

**PARISH OF WEST GRINSTEAD**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016**  
**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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Partridge Green Village Hall. (Minutes taken by Parish Clerk: Mrs Helen Dayneswood.)

There were a total of 36 people present at the meeting.

**1. Introduction & welcome**

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

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Norman Berry, Thelma Brown, Helen Bullingham, Jonathan Chowen, Roger Clarke, David Green, Sue Mitchell, Selina Sole and Carol Watts.

**3. Parish Council Report – Cllr. Peter Kanabus, Parish Council Chairman**

“Once again, we have had a busy but interesting year. The main development has been the approval of the HDC preferred strategy for its housing plans. This has given us a little surety on new housing within the Parish but until we have an approved Neighbourhood plan, there is still some uncertainty. Marcus Staples will be giving some more information on this later.

Unfortunately, we have still to complete the work on the new multi wheel facility in KGV. Plans are progressing and I am sure that we will be able to report that this is operational during this year.

There have been major problems in Dial Post due to the construction of two solar farms. These have now almost been completed and it is hoped that the road will be repaired shortly to stop the problems that the local residents have been facing. Now the problem is in Dial Post itself due to the road works at Buck Barn. As I prepare this, we are in discussion with the police to see what can be done to ease the problem.

I would like to thank our Parish clerk Helen and Michael her assistant. Without these two, and the continuous work they do for the parish the role of the councillors would be much more difficult. I would also like to mention Mr Carpenter, the village tidier, for the excellent work that he carries out. This is probably the time to mention ‘Clean for the Queen’ - an attempt to clean up the country for the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. In our parish this will be taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> April and all help will be gratefully received.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the parish councillors for the time and effort that they put into their role. Without their efforts, unpaid I may add, this parish would not be the great place to live that I believe it is.”

Cllr Kanabus also thanked the many volunteers who give their time to the benefit of the community.

**4. 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. One of the benefits of devolution would be the freedom to try to enhance local infrastructure.
- b) WSCC has approved an increase of 3.95% on their portion of the Council Tax. This is the first increase in 6 years. The 3.95% increase will mean an extra £45.90 on the annual bill of an average band D property. The council is faced with an extremely tight budget for 2016-2017. The Government grant to WSCC has been decreasing year by year.
- c) The new head of Highways will be joining WSCC in June this year. There is a lot of change taking place in the Highways department: reduced budget, the process of granting TROs (traffic regulation orders) is being amended and no money being available for road sign cleaning.
- d) Plans for the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, including a WSCC Chairman’s Reception event at Camelia Botnar on 16<sup>th</sup> April.
- e) The election of the PCC (Police & Crime Commissioner) this year.

## **5. Planning Committee Report – Cllr. David Green, Planning Chairman** (*written report*)

“This has been another busy year for Planning.

This time last year we had fought two planning appeals, Rydon's application for 58 new units on land north of The Rise and the application for a crematorium at West Grinstead, but had not received the results of either. Happily, both appeals were refused.

We had also received an application from the Tompkins Estate for 129 units on land north of The Rosary and were waiting to see what the Planning Officer recommended. As you know, he came out against the application and that recommendation was followed by HDC. In fact, when it went to Committee, the application was refused unanimously.

We were not so successful with an application by Penfold Verrall for an inert waste transfer and recycling facility at their depot in Grinders Lane in Dial Post. Residents on that side of the A24 in Dial Post have also had to put up with the aftermath of two applications for solar farms on land at Honeybridge Lane, both of which were granted on appeal. The problem lay with large lorries bringing in solar panels from Europe, driven by foreign drivers with little or no English, travelling down a narrow country road that was never designed to take such large vehicles. It might have been workable if the works had been scheduled for the summer or autumn months, but as it happened, they chose to do this in the months to either side of a very wet Christmas. The verges were badly damaged, landowners' properties were damaged and planning enforcement had to be involved.

The saga of St Hugh's Monastery and its attempts to build on land on the east side of Littleworth Lane just south of The Windmill arose again. In the past they have argued that theirs were enabling applications, that is to say they were applications to raise capital to enable the preservation of an important heritage building, namely the Monastery and its constituent parts. If that can be demonstrated, then the ordinary planning laws can be overridden. Their latest application is for 5 terraced properties and again they have argued that it should be treated as an enabling application. Historic England though do not accept this. We currently await the Planning Officer's recommendation.

The number of applications seems to be slightly down on previous years, but so too is the period within which we have to respond. Meetings have therefore become less regular.

My thanks as always to all members of the Planning Committee, including Tony Martin who has taken over as Vice Chair from Gill Nash and to our Assistant Clerk, Michael Tuckwell.”

## **6. Neighbourhood Plan Report – Marcus Staples, NP Working Group Chairman**

Mr Staples gave a summary of what has been achieved to date since the work started in August 2013. It takes a long time to produce a robust Neighbourhood Plan – there are many stages to go through, especially if brownfield sites are involved. He commented on the following aspects:

- a) Consultations with various groups, including the public.
- b) Review and analysis of feedback from consultations.
- c) Sustainability of sites and development proposals.
- d) Forecasting the number and type of dwellings needed in the parish during the life of the Neighbourhood Plan (up to 2031). The current estimate is 60 to 70 new dwellings.
- e) The group is currently working towards the production of the Draft Plan (Regulation 14).
- f) There is strong support amongst residents for utilising brownfield sites for housing development. Part of Huffwood Trading Estate is gaining momentum as a possible site.
- g) Land south of Star Road is a possible option for commercial development.

Some questions were posed and answered re: improved infrastructure for water provision and provision of properties for first time buyers and for the elderly.

## **7. Finance Committee Report - Cllr. Norman Berry, Finance Chairman** (*written report*)

“Although the Parish's finances remain healthy it is necessary this year to increase the precept for 2016/17 to £68,000, equivalent to a 1.37% rise in band D contribution to the Parish Council. We have managed to make economies to our expenditure over the last 2 years but increased running costs and a large reduction to the local

government grant via HDC over the last 3 years, make this small increase necessary to keep our finances in a good condition. Although we have strong reserves we have had to reduce them in the last 2 years.

The three playing fields maintained by the Parish Council have needed much higher expenditure than anticipated. A particular problem has been damage to trees cause by weather and infestation. It has been necessary to spend £7000 on tree surgery, replacement trees and damage repair.

We have also continued to improve the facilities for recreation and this has been made possible by generous grants and donations for which we are very grateful.”

#### **8. ‘Clean for the Queen’ – Tim Smith**

Mr Tim Smith asked for other people to join him in a special one-day voluntary event to do some extra cleaning up in the parish in honour of the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016. This is a national campaign and many towns and parishes are organising special ‘clean-up’ days. In West Grinstead parish the event will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone interested please contact Tim Smith on 01403 710148.

#### **9. Reports from Parish Organisations**

a) PG Youth Football Club - Natalie Saunders (Club Secretary – Partridge Green Youth FC). *Written report.*  
“Good evening. Thank you for inviting us to join you this evening – we are sorry we have been unable to send a representative from our club to speak to you, but we are pleased to share our Club’s news by way of this brief report:

Our Club’s aim is always to provide a safe and enjoyable football experience for boys and girls of all abilities. We are very close to being awarded Charter Standard with the Sussex FA – which is now a prerequisite for competing in the Horsham & District Youth Football League.

##### **This season we fielded four Youth teams:**

The **Under -9s** have enjoyed their second season – whilst the matches are deemed ‘friendlies’ at this age, the players have loved competing and have received some very positive comments from their opposition. They should all be proud of what they have achieved. We are grateful to Paul Denhart (manager), Justin Reynolds (coach) and David Fry (coach) for continuing in their roles this season.

The **Under-11s** have enjoyed playing on a larger 9-side pitch this season and are holding their own in a competitive league. Adam Page (manager) and Chris Angell (coach), both new to their positions, have done a great job, building on skills and encouraging the squad.

Our **Under-14** squad are enjoying much success in B division this season. The team continues to be managed by Chris Sanders and coached by Matthew Wykes.

Pete Saunders is manager to the **Under-16s**, with Andy Whibley responsible for the training of this squad. They have two games left to play before finishing the season, and the end to their Youth footballing careers.

As in previous seasons, winter training has taken place at either Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre or The Triangle, Burgess Hill. We will revert to training at the Common when the clocks go forward at the end of the month.

An end of season awards day will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, which is always a fun event and a profitable fundraiser for the Club.

We continue to work closely with the Parish Council about various matters and are grateful to Helen Dayneswood and Norman Berry for their help and ongoing guidance concerning a variety of matters.”

b) Friends of KGV Playing Fields – Olivia Izzard

The Friends of KGV has been concentrating on progressing the MWF (multi-wheeled facility) project. Consultations have taken place with local groups. The proposed concrete ramp will be more cost effective and quieter than the old wooden ramp. A lot of fund raising has taken place (£32,000 in one year) and there has been much support from various sources. The planning application is yet to be determined.

c) Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) – John De Little

Mr De Little explained that the NHW scheme was essentially an information service to advise residents.

d) Partridge Green Fete 2016 - John De Little

Mr De Little appealed for volunteers to help at the fete.

**e) Open Door – Judy Smith**

“The Open Door Club meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons, usually at 2.30pm in the Methodist Hall. The club is open to all comers, and all are welcome.

We either have a talk, craft activities or a puzzle and games session, followed by tea and cake and social time – all for £1.50 which also includes a ticket for a small raffle prize. We also have occasional outings, usually involving tea out!

Our funds are in good shape at the moment thanks to a generous donation from the Village Café and fund raising by Susannah, for which we are extremely grateful. So we look forward to being able to offer a varied and interesting programme.

Our next meeting is on March 29<sup>th</sup>, when we’ll be entertained with songs and stories from Pam and David Dunk. Further dates and details can be found in the Parish Magazine and 13-8.”

**f) Open Garden event – Susannah Staples**

Partridge Green Open Gardens started in 2012 and has been very successful, raising a great deal of money for charity. The scarecrow trail has also proved to be very popular. This year the event will be taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June.

**g) PART – Karen Beadle & Eileen Lock**

Karen gave an update on how the Partridge Green Area Responder Team has gone from strength to strength and their role expanded. They currently have 9 responders and 7 support staff. They receive 15 calls per month on average.

Public Access defibrillators are being placed in a number of locations in the parish. They will be organising some familiarisation sessions for these shortly.

**h) Partridge Green Players – Peter Johnstone**

“In the past twelve months the Players have organised two productions, with four performances of each in the PG Village Hall. In June we produced ‘Outside Edge’ by Richard Harris – a comedy about a cricket team. Some of you may remember this from its appearance on television many years ago. In November we produced a comedy thriller ‘Time Murderer Please’ by Charles Raymond Dyer. Both productions were well supported with over 300 tickets being sold for each production.

We have purchased new on stage curtains and the PGVH Committee have supplemented these with new front curtains.

During the year we supported the Village Fete by manning the book stall, the proceeds of which were distributed by the Fete Committee.

Dark Star invited us to put on a performance in the brewery in support of their charitable foundation. Although we made an effort to do this it proved to be too difficult, given the need for the brewery to continue working when we needed rehearsal time, so the project was cancelled.

Our next production will run from 1 to 4 June, so watch out for details soon.”

**i) Partridge Green Village Hall – Matthew Walden**

Matthew thanked the Village Hall Committee for their help. He reported that a new front door as well as some internal painting was needed. Any help would be very welcome.

**j) Partridge Green Youth Club – Roger Hill**

The Youth Club urgently needs more members and adult volunteers or it will be forced to close.

**k) St. Catherine’s Hospice - Thelma Brown. *Written report.***

“I am pleased to report that the St Catherine's Blue Bag Scheme is going from strength to strength and the Partridge Green group's total is now fast approaching Sixty Thousand pounds. This could not have been achieved without the loyal support of so many local people, and I would like to thank them all for the never-ending supply of items donated for sale in the Hospice shops.

To increase their presence in the West Sussex area the Hospice has recently opened a new shop in The Bishopric, which is well worth a visit. This shop offers a range of clothing for men, women and children as well as DVD's, books and ornaments, etc.

Also recently opened is the new Hospice Warehouse at Unit 17, Denvale Trade Park, Crawley. The warehouse is open to the public and will display a wide range of good quality furniture, mirrors, pictures and small electrical items, all available to buy at sensible prices.

Once again my sincere thanks to all supporters of the Hospice. Please keep up the good work."

**l) Tennis Club – Michelle Collins**

"On behalf of Partridge Green Tennis Club may I thank Doreen for reading this. This is Michelle Collins, the tennis coach; sorry I couldn't be there tonight myself.

Partridge Green's little tennis club has been growing nicely. We now have nearly 180 members, 120 juniors and the rest adults.

I have been running teams in the leagues, this year we have 2 mens and 1 ladies team. This is so important as it attracts people to join us. We have teams coming from all over Sussex and they are very impressed with the lovely friendly atmosphere in the park.

The juniors also have teams in the leagues for mini tennis. Last year we won the area finals for under 8s held at Horsham Tennis Club.

I run holiday tennis camps which have proved very popular. Most of our kids come from the schools I visit during term time, namely Jolesfield, Nuthurst, Holy Trinity, William Penn, Handcross Park and Cottesmore.

At Jolesfield I run an after school club where 30 children are now joining in a 2 hour slot on the playground and hall. Rod Wynter helps me with this one.

At PG I run after school clubs from Easter onwards and Saturday morning tennis. I have a team of juniors who help out, they have all got their tennis leaders award.

This year I have been selected to be part of the LTA's Davis Cup legacy coaching team. This is a great initiative to promote tennis at local level. The LTA are giving out 10 rackets for free and I will be running some free sessions during the summer.

We will be running our usual promotions including, the last week in April as an open week for newcomers to come along to all social tennis sessions, to join in before committing to joining.

We will be running a Great British tennis weekend open day again, along with some open tennis fun whilst the fete is on.

I have joined the PG Sports and Social club (PGSSC) committee and we are delighted to be organising and getting involved with fun events. This is so important for the development of the community and the various clubs. Last weekend we had 40 people join in the "toad in the hole" evening. This was great fun and raised money for the PGSSC.

The LTA are looking to small clubs in parks to promote tennis. They are very keen to fund projects in those clubs and clubs like ours are so accessible. One day I would like to think we could have floodlights but for now we have cleaned our courts and we're looking to promote tennis in the village further.

Saturday afternoons will be family tennis time from 4.00pm onwards, as the Sports and Social Club pavilion is open.

We're going to do a lot to promote more adult tennis, as the juniors are very strong.

Kandi still runs her ladies morning on Wednesdays."

**m) W.I. Colvin – Doreen Webster**

"Partridge Green Colvin WI celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year in November.

I doubt if there are any current members who were there at the beginning – but I may be wrong – there are certainly plenty of current members whose memories go back a long way.

I am quite a newcomer to Partridge Green and have only been a member of the WI for about four years. I joined because I wanted to meet people locally and enjoy some social activities. Being one of those people who are better at saying yes than no, I am now the secretary.

The WI has archives going back through the years and I have been getting them up to date. It is really interesting to read about all the different activities undertaken, the trips organised and the vast variety of speakers who have entertained members.

The past is important and plays a role in what happens in the present. But the present is what I want to talk about.

The WI is not all about Jam and Jerusalem. Some of us undoubtedly do make jam as well as lots of lovely cakes which we sell at the school and village fetes.

Jerusalem is sung at big WI events but not at our meetings.

We have a speaker at most meetings and they and their topics are very varied.

Our current year will feature endangered species in Borneo, a fund-raising trip in New Zealand, the history of patch-working and quilting and many more. Our programme of activities is always available in the parish magazine and Thirteen 8 and you must have seen our posters around the village. If you haven't noticed our promotion then I am wasting my time.

It is not just about our WI – members have opportunities to participate in the activities and courses organised by other West Sussex groups. If crafts interest you, there are many different skills to be learned.

Our present membership is just under 40. It has dropped a little as inevitably members grow older and regrettably some die. But we are not all elderly and our interests are as varied as the rest of the population. A big aim in this our 50<sup>th</sup> year is to attract younger members who perhaps feel that the WI is not for them. You may get a leaflet through your door sometime soon inviting you along to our meetings, where you will get a friendly welcome. There are four phone numbers that you can ring if you want to know more. Or I can answer questions now if time permits.”

**n) West Grinstead History Group – Dorothy Banks**

The group is 10 years' old. In that time we have had 40 to 50 speakers and produced 5 books. We are currently working on our 6<sup>th</sup> book, which will cover the impact of WWI on the parish of West Grinstead.

**10. Meeting open for questions.**

A number of questions were raised and discussed. Subjects included:

- a) Bus service for Dial Post.
- b) £2.50 surcharge for green waste bin collection if pay by cheque/telephone rather than direct debit.
- c) Improving broadband access and speeds.
- d) Rubbish from McDonalds' take away food appearing up to half a mile away.
- e) Parking in PG High Street.

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 9.15 p.m.**

Signed as a true record..... Date .....