

PARISH OF WEST GRINSTEAD
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017
MINUTES

[NB These minutes are too long to display on notice boards, so they will be published on the web site.]

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Wednesday 22nd March 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in the Partridge Green Village Hall. (Minutes taken by Parish Clerk: Mrs Helen Dayneswood.)

There were a total of 29 people present at the meeting.

1. Introduction & welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an outline of proceedings.

Due to the tragic incident at Westminster earlier in the day, a minute's silence was observed to remember all those caught up in the event.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Marcus Staples, Gill Nash, Dorothy Banks, Carol Watts, Alan Childs, David Green, Mick Coltman, Mark Fisher and Russell Glass.

3. Approval of Minutes from 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed Jonathan Chowen, seconded Duane Pearless) to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting.

4. 'The Haven' in Henfield – Malcolm Eastwood & Tony Jackson

Malcolm Eastwood and Tony Jackson gave an interesting and inspiring account of how the 'The Haven' centre in Henfield came about. Its aim is to help people live life to the full and it offers a range of activities, five days a week, especially for older people, families and carers. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the focus is on dementia awareness and care. Tuesdays and Thursdays are community days, when a wide range of activities are on offer. The café is open 5 days per week from 10am to 4pm – anyone is welcome. There is a room allocated to the Carers Support team. Treatments options such as chiropody and osteopathy are available also. The business model which enabled this venture to come to fruition is an exciting template, which could be applied in other areas.

5. Refurbishing the War Memorial (western end of Mill Lane) – Norman Berry

"The Parish War Memorial was completed in 1920. In the 1987 "hurricane" it was badly damaged and then "temporarily" repaired with a much shortened cross. It is constructed from a type of York stone from a Surrey quarry that is no longer operational. This type of stone is not ideal for carving inscriptions on and 97 years of rain have made the inscriptions difficult to read.

Recent Local History Group researches have made it clear that some errors were made in the list of the list of local men killed in World War 1. In particular 16 names were omitted.

The Parish Council would like to arrange for repair refurbishment and addition of the missing local servicemen. It is also hoped to ensure that names are inscribed in a way that is resistant to weathering.

It is possible to repair the cross, restoring it to its original height, using a very similar stone. Restoring the lettering and adding missing names in a more sustainable way can be achieved either by incorporating new plaques of Portland Stone or covering the original lettering with metal plaques. The latter solution is less costly and would facilitate any future modification in a simple way. Whilst several metals could be considered, the rather remote location would make copper bearing metals liable to removal for scrap value. Stainless steel has both good weather resistance and has little scrap value. Whilst the Parish Council favours this approach we would like to discuss this further with the local community before finalising the decision.

Of course this will be a fairly costly exercise and funding will need to be found. The War Memorial Trust have been approached and although they offer, in some circumstances, up to 75% of the refurbishment cost they place many restrictions on the actions taken and require that professional consultants are used to prepare the application. These restrictions and the up-front costs make this source of funding unattractive.

We would like to set up a small committee to progress this matter and Susannah Staples and James Luto have volunteered to join me on the committee. We would welcome views on this and be happy to consider other volunteers for this committee.”

A resident suggested that perhaps cast iron could be used instead of stainless steel.

There was general agreement at the meeting to carry out refurbishment to the War Memorial. A wider consultation about the plans will be conducted, probably via the quarterly parish newsletter.

6. Parish Council Report – Cllr. Peter Kanabus, Parish Council Chairman

“We have had an interesting year during 2016/7. One of the major disappointments this year has been the need to close the youth club due to falling numbers. It is our intention to work to try and reinstate the club in the near future but this will depend upon the support that we get.

A number of planning applications have been made to which we have responded quite strongly, I’m sure that these will be covered in more detail during the planning report. The neighbourhood plan has progressed, not as quickly as we would have liked, Marcus will cover this later.

