**Minutes of Funtington Parish Council Meeting held at St Mary’s Church Hall, Funtington on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 6:30pm**

**Present:** Cllr J Mottershead (Chair), Cllr D Ash, Cllr V Cathie, Cllr R Littler, Cllr B Mousley,

**In Attendance:** Cllr J Brookes-Harmer and Cllr J Joy

**Members of the Public:** There were 10 members of the public present.

*The meeting commenced at 6:30pm*

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Jack Mousley, Cllr Nick Laurence and Cllr E Paris.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

**3. To Receive and Confirm the Accuracy of the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 7 February 2024**

Following a vote by show of hands, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**4. Open Forum**

No issues were raised.

**5. Planning and Licensing Applications**

a) The Chair went through the list of applications and invited Cllr Mousley to update the Council on the following applications; SDNP/24/00208/FUL – Bermuda, Southbrook Road, West Ashling, West Sussex, PO18 8DN – objection

SDNP/24/00681/HOUS - Goodgers Barn, Southbrook Road, West Ashling, West Sussex, PO18 8DN – no objections were recorded.

b) The Chair informed the Council they had received confirmation of the number of gypsy and traveller sites within the Parish as follows; 48 authorised pitches, 20 unauthorised pitches, 5 pitches which were currently subject to planning applications. For clarification the Chair explained all pitches consisted of 1 mobile home, one touring caravan, 1 dayroom and 2 parking spaces.

The Chair invited Cllr Brookes-Harmer to address the Council, he informed them he had met with both Andrew Frost, Director of Planning and Cllr Adrian Moss, Leader of Chichester District Council, to discuss the number of pitches within the Parish. He confirmed the Planning Committee would be undertaking a site visit of the applications on Newells Lane, however, the date of the visit had yet to be agreed.

Cllr Brookes-Harmer agreed to find out what the finite number of ‘pitches’ were on the Newells Lane site and feedback.

Responding to concerns of raw sewage and the burning of tyres on the site Cllr Brookes-Harmer advised those with concerns to report these incidences to the Environmental Health team at Chichester District Council.

On the issue of dominance (regarding gypsy and travellers), the Chair informed the Council that they had written to Gillian Keegan MP, to ask for assistance in clarifying what the definition of ‘dominance’ was, councillors agreed it could not just be based on numbers.

c) To agree to the FPC Planning Group Policy (and use of aide memoire); Following a vote; the council agreed to adopt the FPC aide memoire.

Responding to question from the public; the Chair confirmed the aide memoire would be uploaded onto the parish website. It would be completed by councillors when considering applications in the Parish.

**6. To Receive Reports from County and District Cllrs**

Cllr Brookes-Harmer had forwarded his report to the Clerk, this would be uploaded onto the Parish website.

Cllr Joy informed the Council that following a number of ‘Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders’ (TTRO’s) on Watery Lane, Southern Water had applied for an Article 14.1. He explained the Article 14.1, which would come into effect on 20 March, would allow them to keep Watery Lane shut for up to 18 months whilst they work on pumping out the drains and maybe carrying out inspection work on these drains. He provided a brief update on the proposed works, but until the water table had decreased they would not be able to do anything other than mitigate.

The Council raised concerns of the environmental damage being caused by the continued overspill of raw sewage into the water network, Cllr Joy informed them that he had been assured Southern Water were regularly dip testing the stream.

Cllr Joy confirmed that Southern Water would be obliged to rectify any road surface damage because of their investigations and ongoing flooding.

Following further discussion about Southern Water, the Chair encouraged all those affected to write to Southern Water, they would also include a note in the Parish Magazine advising people to continue objecting to Southern Water to ensure they remained fully aware of the impact their failures were having on daily lives.

**7. Other General Matters for Decision – To consider and agree action on the following:**

a) To replace the noticeboard in West Ashling; following a vote the Council agreed to replace the noticeboard in West Ashling

b) Standard proforma ‘Contract for Small Repairs and Maintenance’; not all Councillors present had read the proforma, the Chair asked for any comments to be fed back by way of email before adopting.

**8) Financial Matters for Decision – To Consider and Agree Action on the following:**

a) March Schedule of Payments and bank reconciliation, to be agreed at the next meeting.

b) Report on Council’s Bank Accounts as at 1st March 2024; to be agreed at the next meeting.

c) To seek approval for a grant for Funtington Goblins; following a vote the Council agreed to support a grant for the Funtington Goblins.

d) Review of rental fee for Parish Meadow for 24/25; It was agreed by all present to conduct a review of the rental fee for the Parish Meadow and to make enquiries to find out what the standard charge was for a field rental.

**9) Matters for Discussion**

Speed reduction projects and initiatives; Cllr Ash updated the Council.

To receive an update on flood issues and prevention across the parish and WSCC Operation Watershed Funding plans; The Chair informed the Council that they had met with Trevor Challen from WSCC Drainage who had come out to view areas of flooding in the parish. There were several actions identified including the clearing of ditches, unblocking of drains, the replacement of broken drains and further investigation in the flooding in West Stoke Road, Southbrook Road and Downs Street.

Responding to a suggestion from a member of the public; the Chair agreed to put forward the request that a regular maintenance schedule is developed.

**10. Matters for Information**

a) There was no further correspondence

b) The Chair informed the committee that she had had timber posts concreted into the ground at The Dell to prevent off road vehicles from accessing the land. The Chair confirmed they had spoken to PCSO Booker about the ongoing anti social behaviour caused by ATVs in the area.

**11) AOB**

The Chair thanked all those who had undertaken litter picking in East Ashling

**12) Date of Next Meeting Wednesday;** 3rd April 2024 in The Church Room, St Mary’s Church, Funtington

The meeting closed at 7.42pm.