

RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th September 2016 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies (JG), John Harvey (JH), David Smart (DS), Richard Sellick (RS), George Hickey (GH); Derek Blackhall (DB: Clerk), East Sussex County Councillor Carla Butler (CB), and 7 members of the public including Jude Le Patourel and Rob Webber.

Item No		
1	Apologies had been received from Anne Sword-Daniels (AS-D), Jill Goldman (JGm), and Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient. DS declared an interest in one cheque being signed. No requests to consider any dispensations had been received.	
	Public Question Time. In response to a question, it was noted that recent fly tipping had been reported to LDC and the police. It was also pointed out that the handrail on the churchyard steps was broken again.	JH
2	There were no specific matters of interest from ESCC or LDC. Jude Le Patourel noted that broadband speed had improved after being rather patchy earlier in the summer. He also reported that the O2 4G mobile signal coverage had been upgraded, and appeared to be available in much of the village, meaning that anyone purchasing an appropriate O2 router may be able to receive much faster broadband than that available over ADSL. Rodmell was slated for inclusion at the front end of the 'contract 2' rollout between September 2016 and June 2017, though nothing was entirely clear yet, and ESCC were chasing BT for a clearer rollout schedule. Rodmell had been surveyed, and the only potential problem he could see was that of planning permission for the new cabinet in Rodmell. An update report was received in respect of the Good Neighbour Scheme confirming it was now ready to start operating once volunteers had been DBS checked on 6th September. AIRS had given a grant of £400, and the Artwave bookstall raised £220 for the scheme.	
3	It was reported that the POLO proposal to commission Hamilton-Baille Associates (the preferred SDNP supplier) to organise a public consultation and plans for the future of the C7 had been discussed at a meeting with the Police and ESCC Highways. Funding of about £2000 would be required. It was noted that the police had been supportive, but ESCC Highways less so, possibly because of the involvement of an outside body, and as a result only £1000 of funding had been offered. It might be necessary for the six Parishes involved to agree to fund the shortfall themselves, and it was agreed that RPC would contribute if necessary. More information might be available after the next POLO meeting on 20 th September.	
4	The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th July 2016 had been circulated and were approved and signed as a correct record.	

<p>5</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>5.1 SDNP/16/003697/HOUS: application for an extension to Whiteway House between Rodmell and Northease.</p> <p>It was noted that this was an update on the original application for a 2-storey extension on which RPC had commented and which the District Council had approved previously. Since this was now to be a ground floor only request, with no other changes, the Parish Council agreed to make no further comment.</p> <p>5.2. To note:</p> <p>The wording on the application by Iford Farms for a Certificate of Lawful Use re pheasant shooting had been altered; it now referred to commercial shooting rather than merely shooting.</p> <p>Both Parkfield and Ashfoden applications had been approved by LDC.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Maintenance reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dicklands and Sports Field. Nothing to report • School Playground: The annual inspection was due shortly, and the repair requested on the slippery floor was now urgent. GH was taking this up with a local repairer. • Progress with the Northease notice board: GH was requested to obtain a firm quote and references from new supplier. DB to investigate possible TESCO funding with a view to replacing the Mill Lane noticeboard early. • Verges: This year's verge cutting had not been carried out on time or very satisfactorily. This would be mentioned at the forthcoming 'Strengthening Local Relationships' meeting with ESCC, to be attended by AS-D. JG suggested that in future some RPC funds might be used to cut some verges in the Street and Mill Lane which were not covered by the ESCC programme. JH volunteered to contact the SDNPA with a view to ensuring that future wildflower seeding with something less prone to being swamped by weeds. • State of the road surface on The Street: this, and recent drain blockages in the Monk's House area would also be brought up at the ESCC meeting, and/or taken up with the responsible ESCC Director. 	<p>GH</p> <p>GH DB</p> <p>ASD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JH</p> <p>DB CB</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to provide a Nature Garden: This proposal, from the Friends of Rodmell School, would provide an extra amenity space for the school, to be situated in a corner of the playing field. Rob Webber provided a useful summary and it was agreed he would provide more detail and a design for future consideration. The meeting agreed that issues that should be addressed were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preferred location within the Field - confirmation that the outdoor facilities would provide an amenity for village children as well pupils of the school - confirmation that the proposals would have the support of whoever ultimately takes over the school - provision of a dedicated water supply with a separate meter - staff supervision to be assured at all times - consideration of a thatched roof rather than tiles on the teaching hut to demonstrate the outdoor credentials and permanence of the structure. 	RW
7	<p>Clerk’s and/or Councillors’ Reports on progress on any items from the last meeting not otherwise covered on this Agenda and other items for noting & information purposes only: -</p> <p>7.1 Allotments Nothing to report, other than that all allotments were now taken.</p> <p>7.2 Forge House right of way. A local resident had made a recent complaint to ESCC about the alleged difficulty of accessing the RoW, but had not received a reply. JG had also requested a reply, though as any solution was entirely in ESCC hands it was not felt that this was a matter for RPC.</p> <p>7.3 Current situation with Forge site. There were no known current plans to develop the Forge site. A local resident reported that he was attempting to buy the site, but not for development, and the meeting expressed the hope that if this happened the site could be tidied up and made more attractive.</p> <p>7.4 Installation of Pavilion smart meter. Now completed. This should remove the need in future to read meters.</p> <p>7.5 Rodmell School: Asset of Community Value and Title searches Registration of the Title was in the hands of the Land Registry. Although the immediate need for the ACV registration was no longer pressing, it was agreed that the application should go ahead.</p>	GH/ AS-D
8	<p>Bus 130 update. It was noted the 3-month trial proposed by Kingston P C had been rejected by the company as being uneconomical. JG had tried and failed to discuss the matter with the Chair of Kingston Parish Council; as the £500 originally offered by Rodmell P C was the maximum affordable the next moves would now depend on Kingston’s decision.</p>	

9	<p>Brief Reports from Clerk and/or Councillors on external meetings attended since the last Parish Council meeting, correspondence received, and any forthcoming meetings:</p> <p>Rural Exception Sites: it was noted that JG and JH would discuss this with Mr Howell at LDC. ESALC AGM invitation - it was unclear whether anyone would be able to attend this.</p>	<p>JG/JH JG</p>
10	<p>The Parish Council considered for approval the annual updates of its procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments • Complaints • Code of Conduct • Discipline • Financial regulations • FOI Publications Scheme • Grant Awarding Policy • Grievances • Risk Assessments • Standing Orders • Sickness <p>Each of these was approved and would be updated on the website. A number of suggestions were made about the Sports Pavilion bookings document, and the Emergency Plan was felt to require further work to bring it up to date; both of these would be reconsidered at the November meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JG DB</p>
11	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>11.1 The bank statement reconciliations for June and July 2016 were circulated, approved and signed.</p> <p>11.2 The following cheques were authorised for payment: -</p> <p>000267 £60.00 Guy Smart Pavilion cleaning May/June 2016 000268 £20.00 Morgan Kelly Solicitors School playground search fee. 000269 £467.37 D I Blackhall August/September net salary. 000270 £101.80 HMRC income tax 000271/272 £0.00 Blank emergency cheques to JG. 000273 £400.00 Transfer of funds being held on behalf of Good Neighbour Scheme 000274 £52.50 Guy Smart Pavilion cleaning July/Aug 2016 000275 £20.00 Countrywide Grounds Maintenance underpaid April-Aug 2016</p>	
12	<p>The meeting closed at 9.40 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 1st November 2016. Any suggestions for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk by Friday 21st October 2016.</p>	