The new multi wheel facility in KGV is now open, and ideas for further developments in the park are under way. We have also put up a new shed in the park to accommodate the equipment used for maintenance. We are also hoping to be able to plant some additional trees and further enhance the look of KGV.

The problems with Honeybridge Lane in Dial Post due to the work on the solar farms are still on-going but we hope to resolve them soon.

During the year Michael Tuckwell our assistant clerk had to leave due to other work pressure and I would like to thank him, Helen and our new assistant clerk Jane Bromley for the excellent work that they do. Without the effort that they put in I know that it would be much more difficult for all of us involved with the council to do what we do. I would also like to thank Mr Carpenter, the village tidier, for the excellent work that he carries out.

I would also like to thank Lionel, Jonathon and Roger our County and District councillors. They serve us very well turning up at most of our meetings, which not all their other councillors do, keeping us up to date with what is happening in their councils and, at times, taking our critical comments with very good grace.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the parish councillors for the time and effort that they put into their role. Without their efforts, and it must be said that of all those of you who work for your neighbours in providing the many clubs and societies, this parish would not be the great place to live that I believe it is. Thank you.”

7. County Council Report - Cllr. Lionel Barnard

Cllr Barnard reported on a number of areas:

- a) The proposed scheme for devolution of some central government powers to Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex county councils has been put on the ‘back burner’ for now.
- b) County Council elections will be taking place on 4th May this year.
- c) The decision as to whether the PCC (Police & Crime Commissioner) will be taking over the Fire & Rescue Service is still awaited.
- d) WSCC has approved an increase of 3.95% on their portion of the Council Tax. As an example of costs, £188 million per year is being spent on services for older people.
- e) There are concerns about making progress on a bypass for Chichester, as recent discussions did not lead to any agreement on a solution.

8. District Council Report – Cllrs. Jonathan Chowen and Roger Clarke

- a) HDC has had to take some tough decisions in order to balance their budget. The new rural parking scheme is being introduced in April, in order to generate income to help maintain those car parks.
- b) The refuse collection fleet needs replacing next year and it’s been decided to return to the rear loading vehicles.
- c) Fly-tipping problems have increased recently, probably due to the introduction of some charges plus closure of some days at amenity tips.
- d) The Horsham District Council element of the Council tax has been increased in line with inflation.

- e) The adoption of the HDPF (Horsham District Planning Framework) has provided some protection against unwanted spurious planning applications.
- f) HDC's policy on travellers and gypsy sites is being updated.
- g) The Capitol will experience some tough competition from the multiplex plus another cinema due to be built in Horsham.
- h) Plans are moving forward for the construction of the new Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre – 'The Bridge'.
- i) Horsham Football Club has at long last been allocated a ground on land at Hop Oast.
- j) In his role as Vice-Chairman of HDC, Roger Clarke reported on some of the events he has attended recently.

9. Planning Committee Report – Cllr. David Green, Planning Chairman (written report)

"The Government's long held view is that the planning process is too long and cumbersome.

They have tried therefore to reduce the number of developments for which consent is necessary. Judged on our experience, that has not been entirely successful. The number of applications is up by about 6%.

At the same time, they have tried to speed things up by reducing the time we have to consider applications. The result has been an increase in the number of meetings we have to have.

There have been two major applications in the last 12 months. There was an application by the Tompkins Estate for 101 dwellings on land north of The Rosary which was withdrawn immediately before it was due to go to HDC's Planning Committee, but influenced by the fact that the Planning Officer's recommendation was for refusal. More recently, there was an application by Gladman Developments for up to 120 dwellings on land at Dunstons Farm on the north side of Shermanbury Road. That should be going to HDC's Planning Committee very soon. We await the Planning Officer's Report, but will be very surprised and disappointed if she does not recommend refusal.

