

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the Monthly Meeting held on 24 February 2020

PRESENT: Councillors J Street (Chairman), J Bennett, Mrs C Broomfield, M Broomfield, Mrs K Callaghan, M Clayden, Mrs A Cooper, A Cooper, R Grevett, Mrs S Partridge, D Rogers, G Tyler and P Warren

40/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ceiriog-Hughes (Personal Commitment), Mrs Gregory (Personal Commitment) and Santer (Personal Commitment). These apologies were accepted by the Council.

41/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bennett declared a personal interest in Minutes 43/20 and 51/20 and requested that the following open declaration be recorded:-

I wish to make this meeting aware I have been selected as a candidate in the upcoming Police & Crime Commissioner Elections and have and will be making public my views on Police Issues.

These were my views. However, I have an open mind regarding this item and I will listen, and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented to this Council today and I confirm that I will reach my decision on merit.

He remained in the Meeting during consideration of these items and took part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Tyler declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in Minute 49/20 (Minute 20/20 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting - 24 February 2020). In the absence of any discussion in respect of this item, which related to work already undertaken satisfactorily, he remained in the Meeting but took no part in the discussion and vote thereon.

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 49/20 (Minute 22/20 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting - 24 February 2020). He remained in the Meeting during consideration of this item and took part in the discussion and vote thereon.

Councillor Bennett declared a personal interest in Minute 64/20. He remained in the Meeting during consideration of this item and took part in the discussion thereon.

42/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 27 January 2020 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Bennett had made an open declaration as a candidate in the upcoming Police & Crime Commissioner Elections - Minute 41/20 refers)

43/20 SUSSEX POLICE

(a) Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Incidents

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated a letter she had sent to the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, Sussex Police.

She said that in response to this letter, she had received a telephone call from Inspector Dave Lyons, who was responsible for the Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team, who had addressed all of the issues raised in the letter and had assured her that this matter was being taken very seriously by the Police, who were working hard 'behind the scenes' to try to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion for all concerned. She said he had given her his email address and mobile telephone number, so that any further criminal or anti-social behaviour incidents could be reported to him, as well as to the Police telephone numbers for reporting crimes.

She said that the Public Toilets outside of the Village Memorial Hall had been severely vandalised on 9 February 2020, which was the third incident of its kind since the beginning of 2020. Inspector Lyons had told her that he was aware of all of the incidents that had been reported and he had arranged for the Council's CCTV footage in this connection to be collected without any delay.

She then advised the Council that a Meeting had taken place on 20 February 2020 with a representative from the Arun District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, the Vice-Chairman of the Council and Councillors Bennett, Mrs Callaghan, Mrs Gregory (Arun District Council capacity) and Warren, together with Mr Young from the Arun Youth Project, to discuss the up-to-date position and what, if anything, had been put in place to enable the Youth Club to re-open without the personnel therein being concerned for the safety of not just themselves, but also the law-abiding Members of the Club.

Councillor Mrs Callaghan, in her capacity as Chairman of the Youth Centre Sub-Committee, said that from the information received from Mr Rookes from the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, it was clear that a lot of work was being done with at least some of the perpetrators of the anti-social/criminal behaviour, and their parents, to try to bring this matter to a successful and satisfactory conclusion, so that the Youth Club could, once again, open for the benefit of its members.

The Clerk said that the Arun Youth Project had advised that it planned to re-open the Youth Club on Thursday 27 February 2020.

The Council NOTED this information.

44/20 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that an apology had been received from Councillor Tilbrook.

She then advised that the following Report had been previously received and circulated to all Members from District Councillors Bennett, Mrs Gregory and Tilbrook:-

- *Last Wednesday at Full Council, the District Council had its Annual Budget Meeting. Within the approved 2020/21 Budget there are a number of Key Developments. Firstly, the Council will be increasing its rate of Council Tax by 2.7%, equivalent to £5 per year for a Band D property. Rents for HRA properties will also be increasing by 2.7% (equivalent to CPI+1%)*
- *The Council will be running a deficit of around £600K for the year. The last time the Council was in deficit was in 2016/2017 when there was a deficit of £719K*
- *In terms of new spending in the General Fund, notable new investments are the hiring of a Commercial Manager to look for new sources of finance for the Council and a Sustainability Officer to prepare the District Council for the Climate Emergency. The largest individual change in the Budget compared to previous Budgets is the loss of the Recycling Credits from West Sussex equivalent to around £800K out of this year's budget*
- *In terms of Capital Expenditure, major new projects include £200k towards regenerating Littlehampton's public realm and £250k towards redeveloping Fitzleet Car Park in Bognor Regis*

- *The most significant expenditure taking place is from the HRA account with the District Council's ambitious Stock Development Programme, with 91 new Council houses already approved for construction and 30 more in the final stages of negotiations. This is well over the annual target of 50 houses for the year*
- *Elsewhere, at last week's Standards Committee meeting the Committee received Rustington and other parishes feedback regarding changes to the Code of Conduct, and there was consensus support for changing how complaints were made about Parish Councillors by the Parish Clerk in line with RPC's comments. The Committee also expressed support for making the Council's Register of Complaints more transparent, potentially moving to a system similar to Huntingdonshire Council where a register of non-upheld complaints is shared with the names removed, in addition to the upheld complaints shared now. This should give transparency to the public about the number of complaints being made against members.*

Councillor Mrs Cooper then reported on her attendance at a recent Meeting with representatives from the Arun District Council's Housing Department, Turning Tides and the Methodist Church, regarding the 'rough sleeper' who was sleeping in a tent in the Church's Garden and allegedly begging outside of retail units, and in particular, Tesco Express, and also the other 'rough sleeper' who was allegedly begging on a daily basis outside of The Original Factory Shop.

She said that a great deal of work was currently being done by Turning Tides and the District Council to try and find accommodation for the 'rough sleeper' in the Church Garden, and to try to assist the other 'rough sleeper' to find accommodation. She said that, unfortunately, both of the aforementioned individuals appeared to be making a 'good living' from donations they were receiving from members of the public and, therefore, were reluctant to move on to any other locations away from the Village. She said that it was of the utmost importance for any incidents of intimidating behaviour or begging to be reported to the Police, which did not seem to be happening at the present time.

The Council NOTED this information.

45/20 COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Clerk reported that an apology had been received from Councillor Purchase.

She then advised that the following Report had been previously received and circulated to all Members from Councillor Purchase:-

- *The County Council's share of Council Tax is to rise by 3.99%, the equivalent of an extra £55.17 for a Band D property. For a number of reasons this Budget was not supported by either Dr James Walsh or myself*
- *This Budget sees the continued cuts of millions of pounds in several areas. However, the County Council is proposing extra spending in the areas of Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Fire and Rescue, which is welcomed after years of chronic underfunding*
- *Our group also proposed the reversal of the £100,000.00 cut to the Local Assistance Network Fund and reversal of a £100,000.00 cut to the Post 16 Support Service for young people not in education, employment or training. We also proposed two extra posts to accelerate progress to tackle climate change and two additional roles to explore opportunities for improvements in sustainable travel. Unfortunately, these were not supported*
- *It is disappointing to note, on the public, the £4million settlement that's had to be paid to unsuccessful highways contract bidder, Amey, and the recent £265,000.00 financial settlement paid to outgoing Chief Executive*

- *On another note, we are concerned by the new policy of requiring address ID for individuals to now enter local amenity sites/tips. Informal discussions suggest a good number of people are being turned away each day, not realising they have to provide proof of address. If any member of RPC has anecdotal feedback, it would be appreciated.*

The Council NOTED this information.

46/20 CLERK'S REPORT

(a) 2019 Community Carol Concert

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Littlehampton Concert Band in respect of the recent donation of £200.00 awarded in recognition of their participation in the 2019 Community Carol Concert.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

(b) Retiring Collection - 2019 Community Carol Concert

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks and appreciation from Turning Tides, in respect of the donation of £772.63, representing the Retiring Collection and Charity Auction from the 2019 Community Carol Concert.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

47/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman said that he had nothing to report at the present time.

The Council NOTED this information.

48/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Council NOTED the Reports of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 13 January 2020 and 3 February 2020.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Tyler had declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest as Mr P Collins was his son-in-law - Minute 20/20 refers)

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Rogers had declared a personal interest as a Member of the Littlehampton District Lions Club - Minute 22/20 refers)

49/20 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 24 February 2020. (Verbal Report from the Chairman of the Committee).

The Council RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 24 February 2020 be APPROVED.

50/20 LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 6 February 2020.

The Council RESOLVED that the Report of the Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 6 February 2020 be APPROVED.

The Clerk then referred to Minute 14/20 of the above-mentioned Report and said that the Meeting with a member of the local community, who had expressed an interest in the position of Poppy Appeal Distributor, had been held with the Poppy Appeal West Sussex Community Fundraiser, a representative for the Littlehampton Poppy Appeal Distributor and herself, had taken place on 12 February 2020. She said that the member of the public concerned was now considering whether or not he was prepared to take on the role of Distributor, and she would keep the Council informed as to his decision as soon as she was made aware.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Bennett had made an open declaration as a candidate in the upcoming Police & Crime Commissioner Elections - Minute 41/20 refers)

51/20 RUSTINGTON YOUTH CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the Report of the Rustington Youth Centre Sub-Committee Meeting held on 6 February 2020.

The Council RESOLVED that all of the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Rustington Youth Centre Sub-Committee Meeting held on 6 February 2020 be APPROVED.

52/20 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

The Clerk reminded the Members that the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting was scheduled to be held on 16 April 2020.

The Clerk said that a Guest Speaker had yet to be invited to attend the Meeting, but the Council might again decide that it was not necessary, as had been the case in certain previous years.

Following a further detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED that whilst there should be no specific Guest Speaker for the 2020 Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting, Inspector Dave Lyons should be sent a formal invitation to attend and provide a Report on crime figures, general Policing, and other associated issues within Rustington, as well as to respond to questions from those present at the Meeting.

53/20 SALE OF CHURCH FARM COTTAGES

The Clerk referred to Minute 13/20 and said that the sale of the Cottages had finally reached completion earlier in the day.

She said that arrangements would now be made for the outstanding balance on the Public Works Loan Board loan to be repaid (anticipated to be somewhere between £50K and £55K), plus any amount payable as a result of the early repayment, following which the Finance Manager and herself would meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to discuss the way forward and report back to the Council in this regard.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

54/20 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY - 8 MAY 2020

The Clerk referred to Minute 14/20 and said that arrangements for the Afternoon Tea on Sunday 10 May 2020 had now been discussed and finalised by all parties involved, and it was anticipated that the events for Saturday 9 May 2020 would be able to be finalised within the next week or two, following a Meeting with the Company who would be providing the Firework Display, and a further Meeting with representatives from the Rustington Sports and Social Club.

She concluded by advising the Council that the Service and Wreath Laying at the War Memorial on Friday 8 May 2020, was being co-ordinated by Reverend Bob Sneddon and the Chairman of the Council, but would not involve any road closures or parade.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

55/20 WEBSITE

The Council NOTED the Website Analytics from August 2019 to January 2020.

56/20 ARUN EASTERN PARISHES GROUP

The Council NOTED the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2020.

57/20 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The Council considered a Report from the Health and Well-Being Working Party.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the Recommendations, as amended, contained within the Report from the Working Party as follows:-

- (a) A dedicated leaflet display area be introduced at the Village Information Centre
- (b) An article should appear in the May edition of the Council Newsletter highlighting some of the Health and Wellbeing services available in the Village. It is proposed that editorial space be made in subsequent editions for a “Spotlight” on Health and Wellbeing
- (c) The Council should be asked to consider making financial provision to cover the cost of venue hire for any external Agencies who may wish to hold a community event focusing on the Health and Wellbeing of Rustington Parishioners, if recommended to do so by the Working Party
- (d) The Council and its Officers continue to forge links with the Services and Agencies supporting the Parish and encourage partnership working where possible
- (e) The Working Party to continue to explore future initiatives which may be appropriate for the Parish Council, in terms of staff and financial resources, to participate in, e.g. The Dementia Friendly Workplace initiative
- (f) The Councillors’ Surgery Stall at the forthcoming Rustington Street Fayre in June 2020 be utilised to provide information regarding the Health and Wellbeing services available in the Village.

58/20 RUSTINGTON MUSEUM AND INFORMATION CENTRE

The Council NOTED the Monthly Visitors’ Figures for January 2020.

59/20 WOODLAND PARK SPORTSFIELD - CHAMPIONS SOCCER 2020

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Mr D Oakes to, once again, hold a Champions Soccer Camp at the Woodland Park Sportsfield on Monday 27 July 2020 to Friday 31 July 2020 inclusive, from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm daily.

She said that in previous years, no charge had been made for the use of the Sportsfield, but in view of the severe financial constraints being faced by the Council, coupled with the fact that the charge made by the Organiser was at least £20.00 per person/child per day (2019 Price), the Council might wish to consider whether or not the previous arrangement to be able to use the Sportsfield free of charge should continue. She

said that most venues hosting such Soccer Schools in the locality, including The Angmering School and The Littlehampton Academy, did levy charges for the use of their facilities.

Following a further discussion, the Council AGREED that a fee of £200.00 should be charged for the 2020 Champions Soccer Camp.

60/20 RUSTINGTON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

(a) Mr Harry Clark

The Council NOTED a letter received from Mr Harry Clark in response to the Council's letter of thanks and appreciation which had been sent to him following his resignation from the Museum Sub-Committee.

(b) Meeting - 6 February 2020

The Council NOTED the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2020.

61/20 NUMBER 12 BUS SERVICE

The Council NOTED the Number 12 Bus Service Statistics for January 2020.

62/20 CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RUSTINGTON - PROCESSION AND SERVICE - GOOD FRIDAY - 10 APRIL 2020

The Council NOTED a letter received from the Chairperson, Churches Together in Rustington, of the Church Council's intention to hold a procession and service on Good Friday 10 April 2020, as in previous years.

63/20 SAMUEL WICKENS CENTRE - INCREASE IN HIRING CHARGES

The Clerk referred to Minute 21/20 and said that she had previously circulated email correspondence with Miss A Ziraba.

The Council NOTED this information.

(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Bennett had declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Arun District Council's Development Control Committee)

64/20 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The Council NOTED a Report received from Councillor Warren in this regard.

65/20 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - CHANGE IN ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Council NOTED an email received from the Group Head of Council Office and Monitoring Officer in this regard.

66/20 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - TRAFFIC PROBLEMS - OLD MANOR ROAD, RUSTINGTON

The Clerk referred to Minute 22/20 and said that she had previously circulated email correspondence in this regard.

The Council NOTED this information.

67/20 HIGHWAYS ENGLAND - A27 ARUNDEL BYPASS - 2019 PUBLIC CONSULTATION - CORRECTIONS

The Council NOTED a letter received from Drew Woodbridge, Project Manager, together with associated documentation in this regard.

68/20 DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Council NOTED the following Documents and Publications previously circulated for Members' information:-

- (a) East Preston Parish Council News - 29 January 2020 and 5 February 2020
- (b) National Association of Local Councils - Chief Executive's Bulletin - 3 February 2020
- (c) Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils - Weekly Bulletin - 03-2020 and 04-2020
- (d) West Sussex County Council - E-Newsletter - February 2020
- (e) West Sussex County Council - News Release - PR14766 - 4 February 2020

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

Chairman: Date:

During the Public Question Time held prior to the Meeting, there were no matters raised by members of the public.