

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EARNLEY PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Earnley held at Bracklesham Barn on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 which commenced at 6.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Keith Martin (Chairman), Chris Charter (Vice Chairman), Robert Carey and Sandy Simpson.

**In attendance:** Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk to Earnley Parish Council), Drew Allardice (Community Warden), PCSO Rose Bainbridge, Peter Hughes Senior Warden Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and 15 members of the public.

**Apologies received from:** Simon Bosley, Andres de Vaal, Sally de Vaal, John Williams, Jill Williams and Chris Savage.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the parish council and the speakers.

**A01.16 Minutes of the last Annual Meeting - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

On a proposal by Robert Carey, it was resolved to agree and sign the minutes; this was duly completed.

**A02.16 Matters arising**

There were no matters raised.

**A03.16 Role of the Community Warden**

Drew Allardice stated that he had been based in at the fire station at East Wittering for the past four years. His role includes Fly tipping, Dog Warden, welfare for young and old, and youth leader at the local youth club.

The main areas of concern in the parish of Earnley were fly tipping, a little bit of drugs and dog fouling. Please do not hesitate to contact me or PCSO Bainbridge it is vitally important that you report all crime and suspicious activity.

Q: How do we make contact?

A: Chichester District Council website has my contact details. The Chairman advised that his contact details were also on the Parish Council Website.

**A04.16 Role of the Police Community Support Officer**

PCSO Rosie Bainbridge stated that she had worked in the area for 12 years. The role of the PCSO had a broad spectrum including anti-social behaviour, drugs, scams, criminal damage, burglary, speeding, cold callers, visiting schools and talk to the children on a variety of issues, looking for

vulnerable adults and children and licencing issues.

I attend the local banks, library and medical centre to make people aware of the dangers of scams and not giving out bank details to cold callers. If you feel threatened by a cold caller do not hesitate to call 999.

The role of Neighbourhood Policing is changing from 4<sup>th</sup> July, PCSO's will no longer have a specific area and will be working from Chichester and will be sent to area that required attention. Therefore, it is even more important than ever to ring 101 as this is the only way the Police can monitor issues in the area and your minor issue might be part of a bigger picture.

Q: You are changing the way that you work, the local knowledge is very important, have you been removed from the area?

A: It is still under negotiation so I am unable to answer that.

A resident stated "When your reassigned the police will lose the local knowledge which is important in crime prevention."

PCSO Bainbridge responded that we will be working from a hub, therefore it is important that you report everything.

#### **A05.16 Annual Report from the Parish Council**

The Parish Council had been busy over the past year.

The Wates development was within adjoining parish, however, the Parish Council led the consortium during the two planning appeals associated with this application. During the process the applicants reduced the density of the site from 225 to 110.

Although the site wasn't within the parish of Earnley it was going to have a detrimental effect of the residents of Earnley, the Parish Council entered into discussion with the applicant and successfully negotiated the relocation of the vehicular exit and the enforcement of on left/right turn and a financial contribution towards traffic calming in the conservation area. We believe that this will also be of benefit to the lanes to the North of the conservation area.

The Chairman reminded those present that the Parish Council had successfully registered the Earnley Concourse under the Right to Bid Scheme, which means the Parish Council had the option to purchase the building if the owners ever opt to sell the site. You were all aware of the plans to turn the centre into an asylum seekers centre the managing agents, Stone Harbour, withdrew the application following extensive pressure from the parish council, adjoining councils and residents. The Parish Council continue to enter into dialogue with the managing agents.

Footpaths on the Medmerry reserve are not yet designated as the land swap agreement hasn't been completed. West Sussex had reduced the inspection cycle which means there is more emphasis to ensure landowners keep the path clear. The Council was pleased to report that Earnley Concourse had recently cleared footpath 2.

Q: What is happening about the broken sign in the village?

A: The post had now been installed and the directional signs will be added within the next two weeks. The contractor would then remove the broken sign.

Q: Will traffic calming take place around the triangle junction when it was changed from a junction to a triangle it made it unsafe.

A: It had always been a triangle it was the priority that changed; the Parish Council would be working with West Sussex County Council to investigate improvements at this junction.

A resident stated that the priority should be returned to how it was previously.

£712,000, excluding the Medmerry scheme, had been spent on flood prevention work parish. In particular, the Council would like to thank Ken Davenport and Robert Carey for their effort and County Cllr. Pieter Montyn for his assistance in securing grants for this work. A further £100,000 had been secured for the next year.

The Parish Plan had now been issued and hopefully you had all received a copy via email or a hard copy. The Parish Council had a 65% response rate to the questionnaire 40% of residents stated that they would be happy to volunteer in some shape or form. As a direct result the work carried out on the plan and the residents who had come forward to volunteer Cllr. Charter organised a pavement clearance session. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Simpson and Charter for their work driving the parish plan forward.

