



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Gillies (JG), John Harvey (JH), David Smart (DS), Richard Sellick (RS), George Hickey (GH), Anne Sword-Daniels (ASD), Jill Goldman (J Gm), and Derek Blackhall (DB: Clerk) There were 7 members of the public but no District or County Councillors in attendance.

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| 1 | JG opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the Chair. John Gillies accepted a nomination and was unanimously elected . | |
| 2 | JG asked for nominations for Vice Chair. John Harvey was nominated and was unanimously elected . | |
| 3 | A Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed by the Chairman & Vice Chairman. | DB |
| 4 | Apologies had been received from Vic lent and Sarah Osborne. | |
| 5 | There were no declarations of interest . No requests to consider any dispensations had been received. The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2018 had been circulated and were approved and signed as a correct record . | |
| 6 | General Power of Competence The Council confirmed it had met the prescribed conditions set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) Order 2012 and unanimously resolved to readopt the General Power of Competence . | |
| 7 | JG reminded the meeting that he had mentioned at the recent Parish Assembly that a questionnaire was to be sent to all residents asking for their preferences in respect of the options which may be available regarding the school closure. The Diocesan Board of Finance owns the school and intends to offer it for sale at the end of the school year. They had expressed a wish to find a solution which had the backing of the village, but were bound by the Charities Act to sell at market value. It was difficult to see how these positions could be reconciled. The options appeared to be: Option 1. A person or consortium offers to buy the school for the benefit of the village. Option 2. Parish Council forms a joint venture with the Diocese to develop the site. Option 3. Diocese disposes of the site commercially, in which case: 3.1. PC sells the playground to the Diocese or the developers, using the money a) to relocate the playground or create a new village facility, or b) if a playground is deemed unnecessary, to fund another village facility , or c) to pay off outstanding PC loan on the traffic speed indicators. 3.2 PC sells front half of the playground to Diocese or the developers in | |

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| | <p>order to relocate the playground to the rear half.</p> <p>3.3 PC refuses to sell the playground and continues to assert its claim to a Right of Way over the school land.</p> <p>In respect of the playground, it was noted that the existing equipment was reaching the end of its useful life and would need to be replaced, and probably upgraded, quite soon.</p> <p>In discussion with the residents in attendance the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) DBF's preferred option appeared to be to sell for residential development and that they anticipated being able to convert to 3 or 4 homes. There was some discussion about the implausibility of this on the current school site due to lack of vehicular access. It was unlikely that additional car parking would be available to any redevelopment of the site, and a preference was expressed for no additional traffic in the village. b) The old parts of the school are Grade 2 listed; this would not prevent redevelopment but would make it less straightforward. The Council's understanding was that if a building is a grade 2 listed building then planning consent is needed for any alterations. Also, that it is usually very difficult to get consent to change the exterior, but alterations to the interior are likely to be acceptable. c) It was felt that the thinking of the DBF was at a very early stage, and the diocese asset manager was still developing her understanding of the local issues and possible constraints, e.g. the opposition of the PCC to access being through the churchyard and the fact that the actual boundaries between the school and the playground are unclear. d) Several residents stated that they and their children regularly use the playground. They access it by walking over land owned by the school. They felt very strongly that the playground should be retained by the village in order to continue to attract new families to the area; it was also felt that selling half of the playground would not be a satisfactory solution. e) There was some support for the purchase of the site as a village hub if a buyer could be found. There were fundraising possibilities which could be pursued, but it would be useful to know what DBF considered to be its market value. <p>JG announced that a survey would be circulated to the village in a few weeks' time seeking a more comprehensive view of village opinions..</p> | <p>JG</p> |
| <p>8</p> | <p>Finance Report</p> <p>8.1 The bank statement reconciliations for March and April 2018 were circulated, approved & signed.</p> <p>8.2 The following payments were authorised: -</p> <p>000322 £595.29 D I Blackhall April/May net salary, and laptop security/payroll software charges reimbursement.</p> <p>000323 £104.60 HMRC income tax</p> <p>Online banking transfers to:</p> <p>ESALC £129.97-ESALC/NALC 2018/19 subscriptions</p> <p>Le Bureau £97.20-printing</p> <p>National Trust £502.00-legal fees</p> <p>J Gillies £38.45 - web maintenance reimbursement</p> | |

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| | <p>8.3 It was agreed to accept the Clerk's recommendation to pay the 2nd of the 3-year renewal to Inspire via Came & Co. for insurance.</p> <p>8.4 The Parish Council agreed the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement, which was approved and signed by the Chairman; then agreed the 2017/18 Accounting Statement which was approved and signed by the Chairman, and the new Exemption from External Audit Certificate which was approved and signed by the Chairman.</p> | <p>DB</p> |
| <p>9</p> | <p>It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -There was no report from District, and the notes sent from County showed a dire financial situation resulting in many cuts to services. This report had been posted on the village website. -There had been no response from contractors invited to tender for hedge cutting; it was agreed to approach Countrywide again in the early part of 2019. - The National Trust sewerage easement has still not been signed by the NT. It was noted their legal fees were far in excess of the original estimate, though there had been a number of reasons for this; a letter would be sent pointing this out but it was likely that we would have little choice but to pay them. -It appears that the GDPR regulations might not affect Parishes too much; however it was agreed to purchase an external DPO service at £150pa and documentation costing £50. There might be a need for a new email system to ensure all Parish business is separated from personal data. Discussions continue with the village hall regarding a licence, and councillors would need new email addresses. -The Mill Lane notice board had been installed. -It would appear most of the present Councillors were considering not standing for re-election next year. The Clerk pointed out that a minimum of three Councillors were required to ensure the continuation of the Parish Council. -Sussex police are asking for volunteers to track and report speeding drivers on the C7. JG to find out more detail. -Regarding the allotments, Councillor Smart would continue to collect the cash payment rentals and pass them on to owner, Chris Wettern, and the Clerk would continue to administer the underlying paperwork. The Clerk was given email contact details and would be in touch with allotment holders regarding an updated contract. | <p>DB</p> <p>ASD</p> <p>JGm</p> <p>JG</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p>Planning</p> <p>10.1 SDNP/18/00662/HOUS Replacement of an existing prefabricated garage with a wooden shed/workshop at Ash Tree Cottage, The Street, Rodmell BN7 3HF</p> <p>It was noted that this was a routine application and there was nothing to object to. The Clerk was asked to convey a NEUTRAL result to the three options on the SSDNPA website.</p> <p>10.2 Notification of decision notices received:-</p> <p>To note that the application for a tractor store at Admiral's Knock,</p> | <p>DB</p> |

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| | which had been discussed recently, had been approved. | |
| 11 | <p>Maintenance reviews of The Dicklands, The School Playground and The Sports Field, including the Cricket Pavilion:</p> <p>-The sports field was being mowed locally and the previous contract had been terminated.</p> <p>-JG and AS-D would be attending an ESCC Highways meeting on Friday at which potholes and drainage issues would be discussed. It was noted residents could go online to raise issues with ESCC, and JG agreed to put a reminder on the website to this effect.</p> | <p>JG/ASD</p> <p>JG</p> |
| 12 | <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>DS reported that the Chalk Management Partnership meeting which he attended did not really affect this Parish.</p> <p>DB reported that the LDC contact database did not work and despite emailing and speaking to them there had been no response to the issues raised in respect of equestrian access, dog issues, and rubbish dumping in Mill Lane. However, the Mill Lane rubbish had now been cleared.</p> | |
| 13 | <p>The meeting closed at 9.15 pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 3rd July 2018. Any suggestions for the agenda should be sent to the Clerk by Friday 22nd June 2018.</p> | |