

# WEST GRINSTEAD PARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018** in Partridge Green Village Hall at 7.30p.m. (Minutes taken by Assistant Parish Clerk: Mrs Jane Bromley). There were a total of 21 people present.

## 1) Introduction & welcome

The Chairman (Peter Kanabus) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2) Apologies for absence

The apologies were read out by the Parish Council Clerk Mrs Helen Dayneswood.

Tim Smith: Judy Smith; Thelma Brown; Yvonne Newman; Russell Glass; Tony Martin; Susannah Staples; Mick Coltman; Selina Sole and Matthew Walden.

## 3) Approval of Minutes from 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** (proposed by Gill Nash, seconded by Olivia Izzard) to approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

## 4) Velo South' Cycling Event – Sunday 23 September 2018

The Chairman brought everyone's attention to the cycle event that is to take place in September and the impact this would have on parishioners, due to lengthy periods of road closures within the parish and around. The details of this are available on the Velo South website [www.velosouth.com](http://www.velosouth.com) and should anyone have a particular concern for access during the race they should email [route@velosouth.com](mailto:route@velosouth.com) with their particular requirement for access. Leaflets are to be dropped door to door of those living along the route in May and September.

## 5) What If' – Community Resilience Training Sessions

The Chairman spoke of the resilience training sessions that are being provided by WSCC on 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7.30pm at St Michael's Church room. It was intended to benefit the community by providing training in self-reliance in the event of disruptive events such as severe power cuts; severe weathers; flooding etc. The organisers would provide free equipment to the Parish in the form of safety wear, equipment and signs.

## 6) Closure of PGVH Car Park & Village Hall Lane – Resurfacing – 21 May 2018

The Chairman asked all to note this event. He reported that the Oakleigh Surgery had been advised and they had put a notice on their website for patients.

## 7) Parish Council Report – Peter Kanabus, WGPC Chairman

2017/8 has been quite an eventful year. It is with great regret that I have to report the death of Roger Clark who served upon both the parish and district councils. Roger will be greatly missed especially, I think, by those who knew him for his work with the neighbourhood watch and his efforts to make the district Dementia friendly. We have made a start in getting a new speed limit along the B2135 even though this has not been universally approved this should come into force later this year and should improve safety at the junction with the High Street. Unfortunately there is still no improvement to the part of the Downs Link that runs down the B2135 but we are hoping for improvements there soon. A transport working group has been set up and there will be more from this group later. My thanks, and I'm sure those of all the councillors, once again go to Helen and Jane our clerk and assistant for the excellent work that they do on our, and your, behalf. As you may know there are new Data Protection rules coming into force soon and they are very involved in making sure that the council makes all the required changes. I would also like to thank Mr Carpenter for his excellent work in keeping the village clean and tidy, and to Duane and Peter Peerless for the work they do in maintaining KGV and the other areas which they now grass cut. This saves a great deal for the council and therefore helps keep our precept down. Lionel and Jonathon, our county and District councillors also deserve a great deal of thanks. The work that

these two do (plus Roger Clark did) on your behalf behind the scenes and often with little thanks, ensure that we have the right conditions for our parish to flourish. Finally I would like to thank all the parish councillors for making my role so much easier, all those who volunteer to run the many clubs and societies, and all those who help in many other ways to make this what I firmly believe is one of the best areas to live within Horsham District if not the whole of Sussex.

#### **8) County Council Report - Lionel Barnard, County Councillor**

Cllr Barnard spoke of his duties as Chair of the County Council much to do with Pomp and circumstance but also many Council meetings and attendance at commemorations such as the remembrance of WW1 Armistice Day this year and the suffragette movement as this year was 100yrs since women received the vote.

#### **9) District Council Report – Jonathan Chowen, District Councillor**

Unfortunately Jonathan Chowen was unable to attend.

#### **10) Planning Committee Report – David Green, Planning Chairman**

The Government was under pressure to speed up the planning process. They responded by reducing the time parish councils and others have to comment on applications. The result is that we now have to have two planning meetings a month rather than one. They also extended the things for which you do not, at least in theory, require planning consent. The number of applications should therefore have gone down. In fact, it has just continued to rise. In 2015 we were asked to comment on 64 planning applications. In 2016 that had risen to 72 and in 2017 to 84.

In fact, there have not been any applications in the last 12 months for major housing developments in the Parish. The largest potential development was probably the application for 30 holiday lodges on the land adjoining The Orchard at West Grinstead, where with Jonathan's help we succeeded in getting the Area South Planning Committee to unanimously reject the Planning Officer's recommendation to grant consent. There was an application for 5 new houses at the top of Lock which was rejected. There has very recently been an application for 5 new houses at the back of the High Street, which hopefully will suffer the same fate. Otherwise, it has been very much a case of the same old chestnuts, such as land south of Mill Lane and land at the rear of Oakley Flats. The Increased number of meetings does mean that we have particular reason to thank the members of the Planning Committee and our Clerk, Jane Bromley for their commitment. Also, if I may, I would like to single out Jonathan for his summary of why HDC's Area South Planning Committee should refuse the application for 30 holiday lodges at West Grinstead. I thought it was absolutely first class and pivotal in getting the application refused.

