

DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council held remotely on 26 May 2022 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr P MacDougall (Chair) Cllr C Archer
Cllr P Bolton Cllr S Bramwell Smith
Cllr R Gowlett Cllr M Hickman
Cllr M Savory Cllr J Towers

In attendance: District Cllrs A Moss, P Plant and D Rodgers
County Cllr A Kerry-Bedell
Clerk & RFO, Bambi Jones

29 residents and 13 Councillors attended

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Chair, Cllr Phillip MacDougall, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reflected on the areas of focus for the Parish Council in the previous year and advised that there were updates on this agenda relating to projects being progressed over the next year. Lead Councillors would be giving their presentations.

He advised that he had been re-elected as Chair of the Parish Council for a further year.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Bruce Garrett had given apologies.

3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of this meeting be approved.

4. Opening remarks from Chair

Cllr MacDougall advised that the flagship project for this year would be the development of the two meadows.

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was being developed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which was made up of councillors and residents. The Parish NP contributed to the District Council's Local Plan. When finalised, a local referendum of residents of the parish would be held by law to approve it. It was therefore important to get this right, otherwise it would not pass the approval of residents. Before the NP is passed, all planning applications are considered by the Parish Council's Planning Committee. The District Council is required to consult with the Parish on all applications they receive.

A Climate Emergency motion had been passed and we would be getting residents involved in developing our Climate Change policy.

He stated the importance of Parish Councils which are closest to their electorate by working directly with residents – closer to residents than District or County Councils.

5. District Councillors and County Councillor with Q&A session

Cllr MacDougall introduced the three District Councillors and one County Councillor with responsibility for the Parish Council area – Cllrs Adrian Moss, David Rodgers and Penny Plan (CDC) and Cllr Andrew Kerry-Bedell (WSCC).

District Councillors spoke about planning in the parish and the need to protect the AONB and the South Downs National Park. Decisions about the A27 were still in abeyance. Chichester City's Gateway Project would affect all local residents as it would entail a redevelopment of the southern area of the city to create a new vibrant area. There was talk of moving the bus station, creating a concert hall and more housing in the city.

Cllr Plant advised that she dealt with the environment, water quality, rubbish and climate change amongst other topics. She advised that Southern Water had been given a fine for not adequately treating their water. Air quality measurement used to be by 'nitrogen dioxide' but would change to 'particles'. The District Council had recently agreed their

Climate Emergency plan and some small wins had been made – consumption of carbon had gone down in their refuse fleet and food waste was beginning to be collected from businesses as a project.

Cllr Moss advised that he sat on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Licencing and Economic Development Panel at the District Council. The Panel was trying to drive economic opportunities into the district. He also served on the Harbour Conservancy and Coastal West Sussex. There had been challenge from National Highways in terms of the A27 and agreeing where houses would go. There was more work to be done with Southern Water because of connectivity to Apuldram and Thorney wastewater treatment plants.

Cllr Kerry-Bedell advised that he had been working with many residents on the Save Our Harbour Villages group. He stated that their roles as councillors were as much about investigating solutions as about creating opportunities relating to resources and infrastructure, roads, highways, schools and education. He was on a Working Group looking at reducing speed limits through the Bourne area from Fishbourne to Southbourne, endeavouring to reduce these to 20/30mph.

Cllr Kerry-Bedell also spoke about the introduction of a 16-seater Bourne Bus to take local people either to Chichester or Havant or any stop in between. Enough funding had been raised to run the bus for two years. Route planning had been carried out in consultation with the parish councils and local residents. The project had been initiated by the Southbourne Community Land Trust to become involved with something for the local community. Leaflets had been distributed and there was a new website advertising the routes.

