

## RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies (JG: Chair), John Harvey (JH), David Smart (DS), Richard Sellick (RS), Anne Sword-Daniels (AS-D), George Hickey (GH), & Jill Goldman (JGm).  
Derek Blackhall (DB: Clerk), & ten members of the public including Judith Bradbury (JB) and Gill Blackwood (GB) (Village Agent for Action in Rural Sussex).

Item No		Action
1	<b>Apologies</b> had been received from Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient. There had been <b>no declarations of interest or requests</b> to consider any <b>dispensations</b> .	
	<b>Public Question Time</b> Following the school OFSTED report, the Chairman has put a notice of congratulation on the website and will write to congratulate the Head Teacher Mrs Winterton. Pauline Cherry reported that grass cutting was incomplete outside of Sunnyside. Clerk to contact Annabel Harvey, Highways Liaison Officer, ESCC.	JG DB
2	The <b>minutes</b> of the meetings held on the 2nd November 2015 & the extraordinary meetings held on 25th November 2015 & 8th December 2015 were <b>approved &amp; signed</b> as a correct record.	
3	<b>Good Neighbour Schemes</b> GB gave an interesting insight into the formation of Good Neighbour Schemes, which included reference to provision of shopping assistance for the elderly or disabled, dog walker facilities, and car schemes using volunteer drivers. It is for local residents to set up, is entirely voluntary, and initial start-up costs are likely to be around £600. Setting up a scheme would need a start-up grant, a dedicated mobile telephone, and co-ordinators. Other schemes can be accessed online, and several copies of a newsletter were left with the Clerk. JB reported that similar schemes had been suggested in the past without great local enthusiasm. The Council agreed to keep it under consideration.	
4	<b>Finance Report</b> <b>4.1 The bank statement reconciliation</b> for November 2015 was circulated, approved and signed; the December 2015 reconciliation was carried forward to the next meeting as the bank statement had not arrived yet. <b>4.2 The following cheques were authorised for payment: -</b> 237 £88.92 LDC dog bin emptying 1/1/16-31/3/16 238 £240.00 SSALC Recruitment fee 239 £64.80 HMRC Tax & NI 240 £260.10 D I Blackhall Dec/Jan salary <b>4.3 The 2016/17 precept</b> The Council <b>approved</b> this at £9646, representing an increase of £837 (9.5%) which would involve a Council Tax increase of £4.56 (11.0%) per Band D property, to be submitted to LDC.	DB

	<p><b>4.4 Internal Auditor</b> The Council <b>noted</b> Sandra Webb had agreed to undertake this again.</p>	DB
5	<p><b>Planning</b>  <b>5.1 SDNP/15/05511/HOUS</b> Single storey entrance lobby to front, two storey rear extension &amp; internal alterations at Whiteway House, Newhaven Road, Rodmell for Mr O Kamala. The Council <b>unanimously decided it had no objection to this application</b>, but identified two small items which it requested the Clerk to bring to the attention of the planners.  <b>5.2 SDNP/1506146/LIS</b> Change of use from forge (B2) to dwelling house (C3) with associated internal and external works, including works to the annexe, at The Forge Mill Lane Rodmell East Sussex BN7 3HS. The Council <b>unanimously decided to object to some aspects of this application</b> and asked the Clerk to post the detail of the reasons in the application on the SDNP website.  <b>5.3 SDNP/15/04987/HOUS</b> The Council <b>noted</b> planning permission had been granted for the works at Drummond House, The Street, Rodmell for Mr &amp; Mrs A Last.</p>	DB  DB
6	<p><b>Procurement of Audit for Smaller Authorities</b> The Local Audit &amp; Accountability Act 2014 requires that from 2017 smaller authorities must either appoint an auditor (in case of questions raised by electors that need to be resolved) either through a ‘sector-led body’ or make such arrangements/appoint locally. The Council <b>resolved to approve the ‘sector-led body’</b> course of action. Clerk to action with SSALC.</p>	DB
7	<p><b>Transparency Fund Claim</b> The Council <b>agreed</b> the basis for submitting this claim for grant funding via SSALC, to be completed no later than 10th February 2016 and to claim for website, printer, scanner, and training costs.</p>	DB
8	<p><b>Pension Regulator: Automatic Enrolment Legal Duties</b> The Council noted automatic enrolment duties will commence for this Council with effect from 1st November 2016 &amp; the Clerk will provide guidance in order to avoid any penalties.</p>	DB
9	<p><b>Community Transport</b> The Council <b>agreed</b> to accept the invitation to attend the CTLA event on 29th January 2016 and inform them the Clerk would attend.</p>	DB
10	<p><b>Clerk’s Delegated Powers</b> It was <b>agreed</b> the existing delegated powers should be confirmed to the new Clerk. These are the administration of allotments, responses to applications to prune/fell trees, and emergency expenditure of up to £500.</p>	
11	<p><b>Maintenance Reviews of The Dicklands, School Playground &amp; Sports Field including:</b>  <b>11.1 The Dicklands hedge cutting</b> - JH to chase progress on this and put notes regarding parking through letterboxes.  <b>11.2 Repairs to the climbing frame</b> – Council <b>agreed that the job needed to be completed, but that the</b> current cost estimate should be queried.  A cheaper local supplier should be sourced for post-guarantee period.  <b>11.3 Notice Board replacement</b> - The Council <b>agreed</b> to renew the Notice Board at Northease, but noted the need to inform David Robinson at Northease Farm first.</p>	JH JB  GH DB GH

	It was agreed to investigate fixing the Board ourselves to reduce cost, and to explore artificial alternatives to a wooden board with Green & Barns.	DB
12	<p><b>Clerks &amp;/or Councillors Report</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Broadband update - ESCC had announced that this would</b> probably be actioned between June 2016 and September 2017.</p> <p><b>12.2 River Ouse Internal Drainage District Abolition Project -RPC</b> were not consulted on the plan to abolish the scheme, but it seemed that nothing could be done at this stage. DS felt comfortable that local landowners would have sufficient vested interest in performing the necessary maintenance.</p> <p><b>12.3 PCSO update -</b> A letter had been received from the Assistant Chief Constable indicating that the role of PCSOs was being reviewed. At this stage nothing much more was known about the effect on Rodmell.</p>	
13	<p><b>The Annual Parish Assembly</b></p> <p>Suggested April dates would be circulated. (Now set for Friday, 22 April 2016), and Council would give consideration to possible guest speakers and topics. A parish newsletter would be circulated in advance of the Assembly.</p>	JG/DB JG All
14	<p><b>Measures to reduce speeding on Mill Lane/The Street</b></p> <p>Suggestions on this matter to be sought in the newsletter.</p>	
15	<p><b>Rodmell Community Artwave</b></p> <p>The Council <b>approved</b> the request to provide grant funding to pay for the registration of Rodmell Community Artwave 2016 (likely cost £80 - £100).</p>	
16	<p><b>External meetings attended since the last Parish Council meeting.</b></p> <p>A useful meeting regarding ‘Strengthening Local Relationships took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. This confirmed our good relationship with ESCC highways, where Steve Black is our contact.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.06 pm. The <b>next meeting</b> is scheduled for <b>Monday 7th March 2016</b> at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.</p> <p>Items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk <b>by Friday 26th February 2016.</b></p>	