

PARISH OF EARNLEY ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH ELECTORS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EARNLEY HELD AT BRACKLESHAM BARN ON 29th MAY 2014; WHICH COMMENCED AT 7PM

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

In attendance: Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk), Greg Ockwell Principal Community Officer West Sussex County Council, Ed Dickinson Senior Manager Community & Economic Development Service West Sussex County Council, David Hyland Community & Partnership Support Manager Chichester District Council, Poppy Scott Home Energy Visitor Arun & Chichester District Well-being Hubs, District Cllr. Graeme Barrett, District Cllr. Peter Clementson, 19 registered electors and 2 members of the public.

A01.14 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the Parish Councillors, District Councillors and guests.

A02.14 COMMUNITY LED PLAN - PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS

Cllr. Simpson explained that a Community Led Plan involved the community. The Parish Council would be looking for the community to work with Parish Council to produce a plan which would belong to the whole Community.

Cllr. Charter explained the differences between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Community Led Plan. The Plan would cover a five to ten year period this would include short and long term projects.

The audience was asked to make suggestions of items to be included in the plan: Village Pub, Village Hall, protection from development, safer lanes and anything that would change the parish were raised as suggestions.

There was then a request for volunteers and three members of the public agreed to work with the parish council.

Q: How would the Parish Council meet the cost of the plan?

A: A neighbourhood plan is very expensive to produce; however, the cost of producing a parish plan is minimal and would be met by the precept.

Q: Would it be worth a show of hands to see if the community considered this was appropriate?

A: On a show of hands 20 people present considered this was appropriate with no objectors.

District Cllr. Graeme Barrett advised he would provide a copy of and West Wittering Parish Council's plan.

Q: Are you working with adjoining parishes?

A: The parish council works closely with the adjoining parish councils and would continue to working with them whilst they are producing their plans.

Q: How is this plan actioned?

A: The plan would be produced and submitted to Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council. District Cllr. Peter Clementson stated that this was a tremendous initiative as there was always a need for information from Parish Councils. For example, when this plan had been produced it would be presented to the District Council and, for example, if somebody decided they want to open a pub then when the matter comes before the planning committee the committee would be advised that this was included in the plan.

Ed Dickinson reiterated that information is crucial and by having a parish plan it lets the County Council know the views of the whole community. It would also assist with initiatives and grant applications.

David Hyland stated the plan had two functions firstly to bring the community together to identify the issues and to notify other authorities of the communities concerns. There would need to be an action plan which would need to be implemented by the community and parish council to complete the actions included in the plan.

A03.14 PRESENTATION BY FLOOD PREVENTION GROUP - WORK ACHIEVED AND THAT TO BE COMPLETED

Robert Carey Chairman of Birdham & Earnley Flood Prevention Group stated he was very proud of the work completed in the first year. The group had a wide range of members covering the whole area. The group was affiliated with the National Flood Forum.

The groups objectives were:

1. Progress flood relief projects.

2. Comment on planning applications that involved building on a flood plain, including sewage issues.
3. Lobby Central and Local Government.
4. Raise awareness of flood risks particularly from surface water.

The group works closely with the Environment Agency, County Council, District Council and the Parish Councils and local residents who had a wealth of knowledge. West Sussex County Council had provided funding via Operation Watershed and the Environment Agency had provided invaluable knowledge and assistance.

The groups had been working on four projects:

Bookers Lane Project - Robert thanked Ken Davenport for all his assistance on this project. This project cost £0.5 million which was provided by partnership funding. The project had taken two years and was expected to be completed in July.

Holden's Farm Ditch Project to clear and regrade the ditch. This project budget is £4,140, again with funding from Operation Watershed.

Almodington Grange Rife - work to clear and re-grade the ditch would commence in the Autumn and was expected to be completed by winter 2014.

Somerley - the ditches and gullies had been cleared and the collapsed culvert had been rebuilt.

The group was also working on three projects in Birdham.

The future - the group would complete the projects and would carry out twice yearly maintenance checks, work towards emergency planning, provide flood risk training and raise awareness.

A04.14 MINUTES FROM THE 25th MAY 2013 MEETING

On a proposal by Mr. Bob Norris it was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

A05.14 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Keith Martin reported it had been a busy year. The Planning Committee had dealt with 30 planning applications

including the application for 160 dwellings on Clappers Lane. This development, if built would have a significant impact on the parish. The Parish Council had held meetings with representative of West Sussex County Council and adjoining parishes to discuss the traffic consultants report. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Robert Carey and Julia Bowering for all their work investigating the data included in the traffic consultants report.

The Parish Council had supported the work of the Flood Prevention Group and it is splendid looking across at the work completed so far; it is a tremendous achievement for a small community.

The Community Led Plan is a shared vision of what we would like to see in the future and I am very pleased that you have endorsed the decision of the Parish Council to work toward the production of a plan.

At this meeting this time last year you instructed us to carry out a housing needs survey which was completed in December last year. Unfortunately the distribution of the survey coincided with development in Clappers Lane and possibly as a result of this there was insufficient support for the provision of affordable housing in the parish at this time. The Parish Council would review this once the Clappers Lane application had been decided.

The parish is very lucky to have two conservation areas within the parish the District Council recently carried out a review of the conservations areas and made recommendations for both areas. The Parish Council had so far worked in conjunction with the Environment Agency to replace the rusty directional signs. One at the top of Drove Lane by the Church and one at the junction of Bookers Lane and Clappers Lane with two traditional Sussex Style black and white finger posts. The second project the council had been working on with West Sussex County Council was to get the road to the north of the church included in the "Better Roads" scheme.

We are very fortunate to have the Medmerry Realignment Scheme right on our doorstep. The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Environment Agency on this project. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds had reported that some very rare birds were already nesting on the site. As you are probably aware the contractors continue to work on the access paths and it is expected that this work will be

completed by the end of the Summer. The Environment Agency would continue to be responsible for the ditches and the outfalls and the RSPB would take over the responsibility of all other areas. The RSPB had a large scale project to plant trees over the Medmerry Scheme. However, the majority of the tree planting is within the parish and we were looking for volunteers to help with this project.

All footpaths were inspected every 9 months and repair works were carried out. The footpaths were all plotted on the Definitive Map, however, these did not always show the routes that were actually walked. w

We would be very grateful if you could take the time to mark on the map if you were aware of any variances.

The Parish Council raised the precept by approximately £1000.00 this year to fund the loan for the flood relief works, to strength the reserves and to provide funding to maintain the parish council assets. The Parish Council had received a clean audit and the Parish Clerk was thanked for her work in this area and generally.

Q: You reported that the Medmerry site had attached unusual birds already this would increase the number of bird spotters and increase the traffic.

A: This would increase the traffic; however, the main car park is at the Pagham Harbour visitors centre in Sidlesham.

Q: Do you have any news on the provision of high speed broadband?

A: The Birdham cabinet is currently being revamped, the cabinets in Bracklesham and East Wittering have been upgraded please check with your service provider if you were served by these cabinets. When information is received it is uploaded to the parish website.

The Chairman asked how many of the people present had accessed the parish council website. On a show of hands approximately 50% of those present had used the website. The Chairman reminded those present that the Parish Council website included all the planning applications.

Q: Do you know what is happening to Earnley Concourse?

A: We have tried to make contact with the trustees; however the company is currently in the process of being dissolved.

Q: The new car park for Medmerry is down Drove Lane isn't

this a private road?

A: As we understand it a right of way had been established to gain access to the car park.

A06.14 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Signed _____ Chairman of the Earnley Parish Council

Dated _____