

WOOLBEDING WITH REDFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held in Redford Village Hall on

Wednesday, 20th March 2024 at 7.15 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Adrian Hearle (Chairman)

Cllr. Helen Talbot-Baker

Cllr. Paul Hansford

Cllr. Paul Fox

Cllr. S. Floyd

Lizzie Robinson (Clerk)

Apologies were received from Cllr. K. O'Kelly(WSCC)

41 members of the public were present.

1. Welcome and Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2023 were approved and signed.

Proposer: Cllr Hansford Seconder: Cllr Fox

3. Chairman's Report

His report is found below.

When we look back in many years' time to see what has changed in the Parish, I suspect the biggest impact will be from the decision by the National Trust to take back the management of the Manor Farm land and the project to fence the common. This time last year, David Elliot presented some of the plans and, this afternoon, we will have learnt more. There is an opportunity afterwards to see how the community feels and what response, if any, to take.

Another change, are the works on the A272 to widen the pedestrian and cycle path and drop the speed limit to 40mph.

Sadly after my initial optimism, our attempt to lower the speed limit through Redford has run into a problem. The West Sussex highways' engineer came up with a viable scheme but, and please don't laugh, because more than 15% of vehicles currently go faster than 40mph so WSCC says they cannot proceed. It seems totally illogical. They also say that there have been no accidents, but West Sussex only record accidents when people have been injured. We have yet to discuss how to respond.

Over the last year we reviewed only two planning applications, both actually in Stedham but on the border with Woolbeding. Flagging a personal conflict of interest with both, the Parish Council objected to the proposed development at Wispers as its impact will negatively affect the landscape of the area and also concerns about the increase in traffic. A revised scheme was discussed immediately prior to this meeting. And the Parish Council supported the proposed conversion to residential of the Duchess of Bedford's 1929 aircraft hangar.

Finances of the Parish Council remain in good health and have allowed us to maintain the precept without an increase for another year.

To finish, our thanks to all those who participated in the annual litter pick. This is being held again the week after Easter and is an opportunity to clear up all those red bull cans and other rubbish that blight our verges.

And thanks to my fellow councillors for all your hard work and contributions, Helen Talbot Baker, Paul Hansford, Sally Floyd, and Paul Fox, to our Clerk, Lizzie Robinson, and to Marion Hansford for looking after the website, and the members of the public who take the trouble to attend our meetings as your direct contributions are always welcome and valuable.

4. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is on 22nd May at 7.00 p.m.

5. **National Trust Plans**

The parish has no speaker this year but instead decided to have a general discussion about the National Trust plans both for fencing the common and the changes to the use of the Manor Farm land which is being taken back to the control of the Trust.

The fencing plans have to be referred to the Secretary of State for planning agreement.

There had been an open day in Midhurst in the afternoon which was well attended.

David Elliott (NT) attending the parish meeting to hear these thoughts. The subjects brought up were:

- What is the objective
- What types of animal
- Possible TB problems with cows and badgers
- Adjacent landowners are responsible for fencing to keep animals on the common out rather than fencing to keep them in
- Cost – approx. £250,00 from various sources
- Safety of walkers, riders with cows grazing freely
- Previous system of small areas grazed intensively with electric fencing worked
- Control of gorse which has grown hugely in last few years
- Access to GPS via QR code to find out where cows are – poor mobile signal
- NT wants to improve diversity and re establish more reptiles etc
- Query about using current old dry stone walls instead of fencing
- Use of barbed wire
- How many cattle
- Control of rhododendron
- Cattle grids on Linch Road instead of fencing the road
- Maintenance of hedges
- Extra staff will be needed

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

Signed Dated