

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EARNLEY PARISH HELD ON 18th MAY 2017

Present: Cllrs. Keith Martin (Chairman), Chris Charter (Vice Chairman), Robert Carey, John Stant and Sandy Simpson.

In attendance: Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk to Earnley Parish Council), Stephen Webster (RSPB Warden Medmerry and Pagham Nature Reserves) Drew Allardice (Community Warden), County Cllr. Pieter Montyn, 10 registered electors and one member of public.

Apologies: District Cllr. Susan Taylor, Vaughan and Kathy Dennis, Pauline and Bob Norris.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the Parish Councillors, County Cllr. Pieter Montyn, Drew Allardice and Stephen Webster.

A01.17 Minutes of the last Annual Meeting - 19th May 2016
On a proposal by Chris Charter, it was RESOLVED to agree and sign the minutes; this was duly completed.

A02.17 Matters arising
There were no matters raised.

A03.17 Annual Report from the Parish Council
South Downs Holiday Village/Richardsons - The Planning Permission clearly states that the site is only to be used as a holiday village and therefore a Breach of Conditions Notice has been issued by Chichester District Council and the occupants have 28 days to vacate the site.

Earnley Concourse - the Parish Council has maintained contact with the site managers Stone Harbour; who have introduced the Parish Council to various developers to discuss the site.

Parish Plan - this was adopted last year, although it doesn't carry planning weight it does have influence when discussing matters with the District and County Council. Its main objective was to focus the Parish Council and provide the Council with objectives over the life the plan. In relation to objective 4 (to encourage the provision of transport links), following consultation to remove the bus shelter opposite Easton Lane it was requested that the shelter remain in place therefore the Parish Council have invested in a new bus shelter. Although the 150 service was reduced shortly after this upgrade, once the Asda in Selsey has opened the Council will lobby for a regular shopping service.

The improvements and upgrade of the A27 is a critical subject for the whole area. The Highways England Consultation took place over the summer, the report has generated some very useful data, including the fact that 42% of all traffic travelling on the A27 is through traffic. The design capacity for the road as it stands is 30,000 vehicles per day, therefore if the through traffic is removed then the current road is sufficient.

During the consultation process Highways England set seven aims:

1. Improve capacity to support economic growth
2. Improve road safety
3. Reduce environmental impacts; noise, air pollution
4. Improve journey time reliability on strategic road network
5. Facilitate timely delivery

6. Improve regional connectivity (along A27)
7. Improve accessibility to areas with tourist activity

It was noted that two of the proposed routes increase the safety risk and only one reduced it and with all the routes the improvements for the through traffic would be to the detriment of the local traffic.

The consultation results were:

93% of respondents - there is a problem which needs intervention

31% respondents preferred option 2

47% didn't like any options

85% of "the none of the options" respondents and 56% of the total respondents called for a northern by pass.

Following the withdrawal of the proposed improvements and funding by Central Government, West Sussex County Council are involving the community across the Chichester District to try and move the project forward and have provided a budget of £100,000 to assist with employing consultant and facilitators who will be hosting Community Workshops. The aim is to produce a solution that is suitable for the majority and to heal the north/south divide. The Parish Council are working with the adjacent parishes to hold a Western Manhood Parishes meeting with a professional facilitator.

There are several key documents that are vital for the community workshops to work with. Interestingly, there is nothing in the National Parks policy stating that a road cannot be built within the park. Although the withdrawn Northern Routes ran along the boundary of the SNNP over an existing road. The A27 is the third highest trouble spot in the country coming just after the M25.

If you are interested in taking part on the workshops please speak to us after the meeting.

Cllr. Charter reported on the Parish Council Planning Committee; the Planning Committee is not a deciding body, however, if the Parish Council object to a planning application; the application must go before the District Council Planning Committee rather than being decided by the Planning Officer. The Parish Council aims to maintain the rural environment but the Council does not aim to prevent sustainable development or good design.

The Parish Council reviewed 35 applications from within the parish and four applications that would have had a direct effect on the Parish.

Clappers Lane 110 development - the developers went to appeal and won the appeal, however, during planning process the Parish Council interacted with the developer to ensure that the development did not adversely affect the parish if it was permitted. Therefore, the Parish Council negotiated a left turn exiting the site and right turn into the site, hopefully preventing the village becoming a rat run. The developers are also required to pay £20,000 for traffic calming and this is ringfenced for Earnley Conservation area. The Parish Council recently raised concern regarding the cycleway which had been omitted from the reserved matters plans; this has been reinstated linking up the footpaths in the area and is improving the connectivity.

Parish Plan; Objective One is to try and reduce the speed within the parish, the

Parish Council has been negotiating with West Sussex County Council regarding installing village gateways and will continue to try and progress this project. The road surface Slow signs have been reinstated following the recent road resurfacing and the Parish Council continues to lobby the County Council for the same to be installed at the Bookers Lane bridge.

Please report potholes to LoveWest Sussex and fly tipping to Chichester District Council and thanks was given to Drew the Community Warden for the work he carries out removing fly tipping from the parish.