Otherwise, it does tend to be the same properties which keep cropping up; Delcraven's land in Mill Road, St Hugh's land in Littleworth Lane, Blaker's Yard in Dial Post and land in Honeybridge Lane in Dial Post. We continue though the good fight to protect the parish. Thanks are due to all members of the Planning Committee, particularly in view of the increased commitment involved in additional meetings and thanks to our new Clerk, Jane Bromley, who has taken over from Michael Tuckwell."

10. Neighbourhood Plan Report – Marcus Staples, NP Working Group Chairman (written report)

"Work on the Draft Plan is on-going and it is envisaged the draft West Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan will be issued for public consultation in the coming months.

In the light of recent examiners reports on other Neighbourhood Plans, Horsham District Council have asked for additional background papers to be produced and the working group, advised by our Dowsett Mayhew Planning Consultants have been working on these during the early part of this year. These relate to the policies in respect of maintaining local gaps, local green spaces and the Huffwood Estate. The working Group should be in a position to finalise these at our next meeting on the 28th March.

The Draft Plan and the background papers will then be passed to Horsham District Council for comment. If they are satisfied with the details the Parish Council will initiate Reg. 14 Pre-submission consultation which lasts for six weeks and will provide local residents with a further opportunity to comment. This should be in the mid-summer.

Subject to the comments that arise from this consultation the Pre-submission Plan may require some revision. Following this, the Plan and various background papers including:

- The Sustainability Appraisal
- The Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal
- The Basic Condition Statement and
- Consultation Statement

will be submitted to Horsham District Council for Reg. 16 submission consultation with the various statutory consultees, and stakeholders including neighbouring parishes and local residents. This will take a further six weeks.

Once this consultation is completed the Plan will be passed to an Independent Examiner who will decide whether to deal with it via written representations or an oral hearing. Most Neighbourhood Plans have been dealt with via written representations.

The Examiner will review the Plan and its evidence base after which a Report with recommendations will be issued. Subject to a positive Report being received, the Plan may need to be updated to reflect the recommendations of the Examiner prior to it being subject to Referendum.

It is difficult to put a timescale on the final stages as they are not within the control of the Working Group but by the end of the year we should be very close to completing the process before handing the Plan over to HDC for Examination and Referendum.”

11. Finance Committee Report - Cllr. Norman Berry, Finance Chairman

“During the year we have installed a new Multi Wheel Facility in the King George V Playing Field which cost over £50,000. Due to great efforts by those involved most of this has been recovered from generous grants and fund raising.

Arrangements are in progress for the transfer of ownership of the Village Hall Car Park from Horsham District Council to the Parish Council. This will avoid the Car Park being pay-to-park. We considered that payment for parking would be likely to increase parking in the High Street and time limits would cause problems for Village Hall users. However, it means that we will be responsible for the maintenance of both the Car Park and Village Hall Lane and to cover this we have included an annual contribution of £2,000 in our budget, This will be put into a pot of money held for when maintenance is needed.

To allow for this we have increased the Parish Council precept for 2017/2018 by £2,000. This is equivalent to a 2.8% rise in to a band D (£2.62 per year). Whilst we have continued to making economies to our but increasing running costs and the reduction to the local government grant via HDC make this increase necessary to keep our finances in a good condition with strong reserves.

We are very fortunate in the amount of voluntary work by members of the community that enables us to minimise our expenditure in difficult times.”

12. Reports from Parish Organisations

a) Friends of KGV Playing Fields – Olivia Izzard

“The current committee of The Friends of KGV consists of: Norman Berry; Helen Bullingham; Kate Fowler; Gill Nash; Carol Watts and myself, the Chair, Olivia Izzard.

We recently held a meeting to begin further fund-raising after a successful year.

During the past year we have seen the installation of the new multi-wheel facility, some tree replanting and the erection of a second storage shed. King George V Playing Field has been kept in a pristine condition thanks to the unpaid hard work by Duane and Peter Peerless. Thank-you to Duane and Peter. The installation of the MWF was the result of a lot of hard work on the part of The Friends, the Parish Council and the wider community. The cost of the facility was paid through generous donations from The Members of the Big Society of West Sussex County Council and Gladstone Energy, private donations, energetic fund raising by The Friends and further monetary support from West Grinstead Parish Council. The facility is exceptionally well used by the youngsters although the Code of Conduct sign has recently been removed and another is due to be installed in the near future.