#### **11) Neighbourhood Plan Report – Marcus Staples, NP Working Group Chairman**

##### **Time Table for next 12 months:**

The draft or pre submission plan and supporting documents are effectively completed now and were submitted to Horsham District Council for an informal review on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. We are hoping that they will complete this by the 9<sup>th</sup> May. There may well be some comments to address requiring amendments which the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will look to address in May. Once this is done the Parish Council will be in a position to start the Reg. 14 Consultation of the pre submission plan in June which will take six weeks. Neighbouring Parishes and the relevant statutory bodies will have to be notified and there will be a link providing access to the plan so it can be viewed electronically along with confirmation of where hard copies can be inspected. Local residents are encouraged to view the plan to check that they feel able to support its objectives. The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will then review the comments received prior to submitting the plan to Horsham District Council for Reg 16 Consultation. For the live submission plan consultation which will run for a further six weeks. At this point Horsham District Council is in control of the process and it is anticipated that this should start in October. Once this closes Horsham District Council will send the plan off to an examiner to review. It is anticipated that this will be in December. There is normally a choice of three examiners and the Parish Council can have input into deciding which examiner to appoint. The examiner will want to visit the Parish and will decide whether the plan will be dealt with via written representations or a public hearing. Most are dealt with by written representations. The examiner usually takes six to eight weeks to complete the process and issue a report. Any

questions the examiner has will be channelled back through the District Council to the Parish Council.

The examiner may recommend modifications which will need to be addressed and the final plan will then be agreed with Horsham District Council at which point it will become the Referendum Plan. It is anticipated that this will be in March 2019.

The date of the referendum is decided by Horsham District Council but it should be in the spring 2019.

## **12) Finance Committee Report – Norman Berry, Finance Chairman.**

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.

## **13) Brief Reports from Parish Organisations:**

### **a) Friends of KGV Playing Fields – Olivia Izzard**

Since the last annual meeting 2 pieces of outdoor gym equipment have been installed in The King George V Playing Field. The money for these was raised through donations from The Village Cafe and The Co-op Community Fund.

The current project is the installation of a netball/baseball court on the site of the old skate ramp. An estimate already received is for £3,000.

Future plans include the consideration of the installation of an all-weather walkway. However, estimates to date vary between £31,000 and £35,000.

After the payment for the outdoor gym equipment of £2, 728 and the addition funding of £1,800 from The Barbara Smith Memorial Walk, funds now stand at £2,067.

At our next meeting we hope to discuss future fund-raising events including a possible car boot sale on June 23<sup>rd</sup> - a date originally designated for The Village Fete.

### **b) Traffic Action Group – Olivia Izzard and Nicky De Little read by Nicky De Little**

The Traffic Action Group was originally formed at a Parish Council Public meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 as a result of public concern regarding speeding and parking issues in the parish.

Olivia Izzard was elected as Chair of the group and Nicky de Little as the secretary. 15 members of a committee volunteered at the public meeting. With the appreciated support of Lionel Barnard, our County Councillor, Jonathan Chowen, our District Councillor, and the West Grinstead Parish Council, the following action has taken place to date:

- New signage for the village hall has been installed;
- The marking of the round-about at the junction with Littleworth Lane has been repainted;
- Further signage regarding speed limits has been placed throughout roads in the parish by a member of the police force.

The Traffic Action Group have also distributed speed limit stickers for refuse bins and are circulating notices to place on the windscreens of drivers parking in an anti-social manner.

The group are currently campaigning for a pedestrian crossing to be installed in the High Street. Jolesfield School are in total support of this application and we hope to gain the support of Lionel Barnard, our county councillor, in this application. It is necessary to demonstrate that the parish is in support of this and a public meeting to address this issue will be called by The Parish Council in due course.

The Traffic Action Group's future plans include the application of Traffic Regulation Orders for more double yellow lines on junctions verging on the high street and a possible speed limit of 20mph there.

Currently a Traffic Regulation Order is being considered for the B2135 with a reduction from 40 to 30 mph, the result of which is expected in July.

Olivia stepped down as Chairman at last night's meeting but would like to retain an interest in the group. The new Chairman is Nick Hare.