The following responses to questions were given:

- Increased housing along the A259 from Emsworth to Chichester: A Government formula was used to calculate the housing required in each area, although this formula was not necessarily agreed with by all. The District Council was pushing back on the maximum number of houses required by Government.
- Fighting planning applications: Currently there is no proposal to expand the South Downs National Park and the AONB, as fundamentally they were separate entities. Longer written responses to planning applications need to be provided referring to studies and research.
- Water quality and how it is measured: The water treatment works were designed in Victorian times to have an emergency system to allow sewage to run into the harbour. It hadn't served its purposes in recent times. Southern Water needed to work out how to stop all surface water getting into the harbour. Water quality was measured by the Harbour Conservancy by a little buoy in the water and measurements were taken monthly during the winter and twice weekly in summer and sent to a laboratory, which came back stating whether the water met bathing water standards.
- Independent water testing: All data comes from the Harbour Conservancy and not from Southern Water. Other tests were being carried out by the University of Chichester at Itchenor and with Portsmouth University – all of which would give a different view.
- Bourne bus stops: The route was not perfect and would be tweaked in time when the usage data could be analysed. The current route ran between 50/60 minutes and had been tested with drivers.
- Managing existing speed limits on A259: Over 5000 traffic policemen had been taken off the roads recently. The speed policy would be reviewed by November 2022 along with the 20mph zone outside schools. There are SIDs on Broad Road. There was no area where you could do more than 50mph at present and the aim was to reduce speed in rural areas.

6. Progress on the Chidham & Hambrook Parish Neighbourhood Plan with feedback on responses to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire followed by a short Q&A Session

Cllr Stephen Johnson introduced this subject. He thanked resident Keith Dimon for his work in analysing the questionnaire and presenting the data to the Parish Council. He advised that although certain sites had been considered as part of the 'call for sites in the parish' that developers were nevertheless still submitting planning applications directly to the District Council.

The number of homes which were required to be built in the parish had not yet been confirmed by the District Council. The timescale of the NP was dependent upon the District Council's Local Plan.

Residents were encouraged to submit comments on planning appeals. Cllr Towers advised that it was important for residents to come to the Appeal hearings on the first day so that the Inspector could see the strength of feeling in the parish. She encouraged those who had not yet let us have their email addresses to complete the form at the back of the room to give permission to the Parish Council to contact them.

7. The Meadows – our flagship project with Q&A

Cllr Peter Bolton gave a presentation on the development of the meadows. A Miyawaki Forest and Community Orchard would be installed, as well as an Allotment area. Some play equipment and a gazebo would be installed on the main central area which would be fenced off to retain this area for family use. No dogs would be allowed in this central area, although dogs could be walked outside of this area. It was hoped and would be encouraged, however, that the southernmost meadow – Hawthorne Meadow – would be most used by dog walkers.

In response to a question relating to how this project was funded, Cllr Bolton advised that the Parish Council had applied for and received grant funding from the District Council S106 monies. The Parish Council had also allocated its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to this project as well as earmarking Parish Council funds.

8. Climate Change Emergency

Cllr Jane Towers advised that a Climate Change emergency had been declared at the Parish Council's April meeting. This Parish Council had joined 30% of other parish councils across the country in doing this. We pledged to consider the impact of the climate on everything we do and to work towards climate neutrality. Local residents were requested to indicate if they would be able to join a working group so that as many views as possible could be included.

In response to a question about a cycle route on Broad Road, Cllr Towers advised that there was a plan to link the north of the parish to the school in Chidham. From the railway station down to Chidham it would not be LTN20 compliant (i.e. complete separation of pedestrians/cyclists and road users). The design company had indicated that they could not go any further as there were too many design obstacles in the way. Cllr Towers was meeting with WSCC Cllr Kerry-Bedell to find out if there was any other way to facilitate walking and cycling on Broad Road. The CHEMROUTE cycle route was still alive but there were lots of challenges.

9. Closing remarks (Chair)

Cllr MacDougall advised that if residents wanted to hear more from the Parish Council, they could get in touch with the Clerk by email and let us have their approval to communicate with them.

He closed the meeting thanking everyone for attending and stating that he hoped everyone had found it useful.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm