

EARNLEY PARISH FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earnley Parish Council held on 24th March 2025 which commenced at 19.06 at Bracklesham Barn, Beech Avenue, Bracklesham.

PRESENT: Cllrs Robert Carey (Chair), John Stant (Vice Chair), Frank Doel, Dougie MacDonald and John Williams

In attendance: Julia Bowering (Minutes), District Cllr. Elizabeth Hamilton, County Cllr. Pieter Montyn and 2 members of the public.

17.25 Public Question Time

None.

18.25 Apologies and Reason for Absence

None

19.25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Montyn reported on his work with Southern Water (SW). He has met with the Managing Director (Waste Water) and others, but progress is slow and there is a lack of transparency. He chased the Almodington pipe rupture, which arose in late December, along with other issues in Highleigh and Birdham.

WSSC material on re-organisation will be circulated from the full WSSC meeting. Currently the 8 councils West Sussex are presenting joint comments to government. Should government insist on an increase in numbers of residents for Brighton and Hove area to provide evenly populated areas, these numbers will have to come from West Sussex. Each council will be a unity authority. Current functions will carry on for next 2 years and civil service re-organisation will not affect us. Next council elections will be in 2027, with mayoral elections in May 2026

Responding to a question from Cllr Stant, Cllr Montyn commented that a mayor would probably not be authorised to provide new roads, but have influence on their development.

Cllr Carey will forward to Cllr Montyn the letter from SW concerning sewerage arrangements for the Clappers Lane development.

20.25 District Councillors' Report

Cllr Hamilton reported that council business was proceeding as usual, however next month some, currently confidential matters, will be circulated to parishes.

21.25 To receive Declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda.

None.

22.25 Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Macdonald, it was RESOLVED to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025. This was duly completed.

23.25 Matters Arising from the Minutes Not Already on the Agenda

None

24.25 Finance

1 Bank Balances as at date of meeting stood at £32,785

2 Payments– ratification of payments made and payments for authorisation including any invoices received following publication of the agenda. Documents approved by Cllr Stant and Cllr Doel.

3 February 2025 Financial Statement. Approved by Cllr Stant and Cllr Doel.

4 Budget monitoring year ended 31st March 2025. Cllr Carey reported that staffing was likely to be over budget, but by 1K less than forecast. Expenditure is therefore looking satisfactory.

5 Land transfer from Taylor Wimpey footpath 2 to enable connection of new path from Barrett's site - Taylor Wimpey have nominated a solicitor and asked for details of ours. Cllr Carey explained contact with Wellers Law Group – quote expected this week and will then be referred to Taylor Wimpey.

6 To consider grant applications received and whether to make payment

Cllr Carey suggested EPC could now afford to make payments and proceeded to work through requests received.

It was agreed to pay the following amounts to charities all of whom have local connections:

Citizens Advice Bureau £120

Local youth club £120

Youth Dream £50

Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group £150

Mrs Louise Chater will be asked to make the payments and Cllr Carey will inform the bodies.

Cllr Stant raised an issue regarding the operation of the payment process. He will speak to Mrs Chater to obtain clarification.

25.25 Environmental Matters

1 Flood Prevention – Cllr. Carey

Cllr Carey informed the meeting that he continued to be in consultation with the Environment Agency regarding the undersized culvert in Bookers Lane installed by SSE.

2 Public Rights of Way – Cllr. Stant

Cllr Stant to correct comment at a recent GLAM meeting suggesting that it is impossible to walk from bottom of Drove Lane to the periwinkle.

Cllr Stant also referred to a comment raised at the recent electors' meeting that the white lines ought to be restored along the centre of road through Almodington.

Following guidance from Cllr Montyn, it was suggested that the matter be raised in an email with Mark Jacobs of WSCC Highways.

3 The sea defences at Medmerry

It was noted that a container, possibly a portable toilet, had appeared at Medmerry next to the periwinkle. Cllr Carey will forward an email from Carolyn Cobbold on the matter to the EA and he will ask Carolyn Cobbold to contact the RSPB.

4 Medmerry Car Park – this was removed from the agenda as agreed at the last meeting.

5 Replacement Airman – this was removed from the agenda as agreed at the last meeting.

6 Update from Environment Group

Cllr Doel stated that the roadside between the Grange and Earnley Meadows required flail mowing to remove hemlock and hog weed. Cllr Doel will forward a map and photos to Cllr Carey who will forward then to Mark Jacobs of Highways. Cllr Montyn also

suggested that details could be communicated using the WSCC website address as follows,
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/maintaining-roads-verges-and-pavements/verge-maintenance/tree-and-hedge-maintenance/reporting-problems-with-trees-and-hedges/>

26.25 Highways

1 Village Gateways phase two

Cllr Stant reported that there was damage to one gateway, which will be addressed when there is a new clerk in post. The clerk will also be asked to photograph the gateways and record them in the assets register.

2 Bus Shelter and Notice board First Avenue

This item to be held until the recruitment of a new clerk.

3 Bike Stands Bell Lane and Bracklesham Lane

Cllr Stant has chased B&M plant hire regarding progress and will forward the response.

27.25 Review of Annual Parish Meeting – held 12th March 2025

Cllr Carey reported that the turnout for the meeting had been positive with 30 people at the meeting. The guest speaker was very good and attracted additional attendees. It was agreed that it had made a difference to circulate leaflets door to door. The members of the public currently in attendance confirmed that they were pleased with the event.

28.25 Employment Matters

1 Confirm agreement of final payment to outgoing parish clerk – 30 hours overtime plus 5 days or 10 hours accrued holiday pay – these arrangements were agreed by Cllr Macdonald and seconded Cllr Stant.

2 To confirm agreement to recruit a new clerk on the same salary range and terms of conditions. The one change is to advertise the post at 10-12 hours per week. Agreed by Cllr Macdonald seconded by Cllr Stant.

29.25 Report On External Meetings

Referencing the GLAM meeting, Cllr Stant stated that the parish will be asked to comment on about Quiet Lanes and “rat runs”. Cllr Carey stated that the level of traffic will be monitored after occupation of the new developments to judge their impact by comparison to data already held. Cllr Stant reminded other councillors that there will be a need to relocate the SIDS shortly.

30.25 Chairman’s Report and Correspondence

None

31.25 Items for Noting on Future Agendas

None

The meeting closed at 19.59