

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 28th September, 2022

In Redford village hall at 7p.m.

Present: Cllr A. Hearle (Chairman)

Cllr J. Burton

Cllr H. Talbot-Baker

Cllr. P. Hansford

Cllr. T. Causer

Mrs. E. Robinson

Kate O'Kelly (WSSC) arrived during the meeting

David Elliott (NT) arrived during the meeting

There were 3 members of the public attending

1. Welcome and Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He offered condolences to the royal family on behalf of the parish. He hoped that everyone agreed that the jubilee celebrations had been a great success. He said that the problems with the parking at the village hall had seemed to have been resolved. He also said the defibrillator had now arrived and would be installed shortly. Cllr Causer asked if recordings made by the clerk of council meetings were deleted once the minutes had been signed and this was confirmed.

2. Apologies

Cllr Fowler (CDC has sent her apology.

3. Public Question Time

There was a long discussion about the management of the common. In particular there was criticism of how overgrown Older Hill is and the view from the top is invisible which everyone agreed was a pity. The common is much more overgrown than it used to be. One member of the public criticised the fencing put up around the rewilding area which must have been extremely expensive. Cllr Hearle who volunteers for the Trust said there were issues with lack of staff particularly as the area is now combined with Blackdown as well as essential work on ash die back. He also pointed out that the Commoners have the right to clear and graze the common and suggested it might be worthwhile for them to get together with David Elliott to discuss the problems.

Cllr Hansford pointed out that the common is lowland heathland which is very rare and he wasn't sure if it was being protected properly.

The conclusion of this discussion was that the parish council would write to David Elliott and Jane Cecil reporting the concerns of the parishioners and the Commoners would also try and meet with David Elliott to work out a plan for the common.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5. Local Reports

5.1 Kate O'Kelly (WSCC)

Transport and Infrastructure

Access to Highways team at WSCC for residents and parishes. At the Governance meeting at WSCC this week the LD group lobbied for the Council to be more accessible for parishes and residents so they are better able to understand the Highways strategies and systems and there can be a more of a two way conversation about highways activities in each local area.

Cycling

The member group at WSCC had a briefing from officers on the new body Active Travel England and how they are going to monitor Local Authorities as they develop their new cycling infrastructure. Clarified the various capital funding streams, it is clear that the larger unitaries and metropolitan boroughs are going to get the lion share of the money. WSCC need to make the case for more funding.

Meeting Highways engineer and resident and Midhurst Area Cycling rep to negotiate the changes proposed for the Midhurst to Stedham cycle path, we have provisionally agreed the changes which are a compromise. This means that the project to widen the path and reduce the speed limit will go to tender this Autumn and be delivered next financial year.

Housing and Communities

Grant Scheme for Independent Retailers

This grant is to help with businesses to improve premises and retail operations. Please see www.chichester.gov.uk/independentretailersgrantscheme.

Levelling Up Fund

The District Council have submitted a bid of £13.7m to the Levelling Up fund for 3 projects:

Northgate, Chichester. Clearer access to the city, improved pedestrian and cycle routes between key attractions and facilities; improve Northgate car park with a walkway, improved lighting and landscaping; a new all-weather football pitch.

Priory Park: renovation of old buildings, refurbishment of toilets and improved play area

Cathedral Square: creation of an open-air events space.

These projects are designed for residents, businesses and visitors to the city, which now caters for an ever-growing population and student population.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The District Council have been granted £1m from the Shared Prosperity Fund to encourage economic growth and improve the quality of life in the local district. Projects have been brought forward through Vision Groups around the area and include landscaping and planting, cultural facilities and the provision of community groups. Proposed projects to enhance the town of Midhurst will be exhibited in the Grange Centre for 2 weeks in October.

Help with Ukrainian Refugees

There is a new grant scheme to help those communities who are hosting Ukrainian refugees. This is accessible as a one-off grant to community groups and parish councils. An application form is available on www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingukrainenrefugees

Environment and Wellbeing

Health

Our LD group in Chichester have arranged a public meeting to address issues of access to primary care. Issues are lack of GP provision and planning for this in new developments and access to primary care generally for residents.

Poor ambulance response times in the Chi District but particularly in rural areas, I have written to Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Committee at WSCC we need to raise this unsatisfactory situation with South East Coast Ambulance services again although a national problem we need to hear what they are going to do to reassure our residents locally.

EV charge points

WSCC and Connected kerb have announced where the first round of on street chargers are going to be installed. There are 15 sites identified in Chi District so far but it is just the first phase. For residents or organisations to register an interest in having a EV point installed this is the link to the website.

[UK's largest public EV charging project \(connectedkerb.com\)](http://connectedkerb.com)

My next drop in is on 24th October at the White Hart in South Harting 10.30 – 12.30

1.2 Judy Fowler (CDC)

There was no report as Cllr Fowler was ill.

1.3 Cllr Hearle summed up the points raised in the public question time. Mr. Elliott said there would be a programme of scrub clearing during the winter

1.3 David Elliott (National Trust)

Cllr Hearle summed up the points raised in the public question time. Mr. Elliott said there would be a programme of scrub clearing during the winter

He said that his preference is to fence the whole common. He would have to discuss this with the commoners. It was suggested that a meeting of the whole village should be convened for him to explain his plans and listen to the villagers' views. He agreed.

He said the present grazing system isn't working well as having to keep moving the electric fencing and provide bowsers is difficult. He would like to install water troughs with a constant water supply. Cllr. Hansford said that it would be very expensive to install mains water. Cllr Hearle said that houses near the common already have problems with water supply.

Cllr Hansford asked if there were enough animals on the common and David Elliott replied that recommended grazing limits are surprisingly low.

He said he wasn't sure about the commoner's rights.

There was further discussion similar to that at the public question time about the overgrown shrubs on the common and David Elliott implied that the previous policy of cutting the bracken was not correct.

He announced that a project manager had been appointed to advise on best use of Manor Farm land after the end of the current tenancy.

Cllr Hearle suggested that David Elliott could be asked to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting to explain possible plans for the land if the timing worked.

Cllr. Hansford said he hoped food security would be part of the plans at this difficult time.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the annual meeting of 18th May 2022, the planning committee meetings of 21st June 2022 and 22nd August 2022 were approved and signed.

7. Finance

Cllr Talbot-Baker had circulated the cash book and the following cheques were signed

Clerk's salary £456

David Somma £250

Redford Village Hall £25

Cllr Hearle reminded the meeting that the precept needs to be agreed at the next meeting.

8. Planning

Cllr Hearle said there were no planning issues. There are two applications just outside the parish. One is a retrospective for Becksfield Farm and the other is for an extension and swimming pool at Scotland Farm. It was decided that the council didn't need to comment but individuals are very welcome to do so.

9. Highways

It was agreed that nothing would be done about applying for a speed limit through the village until the County Council has announced its new policy as the current policy would make our case borderline.

Cllr O'Kelly suggested that it would be worth liaising with Bepton at the appropriate time as they have succeeded to getting a speed limit.

10. Training Days

There weren't any suitable ones

11. Correspondence

This had all been circulated by e mail.

12. Any other business

None

13. Date of next meeting.

As the clerk cannot be present on 30th November it was agreed to change this to 23rd November.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Signed Dated
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