**c) Open Garden event – Susannah Staples – written report.**

*The Clerk read out the following report:*

We are now in our 7<sup>th</sup> year of Partridge Green Open Gardens. We have 22 venues including 6 new gardens. No charge is made but each garden raises money for their chosen charity. Over the past 6 years we have raised over £12,400 for the various charities. The dates for this year are 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**d) PART**

Eileen Lock reported that PART was in good health and continuing to bring medical help to residents. There are 6 trained responders and 3 awaiting Secamb training. The total team is 20 to include trustees and fundraisers. From April 2017 to April 2018 our responders spent 4410 hours "logged on" attending 245 incidents.

Fundraising is important to provide up to date equipment. The local community supports us with this and we thank them for their generosity.

Public Access Defibrillators number 11: 3 in Cowfold and 8 in Partridge Green and these are regularly checked. They are easy to operate but we would be happy to give hands on familiarisation classes if there was a call for them.

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

Unfortunately Matthew was unable to attend.

**f) St. Catherine's Hospice – Thelma Brown – written report**

*The Clerk read out the written report for Thelma Brown.*

St. Catherine's is making a real effort to encourage as many people as possible to take part in this year's Midnight Walk, in the hope of raising £125,000. The walk will take place in Horsham on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, and is open to everyone aged 10 and over, with a choice of routes of seven, thirteen or twenty miles. Almost 1000 people took part in last year's walk and the aim is to get even more to pull on their walking shoes this time. A seven mile walk should take about an hour and a half, while twenty miles should take about four hours at a regular pace. The walks are scheduled to start at 8 pm or 10 pm depending on the chosen distance. Louise Brown, St Catherine's events fundraiser will be happy to "sign you in" to take part in the event - she can be reached on line at [www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk)

I would like to point out that the Hospice runs a very successful lottery. Join the lottery and you could receive a prize cheque of £1000, £300, £100 or £25 in the post. Why not try your luck - speak to Mandie or Zoe at the Lottery Office on 01273 447373 or visit [www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk)

As usual the Orange Bag Scheme is pushing ahead very nicely and I regularly send weekly van loads of donated articles to the Hospice warehouse. The St Catherine's 15 shops across Sussex and Surrey generated a staggering £148895 worth of sales over the December period, and I am proud that our many Partridge Green supporters contributed to this total. Please keep your unwanted items flowing in.

**g) West Grinstead History Group – Norman Berry read on behalf of Dorothy Banks**

The local history group continues to hold 4 public meetings a year with a guest speaker, and an outing in July. See me afterwards for a schedule of upcoming events. The outing this year will be on July 17<sup>th</sup> to the Connaught Theatre in Worthing to have a backstage tour and learn about its history.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – **at St Michael's Church room** – and will be the story of Coffee and Coffee Houses. We will also have a talk in September about Newhaven Fort, and Caroline Adams will be telling us in November about Sussex Christmases in the past.

In the meantime, our group of researchers has a new project: the history of the local fire brigade. We have been given access to old log books and are meeting with members past and present to hear their memories of what they got up to.

The Partridge Green Auxiliary Fire service, manned then as now by volunteers was formed in 1938, and there was also an auxiliary brigade in Dial Post. Before that this parish was covered by the Henfield, Steyning and Horsham brigades (most notably in the great fire at Knepp in 1904) and we hope to be able to get more information about the old days from them. Those of you who were at the St George's festival at the weekend will know that there was a display about some of the local men who died in WW1. There is a possibility that we shall be asked to produce a similar exhibition for each of the 27 men named on the memorial plaque in the church, in time for the centenary anniversary of the Armistice in November. If you would like to get involved in any of this, do let me know.

#### **h) Women's Institute- Doreen Webster**

I am Chairman of the Partridge Green Colvin WI.

It is a very lively and successful group which has been in existence for a very long time – unlike me who is a relatively recent resident of the area.

Hopefully you will have seen our posters around the village and our articles in the parish magazine and Thirteen 8 - also now available on the local website.

We meet in the village hall – normally the third Thursday of each month apart from August when we organise an outing. Each meeting has either an invited speaker or another organised activity.

Our speakers cover a wide variety of topics – the notorious women of Brighton, street furniture, bees, tree surgery – to name a few.

There is always time for refreshment and social chat.

By being a member of a local WI you have access to the wide range of activities organised by other groups in West Sussex. Sessions are available for sporting pastimes such as bowls, table tennis, walking or to attend other talks, quizzes, etc.

Our main aim as a group is to attract younger members. WI has a false image of elderly ladies who make cakes and knit! Yes some of us are elderly but we are young at heart.

The WI also offers strong support to ways of solving some of the problems of modern society. Plastic in the oceans is high on the list now. The voices of many thousands of women might make a difference.

I am off to the WI national conference in Cardiff in June when these sorts of issues will be discussed and voted on.

Put the word around – tell your friends – come and join us. You will be very welcome.

#### **14) Meeting open for Questions.**

There were no questions and the Chairman invited all to stay and enjoy some refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm