find a permanent solution to clearing the water from the south side of the A27, but they are proving very allusive.

This year, Operation Watershed Mk 2 has been running and the PC have recently applied for some funding to carry out some further flood relief work. This application is currently being reviewed.

Operation Watershed has been a great success for the County. Last year over £8m was put into flood relief schemes. £1.25m of this funding was channelled through local parishes and other organisations. This year the CC ran OW Mk 2, which released a further £1m for schemes promoted by local communities. This scheme finishes on 31st March and there are currently no plans to extend it beyond that date.

Moving on, I am very pleased to say that finally the new 30mph speed limit was introduced through the village. As well as Stane Street, I was very pleased to be able to ensure that the first part of Madgwick Lane, which was also a 40mph limit, was included in this scheme. I realise there are still issues on this particular road and when the opportunity arises I intend to push for further speed restrictions.

I hope that this reduced speed limit will in time make Westhampnett a safer place. I believe that the CC have played their part, so it is now up to others to try to encourage motorists to respect the limit. This could be through the community setting up a speed watch group - I'm sure that your local PCSO will be happy to advise you on this - or by working with local employers to try to educate their employees to respect your community.

I believe that your Chairman recently had a very successful meeting with our highways team regarding the implementation of a bus stop box in Stane Street, adjacent to the end of Claypit Lane. There were some technical difficulties with regard to the stop being too close to the junction, so I believe it has been agreed to move the stop some 200/300 yds to the east.

I also understand that our Community Support officers have had discussions with PC representatives in order to try and promote the development of a cycle route running through the village. No doubt the Chairman will update you in due course.

During the year the community requested the reinstatement of an island at the end of Coach Road to facilitate a safer crossing point for pedestrians. Our highways team reviewed this request but unfortunately, for the reasons I gave at the last PC meeting, they did not feel that they can support it. I have asked them to look at it again and I will report back in due course.

One 'failure' I think we all felt was that, despite numerous objections from many members of the community, the PC and myself, the application for a traveller's transit site in Westhampnett, made by the CDC, was sadly approved - by the CDC! Today it had its official opening, to which I was invited, but you won't be surprised that having objected to it being built I declined the invitation. We wait to see what effect this has on the local community. We trust that all the assurances given to us by the various agencies responsible for the effective operation of this site, including WSCC and the police, are lived up to.

Finally, I just want to update you on two CC matters:

- Firstly, I would like to recommend the WSCC Performance Dashboard which is relatively new. This underpins our three key aims, Giving Children the Best Start in Life, Championing the Economy and Supporting Independence in Later Life. It can be accessed on our website and you can drill down into a number of key measures and see how the County Council is performing against a clear set of targets.
- Secondly, the budget for 2015/16 was set recently at our last County Council meeting. As you might be aware, we are having to find savings of £68m over the next two years as part of an overall savings target of around £120m over the next four years. However, due to a lot of hard work in identifying savings and 'efficiencies' we have been able to do this without any cuts to front line services. In fact in both Children's services and in supporting our elderly residents we have increased some of our frontline budgets: And we have done all this as well as holding the WSCC share of your Council Tax at its present level. This will be the fifth year without an increase. In real terms, an average band D taxpayer will have saved over £500. Hopefully, this will have been spent in the local economy, thus boosting the overall economy of the County.

I apologise, I am sure I have gone on far too long, but if anyone has any questions with regard to the County Council I will try to answer them as best I can.

Thank you for all your support during the year.

16/03/2015