



Minutes of Funtington Parish Council Meeting

held at St Mary's Church Hall, Funtington on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 6:30pm

Present:

Cllr J Mottershead (Chair), Cllr D Ash, Cllr V Cathie, Cllr B Mousley, Cllr E Paris

In Attendance: Cllr J Brookes-Harmer (Chichester District Councillor, Lavant Ward) and Cllr A Moss (Chichester District Councillor Harbour Villages Ward)

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 Julian Joy (West Sussex County Councillor, Chichester West Division)

2. Declarations of Interest

None received

3. To Receive and Confirm the Accuracy of the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6th March 2024. In response to a question from the floor it was noted that the clerk was awaiting formal resignation from Cllr J Mousley

4. Open Forum - comments from the floor covered the following topics:

- Flooding in Watery Lane, Funtington and other areas of the parish (covered under item 9c)
- Damage to the road edges and grass verges at Watery Lane (covered under item 9c)
- Straw and debris on roadsides. Members of the public were unhappy with the amount of straw and farm debris accumulating on road edges in the parish. Cllr Moss responded that this area could be moved up the road sweeping schedule on request. This request should be sent to Cllr Brookes-Harmer
- It was reported from the floor that BT Open Reach Fibre installation had now been completed in Funtington village.

5. Planning and Licensing Applications

a) The planning working group includes Cllrs Mottershead, Cllr (Bob) Mousley, Cllr Paris and Cllr Littler. Cllr Mottershead went on to explain how the Parish Council plans to provide greater transparency to residents, including the publication of an "Aide Memoire" on the parish council website showing the planning group findings.

b) Current planning applications: there were no new planning applications to report.

Applications SDNP/23/04958/LIS and SDNP/23/04941/LIS for 4, Church Lane, Funtington had been refused.

c) Enforcement and Appeals – a significant number of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the parish were currently subject to enforcement. There was active discussion regarding these and eleven new site applications that were still under consideration by CDC planning and the definitions of 'dominance' in this context. Councillors expressed confusion as to the Council's policy with regard to Gypsy and Traveller sites across the District and specifically the strategy for West Ashling. They noted that a more holistic view of plans for this sector was needed, notably with respect to services, facilities and

safety for all members of the populace. Cllr Moss confirmed that this topic will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting, which members of the public may attend – April 16th at 9:30am. He also requested that Funtington Cllrs send him a list of specific questions. In response to a question from Cllr Paris, Cllr Moss noted that CDC were actively looking to recruit a Gypsy and Traveler liaison officer. He would also be happy to co-ordinate a meeting between Chichester District Council officers, the police and the Parish Council to discuss these issues.

It was noted that the Chichester District Council local plan should be submitted this month, with an expected date for formal adoption in 18 months time. The plan will include specific numbers for Gypsy and Traveller sites for our area.

6. To Receive Reports from County and District Cllrs.

Reports received from District and County Councillors are routinely added to the Parish Council website.

Cllr Brookes-Harmer presented his report, there were no questions from Cllrs on the items included. Cllr Mousley requested that Cllr Brookes-Harmer include a section at the end of his report with items of specific relevance to Funtington Parish, also requesting that Cllr Brookes-Harmer let Cllrs know how they can best support him. Cllr Brookes-Harmer will inform the clerk of dates, locations and times for all his forthcoming bi-monthly ‘surgeries’.

There was no report from Cllr Joy this month

7. General Matters for Decision

a) to agree a new chair of the Planning Working Group – Cllr Mottershead agreed to take over the role on a temporary basis until a new chair is available

b) The ‘Dignity at Work Policy Document’ was approved unanimously and will be published on the parish council website.

c) Adoption of the standard proforma ‘Contract for Small Repairs and Maintenance’ was approved unanimously.

8. Financial Matters for Decision

a) Report on Council’s Bank Accounts at year end – The RFO presented her report, noting that costs had increased unilaterally and that the parish council was now taking on more and more maintenance tasks that had previously been routinely carried out by the larger authorities. An analysis of changes in parish council precept contributions for properties in the various Council Tax bands will be presented at the next meeting.

b) Cllrs agreed unanimously to accept the schedule of payments for February (not approved at the previous meeting) and March.

c) The clerk presented the bank reconciliation for March 2024, current account balance is £19,182.08, and savings account balance is £967.25. Cllrs agreed unanimously to accept the bank reconciliation

d) The Clerk noted that loss adjusters had offered a sum of £3,500 for the repair of the West Stoke sign, knocked down the previous year. A quote for repair of £4770 had been received. The Clerk remarked that the repair was a skilled job and she had only been able to locate one person able to complete this work. Cllr Moss suggested

e) To agree the rental fee for West Ashling Parish Meadow. Cllrs agreed to discuss this with the current tenant.

JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2024 - INVOICES and PAYMENTS

Method	Amount	Payee	Description
IBT	£8.50	J Mottershead	Expensees
IBT	£300.00	Neil Horrocks	Fence posts at The Dell
IBT	£270.00	Longmeadows	1 x playground visit and 1 x extra clearing work
IBT	£330.00	For 2 Dor	Delivery of Neighbourhood Planning (NHP) leaflets to households. Refunded by NHP grant
IBT	£660.00	Chichester Print	Printing NHP Questionnaires for delivery to household across the parish. Refunded by NHP grant
IBT	£45.00	Locum Clerk	March 2024 Parish Council meeting
IBT	£538.93	WSALC and NALC	Subscriptions for 2024/25

IBT = Interbank transfer

The parish clerk's monthly pay, HMRC contributions and pension contributions are not published monthly. Annual figures are provided on the audited Parish Council Annual Accounting Statements which will be published on the parish council website.

9. Matters for Discussion

a) Speed reduction projects and initiatives

Subsequent to the rejection of the 2023 Community Highways Scheme (CHS) submission, Cllr David Ash will be arranging a meeting between Highways and residents of all 4 villages to discuss plans for resubmission in July. He noted that there had been very little guidance given to parishes when preparing submissions and that he had received no responses from Cllr Joy to his requests on this topic. Cllr Moss requested that Cllr Ash forward these emails to him.

The clerk reported that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) heading West at the entrance to East Ashling had been reported to Westcotec and that they will be sending an engineer out to assess repair.

b) Funtington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaires will be sent out to all households in the Parish on the 6th April. Completed questionnaires can be dropped off at various locations across the villages, including all local pubs. Extra copies of the questionnaires will also be available at these locations. Deadline for return of completed questionnaires is 22nd April 2024.

c) Flooding issues and flood prevention in the Parish.

Considerable concern was expressed from the floor regarding the recent and ongoing flooding issues in the parish, particularly with reference to the B2146 in Funtington and the ongoing road closures, overflowing drains and damage to the road and verges at Watery Lane in Funtington. The parish council have been talking to representatives of Southern Water, Highways and local residents to push for much-needed survey work and repairs. Cllr Mousley confirmed that groundwater was coming up through the telecoms manholes on the B2146 and that this had been reported. The telecoms company had last checked the manhole two years ago, but there were deep concerns for

future ice hazards on this busy road in forthcoming winters.

There was considerable discussion regarding flooding and damage on Watery Lane. Much of the overflow was due to the ingress of land-water into old and damaged pipes and pipes blocked by tree roots. Southern Water will be undertaking a survey by inserting a camera into the relevant pipes once the flood water has subsided. CDC will also be undertaking a campaign this summer to inform landowners of their riparian responsibilities in keeping ditches and soakaways on their land clear. Water is currently being pumped out by tankers and an 18 month road closure order is in place for Watery Lane – this closure will not be permanently active, but the order allows for closures over this time period when they are necessary. Cllr Moss confirmed that he will be having a meeting with Southern Water in May to address the 10 top priority level flooded areas in the district, of which we are one, and that he is keen that the parish council be included. A new management team at Southern Water have pulled forward some of their OFWAT approved funding to use in the complex infrastructure projects required to address the issues that cover areas from Funtington, South to Bosham and Fishbourne.

Cllr Mousley confirmed that this was a complex issue involving multiple agencies and that the parish council will provide regular updates to residents as pressure is increased on service providers. Residents were increasingly frustrated by their inability to speak with those responsible and with the lack of dialogue with our local MP. Cllrs will endeavour to arrange a meeting between all parties concerned for later in the year.

Concern was also expressed from the floor regarding wastewater disposal directly into Chichester Harbour.

Damage to the verges and road edges at Watery Lane will be repaired by Southern Water under instruction from WSCC Highways. Cllr Mottershead has asked WSCC for a full job specification for review.

d) Improvements to the bus shelter on the B2146. Bus users have observed that the shelter provides very little protection. Cllr Mousley will inspect and revert with suggestions for improvements.

e) Crime and Policing. Police presence has been confirmed for school drop-off and pick-up times to deter dangerous driving. Excessive speeds on the B2146 continue to present a problem, making it difficult to cross the road. Cllr Ash confirmed that speed watch groups and speed-activated devices are effective and called for volunteers to run a new speed watch group in Funtington which the Parish Council will support. There is already an active group in East Ashling consisting of 6 volunteers working in two teams of three, at various times, convenient to them, throughout the year.

10. Matters for Information

a) **Summary of Parish Correspondence** of relevance not covered elsewhere in the meeting:

(i) Missing village name sign at East Ashling. WSCC and CDC have denied responsibility, so the parish council may have to fund a replacement.

(ii) Antisocial quad bike driving on farmland and at The Dell and vandalism at the pavilion. Both incidents have been reported to the police.

(iii) Road closure, Ratham Lane, 18th April

b) **Repairs and Maintenance** across the parish – a quote for £440 had been received for tree stump removal and grass repairs at West Ashling playground. Cllrs agreed unanimously to accept the quote. The clerk to prepare a works contract using the standard form previously agreed. It was remarked from the floor that a fence panel was loose at the playground – Cllr Mottershead will request its repair.

c) **Domain Name Changes** – The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council will have to update their domain to a .gov.uk suffix this year. The change will take place at the same time as updates to the Parish Council website.

11. AOB – comments were received from the floor regarding an instance of hardship in the village

12. **Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 in The Church Room, St Mary's Church, Funtington at 6:30pm

The meeting closed at 20:10