The A27 consultation was due take place in March, however, it was cancelled and the northern routes were removed from the process. The Parish Council submitted a Freedom of Information Act request which stated that there was insufficient funding available to progress the northern routes.

Celia and Ian Parker, Earnley Grange, have kindly offered the field to the rear of their property to hold the Earnley Fete on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Any funds raised would be shared equally between the RNLI, St Wilfrid's Hospice and Earnley Church. We urgently need more volunteers please speak to us after the meeting and help make it a really good event. We would like to thank Michael Frith who has donated two signed prints.

Q: Public Footpaths are very important to the area. Is there a plan to

integrate all the cycle paths?

The Chairman responded: On Medmerry there are cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways; my understanding is that they will link up.

A resident stated that those paths with footpath status should be changed to cycle paths.

Cllr. Robert Carey, who is also, Chairman of the Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group, stated that the main objectives for the group were:

- Progress flood relief
- Comment on Planning Application
- Raise awareness of flood risk
- Work in partnership with other groups and had lobbied government.

The group had completed four projects over the past three years. In the last year we have finalised three projects; removing some culverts and replacing them with open drainage. Installed a new culvert in Drove Lane and worked on Holdens Farm upper channel.

In the forthcoming year there were two major projects:

1. To replace restrictive culverts in Somerley, providing the river is dry the work will take place this summer, this scheme will protect homes in Somerley and further up in Birdham.
2. Almodington Grange Rife Phase 2 - the plan is to put a culvert across the road to join up with existing farm ditches which would then take the water out to sea. The Flood Group continue to negotiate with the land owner.

In addition to maintaining the assets and ensure the ditches were kept clear and the water continues to flow.

Thank you to Ken Davenport, Gerry Clear, Campbell Thorpe and Dries de Vall for all their help.

A resident stated that the Holden Farm culverts should have a sump next to the exit of the pipe to ensure silt doesn't build up in the pipe.

A: The Environment Agency helped with the design, however, we will take this up with the Environment Agency.

It was stated that this winter was the first time the road in Almodington had not flooded.

**A06.16 Questions from the Public**  
None.

**A07.17 Presentation on Medmerry Nature Reserve by Peter Hughes RSPB**

The installation of the interpretation boards and maps had been postponed due to delays in the land swap between the landowner and Environment Agency. This had also held up the installation of signage and height restriction barrier at the Easton Lane Car park.

The RSPB were very aware that there is a need to have dog bins in place. However, Chichester District Council had no further capacity to collect the waste and most waste contractors do not empty dog bins.

Guided walks from the Earnley Car Park had been well attended. If you would like to join one of these walks you need to book via the visitor centre.

The nature reserve site is undergoing enormous physical change and a photograph slide show was shown demonstrating the speed of change since the environment agency removed the sea wall and ceased the maintenance programme.

The nature reserve is an important site for breeding waders as there were very few locations available on the south coast. The avocets had increased the Turn population were showing more interest in the site and the islands. In the flood storage area (stilt pools) the young had started hatching and would continue over the next two weeks. Wintering birds had started to use the site in increasing numbers. Medmerry is also an important fish nursery the lagoons and creaks are monitored by the Inshore Fisheries Agency.

Q: The movement shingle and sand was this expected?

A: The speed was a bit of surprise the expectation was when the shingle wall would flatten and roll back and that had happened much more quickly than expected as the winter of 2013/14 was very stormy and this started the process.

Q: When is the visitors centre and café going to happen?

A: The visitor centre will remain at the current location in Sidlesham as this places the visitors centre between Pagham and Medmerry schemes. The whole site had been designed to have pedestrian, cycle, horse from Selsey to Bracklesham and links to other footpaths. The RSPB have been working on creating a link from Ham to the visitors centre, however it is taking longer than expected due to funding issues.

Q: Are there predators on the site and how do you protect the chicks?

A: There are lots of predators and the only way to protect the birds is by electric fencing.

## **A08.16**

### **Parish Plan**

The Parish Council had a great response from the residents of Earnley. The Council's aim was to find out what parishioners want us to do over the next five years. The results of the questionnaire are available on the Parish Council's website.

The results of the questionnaire were no great surprise to the Parish

Council. The Plan has given us a tool to use when negotiating with the principal authorities.

The plan is a dynamic document and if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us.

One of the objectives is to engage the community and as part of this the Parish Council would like to encourage residents to become volunteers and Parish Links. The clearance of Bell Lane was very successful and we want to take on more of this type of project as they make a huge difference to where we live.

The Parish Council is in the process of organising its first fete which is due to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 14.00-17.00, however we still need more volunteers to make this event a success and we hope that you will join us.

The meeting closed at 20.15 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Earnley Parish Council

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_