During the past year several trees had to be removed on the advice of the tree surgeon and as a result, thanks to public donations and an allocation from The Parish Council have resulted in further tree planting within KGV.

We are now considering further fundraising and would welcome your thoughts regarding future facilities in KGV: either some outdoor gym equipment or an all-weather walkway are two possible suggestions. Please let us have your thoughts!

Future fundraising events include: a car boot sale on Saturday, May 6th, from 10am to 12 noon and participation in the Charity Event in memory of Barbara Smith on Saturday July 15. We hope that the weather is kinder for The Car Boot Sale this year. If you would like to participate the cost is £10 per vehicle to be paid on entry. As part of our participation in The Charity Event The Friends have been asked to help contribute to raffle prizes.

If you would like to become a member of The Friends of KGV please contact the clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs Helen Dayneswood at clerk@westgrinstead-pc.gov.uk or myself at oliviaizzard@btinternet.com

Thank-you to everyone for your constant support.”

- b) Know Dementia. A report was given by Roger Clarke.
- c) Open Door – Judy Smith
 “The Open Door Club meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons, usually at 2.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, for a mixture of talks, activities and outings, and plenty of tea and cake. A charge of £1.50 also includes a ticket for our small raffle.
 As the name implies, the door is open to all comers, however it’s true to say that most members are elderly. Due to some recent generous fundraising we are able to look to a wider range of guest speakers, and the current programme includes topics that might appeal to a new audience, for example on April 11th we have a talk on the Wey and Arun Canal. On June 6th we have a second outing to the Victorian Music Room in Bucks Green, for a demonstration of some of the fascinating artefacts in their collection. Details of our meetings are listed in the Parish Magazine and Thirteen Eight; do check them out and we look forward to welcoming you one Tuesday.”
- d) Transport Representative – Judy Smith
 “Over the years of talking about bus services with other residents, a common comment has been that it would be useful to have buses later in the evening to tie in with cinema or theatre visits. Now that there are to be several new cinemas in Horsham this subject has been raised again, and David Green is intending to liaise with other villages and produce a questionnaire to assess the viability of later services. Naturally this is the kind of thing that everyone thinks is a good idea, but would they actually use it and how often? Look out for the questionnaire in the Summer newsletter.
 For the last 15 months or so there has been a late night bus between Horsham and Brighton, the N8 run by Sussex Coaches – it doesn’t come in to Partridge Green but stops in Cowfold and Henfield so we could park there to use it. This is a real night owl service with buses leaving Brighton at 00.55 and 03.17 am on Saturday and Sunday. I don’t know how well used it is but there must be enough demand for it to have been tried.
 A recent addition to our services has been the Adur Valley Line 3 (run by Southern Transit) Horsham to Shoreham via Southwater, Henfield and Steyning. This started a few years ago as a weekend route over the summer holiday period, but has now been introduced on Thursdays all year round with four buses each way over the day. This route follows the Downs Link as closely as possible so is useful for walkers as well as access to Shoreham. Look out for the bright yellow signs showing its stops.”
- e) Open Garden event – Susannah Staples
 “We are now in our 6th year of Partridge Green Open Gardens. Last year we had a record 26 gardens. No charge is made but each garden raises money for their chosen charity. Over the past 5 years we have raised over £9000 for the various charities.
 The dates for this year are 17th & 18th June.
 Maps will go out with the summer Parish newsletter.
 Further maps and information will be available on the weekend at Bluebells Day Nursery next to Jolesfield School.
 In 2014 we started to have a scarecrow trail with well over 30 scarecrows around the village. It was very popular and we are repeating it again this year
 This is open for any individual or group to join in – no theme – the scarecrows just have to be able to be seen from the pavement.
 The deadline for entries for the Open Gardens is Good Friday 14th April - please contact us- details on posters and in the Parish Newsletter
 To date we have 14 venues confirmed including 4 new gardens but would love to include more.”
- f) PART – A report was given by Karen Beadle
- g) Partridge Green Players – Peter Johnstone
 “In the past twelve months, the Players have presented two productions, the first in May was a collection of funny, short, one-act plays under the label Awaydays and the second a comedy murder mystery called Murder in Play. The timing of the first coincided with the schools’ half term holiday so audience numbers were down. The second, however, was sold out for all four performances. This may have been helped in part by the fact that we reduced the ticket price for the first night to only £5.

At the request of the Village Fete Committee we manned the book stall at the fete; the proceeds went to the Fete's chosen recipients.

Our continued success meant that we have started to accumulate props and costumes which are beginning to strain the Village Hall's storage capacity. Once the Parish Council takes over the village hall car park from HDC, we hope to have discussions about how this could help our storage problem."

- h) Partridge Green Village Hall – A report was given by Matthew Walden
- i) St. Catherine's Hospice - A report was given by George & Thelma Brown
- j) West Grinstead History Group – Dorothy Banks

"The local History Group continues to hold public meetings 5 times a year, usually with one outing. The outing this year will be on 20th June 2017, when we shall be going to Homelands Equestrian Stables to learn about the history of dressage. In the meantime, there will be a talk on the history of the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in the village hall on 16th May.

Our latest book 'When West Grinstead Went to War' is now available. It is the result of four years' research into the lives and backgrounds of more than 300 local men who went to WWI, 73 of whom died. The book also gives a flavour of military life with extracts from war diaries of two local battalions, and includes a brief summary of aviation in West Sussex, and a description of the effect the war had on local agriculture and food. As a result of funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Horsham Museum we are able to sell the book for £20, which is half the actual print cost."

- k) Women's Institute. (Colvin) – Doreen Webster

"Partridge Green Colvin WI is a thriving group but numbers have declined over the years! We celebrated our fiftieth birthday in 2016.

I am a recent resident of Partridge Green but some of our members have belonged for a many years and I am told that way back there were nearly 80 members. We now have about 35, 4 of whom joined this year. But what we really want is the younger generation. Contrary to what people might think we are not all old-fogies obsessed with jam making

During the past year we have had a variety of interesting speakers with a real diversity of topics. Many of our members have attended sessions organised by other WIs in the area.

These can be talks, craft tuition, scrabble, bowls to mention just a few.

We always have an outing in the summer. Last year it was to Woolbeding Gardens and the 'Fox Goes Free' near Singleton for lunch -the Sussex pub which was the HQ for the first WI in the county. January is the occasion for a late Christmas meal in a local pub and we celebrated our 50th birthday with an excellent tea at Cisswood House hotel in Lower Beeding.

There are 108 WIs in West Sussex and over 6000 nationwide. I, and another of our members, will be attending the national conference in Liverpool in June. Several of our members have been to Denman College, a WI centre in Oxfordshire which provides a vast variety of courses.

Yes, we are rather good at making cakes. We provide them for the WI catering unit at the Ardingley show and you can buy them from our stall at the Partridge Green village fete.

I am heading a recruitment drive at the moment. We want to attract new members.

Details of our activities are in the West Grinstead newsletter and Thirteen8 and hopefully you have spotted our colourful posters around the village to advertise our meetings. Tell your friends what a friendly active group we are."

13. Meeting open for questions.

Several questions were raised and discussed. The one of most concern was the parking problem in the Oakwood area near the back entrance to Jolesfield School. The Clerk reported that a project to reduce the congestion in the road was currently in WSCC's project list and should come forward when resources are available.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and all those who had given reports. There being no other business, he invited people to stay for refreshments.

The official part of the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed as a true record..... Date