Cllr Stant stated that he had recently taken over the responsibility for monitoring the condition of the footpaths from Keith and is awaiting to training. The footpaths are inspected every 15 months by West Sussex County and the next inspection is due in October. The County Council do carry out on summer cut on Footpath 52, Footpath 50 and Footpath 51 and Footpath 2 has two cuts, the more the paths are used the clearer they stay and don't forget that you can access the Earnley Fete via Footpath 54. Please advise the County Council via LoveWest Sussex if there is a problem with a footpath.

Cllr. Carey stated that the Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group the parish is now in its fourth year. The Parish is very unusual as it has six main rivers with in its boundary. The Environment Agency has the maintenance responsibility for a main river and every other watercourse is known as an ordinary watercourse which the adjacent landowner is responsible for maintaining an ordinary watercourse.

Riparian Responsibilities:

- Must ensure that water flows are maintained
- Need permission for any of the following
 - Culverting or in any way restricting flow
 - Extracting water
 - Fishing or disturbing wildlife
- Must not contaminate

The Group have completed two projects in the past year. The first involved replacing five culverts in upper Bookers Lane/Lower Bell Lane and the second project cleared the overgrown ditch opposite the church on Clappers Lane.

Year five plans for the parish is to work with Manhood Wildlife watercourses and hedgerows mapping Earnley Parish and completing Almodington Grange Rife phase 2 taking water away from the village of Almodington via farm land to the Easton Rife.

Cllr. Simpson stated that objective 5 of the Parish Plan was to form volunteer groups. One our first projects was Earnley Fete we were overwhelmed with the residents assistance and support and the amount of cakes baked was amazing and the raffle was phenomenal. We are really hoping that this years will be as successful. We provided three donations in the sum of £571 to RNLI, Earnley Church and St Wilfrid's Hospice.

The next project to take place was the renovation of the Bus Shelter adjacent to First Avenue, this was a successful event and an amazing transformation took place within a few hours with the number of volunteers. This was followed by the Christmas food bank collection, again people were incredibly generous and the final project for the year was the Litter pick which generated 15 bags of rubbish

in just a couple of hours and all those that had time were reward with a cup of coffee at Chard and Thyme after the event.

We are looking for new volunteers to feed in their ideas and energy to keep up the momentum.

As the Fete was so successful last year the Parish Council decided to take the lead on this project again and once again Mr & Mrs Parker have kindly agreed to host the event. Which will take place on Sunday 10th June at Earnley Grange, the Walled Garden will be open for an additional donation. We have worked hard to increase the number of stalls but do not want the event to get too big. However, we are still looking for some more volunteers and lots of cakes.

A04.17

Questions from the Public

Q: How effective is the flood protection in Bookers Lane?

A: Cllr. Carey responded that the ditch hasn't been fully tested, the Bookers Lane channel is designed to take three or four times the amount of water generated in 2012.

A05.17

Presentation on Medmerry Nature Reserve by Stephen Webster RSPB

Stephen stated that he had joined the RSPB in November and had been working on the snagging list for the Medmerry Nature Reserve; the good news is that the dog waste bins have been installed at Easton Lane and the Earnley car park and a contract has been entered into with Chichester District Council to empty them. A height barrier will be installed at Easton Lane Car Park in due course and the improvements to the easy access pathway is currently out to tender and the work will probably take place in the late summer/autumn.

The Visitor Experience Officer has been working on leaflets and signage but this projected can't be completed until the land swap has been finalised. However, guided walk regularly take place.

Medmerry Nature Reserve has been designated a wild reserve and therefore there will not be a visitors centre. Detailed surveys have been taking place on the site including, fish surveys to monitor fish breeding, invertebrate survey to monitor the increase in numbers. The site is developing quicker than was expected and Water Voles appear to be returning to the site. It is hoped that Little Terns will breed on the site this year. The site also continues to operate as a working farm which necessitated the need for barred wire to ensure the cattle stay contained.

Q: When will the site be designated a Site of Special Protection?

A: the site is designated a candidate for special protection, however designation is dependant the number of breeding birds.

Q: Has the water breach behaved as expected

A: it continues to change tide by tide. The beach immediately to the west of breach a spit is forming much quicker than expected and is being monitored.

Q: Is the breach continuing to grow and will it affect the wildlife?

A: moving shingle is good for Little Terns and it will help the salt marsh development.

Q: Why has fencing been installed in the Easton Lane area?

A: A new reservoirs is due to be installed.

A resident expressed concern regarding the hedgerow that was removed at the end of Bookers Lane and this has not been replaced. Stephen responded that he would raise the matter with the Environment Agency.

The Chairman of the parish council said that the Medmerry Nature Reserve takes a large part of the land in the parish and the Parish Council would like to maintain a good working relationship with the RSPB.

And finally, there are two wardens at Medmerry Barry O Dowd and his email addresses are Barry.odowd@rspb.org.uk and Stephen.webster@rspb.org.uk

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to visit the small display and partake in the refreshments.

Meeting closed at 20.37

Signed: _____ Chairman Earnley Parish Council

Dated: _____