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## MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs G. Hussey (Chairman), M. Cooke (Vice Chairman), G. Sallows, M. Fillmore, V. Hanstad-Pilcher, G. Fleming, and R. Gatt  
L. Bannister (Clerk)  
Cllrs Kitchen and Hogben – Horsham District Council

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Adams, Bender and Hill. WSCC Cllr Nagel also sent her apologies.

### 2. Declaration of interests

None.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were duly signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

### 5. Reports from other Authorities

Cllr Nagel updated by email as follows:-

- Kilnwood Vale residents are reporting that buses are having to reverse around some of the roads due to the roads not yet being adopted and the bus routes not having been finalised yet.
- The WSCC response to the Gatwick night flights consultation has been finalised and sent off.
- There is now another Gatwick consultation on bringing the emergency runway into use. This will potentially have more significant implications than the night flights, so Cllr Nagel encouraged parish councillors to take a detailed look at the consultation material.

Members requested more clarification on buses using unadopted roads. Cllr Hussey wanted to point out to Cllr Nagel that there is an issue with WSCC's policy about volunteers not being allowed to work on roadsides where the road has a higher speed limit of 30mph. This impacts Rusper as there are very few 30mph roads. The Clerk will contact Cllr Nagel about these issues.

*Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen arrived*

Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen updated as follows:-

- Natural England has served notice on HDC and other local authorities as in their opinion new developments should be 'water neutral'. HDC is taking legal advice on this as it may affect the Local Plan Review.

- Cllr Hogben has called into Planning Committee the application for Land North of Horsham which seeks to reduce the number of electric vehicle charging points for the development.
- Horsham Park has had four crime incidents recently. HDC now has two wardens operating in the town and Horsham is still one of the safest places to live in the country.
- An election will be held in the Forest ward due to the sad death of a councillor.
- A decision will be made about keeping the Drill Hall open at the Cabinet meeting next month. Most councillors seem supportive of this being saved.
- Cllr Kitchen has asked to meet with the officer responsible for the Asset of Community Value application for Ifield Golf Club before a decision is made.

*Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen left the meeting*

## **6. Climate Emergency**

It was acknowledged that there is currently a climate emergency, and all decisions made within the meeting will have consideration to this.

## **7. West Sussex Transport Plan**

**It was RESOLVED** to agree the recommended response, with an extra request for additional signage in the area.

## **8. Roads and Transport Working Group**

The notes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were noted. The following information was added:-

- Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher has passed the list of road issues to the PCSO. No response has been received yet.
- Cllr Hussey asked if the parish finger posts can be maintained/cleaned by volunteers with a risk assessment in place as they have been adopted by the Parish Council. The Clerk was unsure of the answer but will look into it.

## **9. Gatwick Airport**

It was agreed to respond to the consultation run by Gatwick Airport about bringing their Northern runway into routine use. Cllr Fillmore will draft a response to be agreed at the next meeting, based on the following:-

- The Parish Council objects to the idea to bring the Northern runway into routine use.
- There is a climate emergency; climate change is getting worse and air travel may need to be restricted.
- There has been a collapse in air travel due the pandemic. There is no way to know how long it will take to recover. There is no justification at this stage and the airport already has technology to build capacity.
- The pandemic has highlighted that there is not a need to travel to communicate for business.
- This would require additional infrastructure which is not possible in this area.

## **10. Bank accounts**

**It was RESOLVED** to reverse the decision made in October 2020 to open a bank account with Metro Bank and to instead open a current account with Unity Bank on the following basis:-

- The Clerk will be the service contact for the bank and can set up payments.
- The signatories will be G. Hussey, M. Fillmore, R. Gatt and G. Sallows.
- The Clerk will be authorised to setup internet banking payments, and these will need to be authorised by one signatory.
- There will be a fee of £6 per month.

## **11. Rusper Pavilion**

The invoice for the work is not yet available but is expected to be around £300. **It was RESOLVED** to pay for the Electrical Installation Conditions Report on behalf of Rusper Sports Club.

## 12. Reports from representatives

Councillors reported as follows:-

- Cllrs Hanstad-Pilcher and Hussey met with the new PCSO for Rusper and showed her around the parish. They asked for help with roads, advice with CCTV and for regular communication to be set up.
- Cllr Cooke attended the Horsham Older People's Forum. The full report is appended to these Minutes.
- Cllr Fillmore has revised the Clerk's contract as requested. The Clerk advised that this could only be discussed and agreed if it is an agenda item and this will be added to the next agenda.
- Cllr Sallows reported that the electrical conditions inspection report has been completed at the Pavilion and all work has been done to make the electrics safe. Rusper Sports Club has set up a committee to arrange a schedule of works to improve the Recreation Ground. The Clerk advised that if the Parish Council is going to be funding or taking responsibility for any of these works that the Parish Council should be involved in the process as Standing Orders/Financial Regulations will need to be complied with. Cllr Sallows also reported that new goal posts have been put up and work has been done to the pitch by the football team. The grass cuttings were not collected from the pitch, and Cllr Sallows will let the Clerk know if these have still not been collected later in the week.
- Cllr Hussey would like to buy small gifts for a couple of people in the parish that have helped Rusper PC by volunteering. The chairman's allowance budget will be used for this. Members were in agreement with this.
- Cllr Hussey requested that the brambles are cut back in the playground by the large swing. The Clerk will ask the grass cutting company to do this.

## 13. Correspondence

The following were noted:-

- Emails between Cllr Sallows and the Chief Executive of Horsham District Council.
- Response to request for Tree Preservation Orders on Rusper Road.

## 14. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported as follows:-

- The internal auditors agreed to cap the audit to a 3 hour maximum before approval will be sought.
- The Operation Watershed work at The Mount is booked for 18<sup>th</sup> October.
- The External Auditor has completed the audit for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 without any qualifications.
- The ground sockets should be fitted soon.
- Gatwick Airport has briefings on 05 October, 12 October, 19 October and 02 November. If Councillors want to attend they should contact the Clerk.

## 15. Financial report

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the report, which was signed and verified by Cllr Fillmore.

## 16. Schedule of payments

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:-

Payee	Reason for payment	Amount due
Various	Salaries	1,408.83
Age UK	Donation	150.00
Countrymans	Grass cutting	396.46
Moore	External Audit	240.00
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,195.29</b>

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

## Horsham District Older Peoples Forum

7 September 2021

I attended a meeting and the AGM of the HDOPF on 7 September 2021. From the AGM:

- Treasurer's report: £500 maintenance grant received from HDC (this will cover the Zoom licence amongst other costs).
- Last face to face HDOPF took place in March 2019.
- Rookwood development mentioned: Jonathan Chowen was meant to speak but he stepped down and then Ray Dawes was going to speak and he stepped down and then Rookwood was reprieved.
- Website: new website was happening but someone with WordPress knowledge was needed.
- Zoom seemed to be the preferred format for the meetings.
- Martin Bruton confirmed as Chair, Graham Sitton as Treasurer and Derek Moore as secretary.

There were four speakers at the meeting:

Laura Robertson, Associated Director of Communications, Sussex NHS CCG  
Katarina Broadhill, Health Watch, West Sussex  
Rosemary Pavoni, Manager of Rosedale Care Home  
Alan Britten,  
Horsham District Community Transport

### Katarina Broadhill, Health Watch, West Sussex

Katarina gave an overview of the current issues in West Sussex

- Obviously a very busy period for the NHS and access difficulties were on the top of the issues list with access to primary care (ie GP appointments) the main issue. Lots of confusion regarding contacting a GP and if a face to face consultation was at all possible. The whole GP access is changing – phone, Libby, 111. Katrina suggested that GP websites are still the best first place to look. Access to community services ie dressing changes is difficult due to the lack of District Nurses.
- Much criticism had been received regarding telephone waiting times to speak to anyone!
- Health Watch were carrying out surveys at some surgeries.
- Dentistry remains an issue and Horsham residents struggle to find an NHS dentist. In some practices check-ups are being delayed and only emergency treatment catered for.

### Rosemary Pavoni - Manager of Rosedale Care home

Rosemary Pavoni has over 55 years work experience in the social; her roles include:

- Chair of West Sussex Partners in Care & Training Board
- Chair of Sussex Skills for Care Network
- Member of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board
- Represents End of Life Care in West Sussex
- Represents Dementia Care in West Sussex
- Member of the Care Alliance Consortium
- Dementia Friends Champion
- Dignity Champion

Hard to listen to Rosemary without feeling that she was close to breakingpoint. She said “news is as bad as it can get”.

- Rosemary talked through what she described as the most difficult and tragic 18 months: care home managers were left alone to manage their own care homes and the guidelines seemed to be contradictory and changing daily.
- There have been over 500 guidelines issued for care homes.
- Care home staff had to learn new skills from hairdressing through to IT to help with video calls.
- Mental wellbeing is at an all time low. Lack of staff is a big issue as is staff retention; the knock on effect is that there is no one to train up new staff. Agency carers charging up to £100 ph.
- COVID is creeping back into care homes (although not as many deaths).
- From 11 November, all care home workers and visiting professionals to a home will need to show they have had two vaccines.
- Costs will have to increase as there is no longer access to low cost labour. Care home workers can get more money by cleaning AIRBNBs.

#### Laura Robertson – Assistant Director of Communications, Sussex NHS CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)

- GP access biggest bone of contention with the different/difficult access routes and the feeling that they are not open for business. The online route is obvious to a younger generation but not accessible to older people who are not computer literate and do not have smart phones.
- GPs can physically see 6 people per hour; figure is double for phone consultations.
- Receptions are leaving due to abuse – they are the first port of call and can help with triage so patients might be redirected to a practice nurse rather than a GP.
- Still problems in hospitals – high level of burn out and staff taking their leave leaving big gaps in the care giving.
- There is a national issue with blood tests as there are no kits available. Urgent blood tests are being carried out.
- COVID booster roll out going ahead. Flu and COVID unlikely to be combined.

#### Alan Britten – Community Car Scheme

- The scheme is now re-opening having had to close last February. There will be a fairly limited service to start as new drivers are needed.
- Cost to customer is 45p a mile.
- Claire Vickers (Cabinet Member for Living and Working Communities) offered assistance.

#### AGE UK

- There have been some changes to the set up of AGE UK. Stacey Cullen who normally spoke has moved to Chichester and Bob Cusack has just taken over. Age UK West Sussex, Brighton and Hove now includes Horsham but there are some services that are specific to residents of Horsham District due to local funding and partnerships.
- Lavinia House is in a “transition period” at the moment. 2 people have been made redundant and there is a lack of volunteers. There is no all-day facility and it is basically a drop in centre when you can have a cup of coffee and register for an activity. Lavinia

House was used as a “day facility” and offered some respite to carers but this option is no longer operating.

- Gaby Aldrich is continuing as the Ruspur Village agent and the AGEUK monthly coffee mornings are again taking place in The Star.

### Chatty Café Scheme

<https://thechattycafescheme.co.uk>

- Cafés are being asked to set aside a table so that people have the option to speak to people who would otherwise be on their own. Costa, Muffin Break, Squires Garden Centre in Horsham are participating in this scheme.