

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Village Hall (Pulborough Social Centre) on Thursday 12 May 2004 at 7.30 PM

Present: Mrs J Botting (Chairman) Mr J Denison
Mrs H Black Mrs C Barnett
Mrs N Hompstead Mr M Longridge
Mrs H Grey
Mr I Kiverstein

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly

County Councillor

Mrs P Arculus

In Attendance:

PCSO Neville Warner

Nic Packwood CPRE

Tim Fookes Barn House Surgery

Samantha Clarke The County Times

20 Members of the public

1 INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Mrs Botting welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all of the guest speakers for attending.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr N Bransden Mr L Ampstead Mr M Foster

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2004 were approved and signed as a correct record.

3.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

1 Member of the public requested a copy of the minutes so that she could check it for accuracy.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2004/05

Mrs Botting said that she had provided a written report on activities as this had proved to be popular with previous years meetings. She hoped that people would take time to read the report and to ask any questions later.

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5 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) said that he had provided a written report on income and expenditure during 2004/05 and a summary of the main activities for 2005/06.

The draft full accounts for 2004/05 would shortly be available. A summary would be displayed on the Parish Council's noticeboards and the accounts would be available for inspection in the Parish Council office. Mr Kiverstein stated that he would be happy to answer any questions.

6 Police Community Support Officer NEVILLE WARNER

PCSO Warner introduces himself and outlined his areas of responsibility. He then went on to provide details of how the Anti Social Behaviour Orders were actioned. The ASBO system works on a principle of 'three strikes and your out'. An offender would have a letter sent home to their parents advising of the disturbance and or concerns regarding the youth.

The next step involves asking the parents and child to attend the police station to agree and sign an 'acceptable behaviour contract. These are 'tailor-made ' to the individual and may contain specific conditions. If there were a breach of this document then the offender would be required to have their case put before a magistrate and the Courts. Ultimately their actions could lead to a custodial sentence.

There were a number of questions from the floor:

- Q Do you patrol at night?
- A Yes. Shift patterns vary during a period of 8am to 12pm.
- Q Do you walk off the pavements into the recreation area or other open spaces?
- A The Officers patrol all areas, being directed from calls made by the public as well as the usual known 'hot spots'.
- Q When interviewing the child with their parents do they work with other agencies to check school attendance or any other problems?
- No, not at that particular stage.
- Q How effective have you found your job to be in supporting the Police Force in the area?
- A Feedback so far is positive with people very pleased to see extra offices patrolling. Lower Street residents are particularly pleased with the response rate. On Friday evenings there is a special operation to target all hot spots in the area. Councillor Brain Donnelly stresses that people must report incidents as these help to build a profile of activity and problems in the area so that resources can be directed accordingly.
- Q Do the officers work on a Sunday? And do all calls go through to the control station at Hayward Heath?
- A Yes. A 999 call is graded as a 1 and Haywards Heath decide what resource to allocate to the call. The concern is expressed that Haywards Heath is too far away and that the people at the station would not have local knowledge. PCSO Warner advises that if it is a 'youth' issue it might be better to use the ordinary non-urgent number rather than 999.
- It was expressed that although the elderly do feel more secure there are still delays when getting through to someone and the response time is not

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always satisfactory. Neville advises that the control station at Haywards Heath is being upgraded and new staff trained to improve the service.

8.05pm Mrs Botting thanks PCSO Warner for taking the time to attend the meeting.

PCSO Warner leaves the meeting.

8.15pm

NIC PACKWOOD CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

Nic gave an introduction to the Society and issues that affect Pulborough. He explained how the CPRE are invited to comment on policy proposals at Government level as well as local planning. These issues could include Telecom masts, Quarrying and Waste. He also expressed concern about Enforcement not being enforced. He stated that the Society was actively supporting The Wiggonholt Association, A24 road building scheme and that the Society supported the move towards the South Downs becoming a National Park subject to it being given proper democratic representation. CPRE also provides policy documents offering salient points for Parish Councils and individuals on planning matters. Training is also available for free.

There then followed some questions from the floor:

Q Are CPRE opposed to the proposed A27 around Arundel?

A Not happy with the latest scheme, but open to further discussions although they recognise that something needs to be done.

Q Who founded the CPRE and when?

A Not sure about the whole Society but the Sussex branch was started in 1975 with £24K pa funded by subscription.

Q Does CPRE have any access to Parliament?

A The National Office is an active parliamentary lobbyist who will go to all party's to influence policy at that level.

Nic finishes by leaving his contact details and stressing that he and the Society are always happy to help.

7 Doctors

**This item was delayed as Dr Tim Fookes was delayed.
The Meeting moved on to 'Question Time'**

8 Question Time

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Q Mr Stanley Mullett expressed dismay at the way in which the Parish Council had not tried or fought harder to resist the closing of the public toilets. He stated that there was a sense of outrage throughout the community that the Parish Council had not done more to represent the village residents feelings. He asked why the Parish Council could not join with other Parish Councils (in a similar position) to form an action group to insist that Horsham District Council reinstate the facilities.

Elaine Crossley representing herself and Ann Kaiser and Peter Reeve wished to express the opinion that the Parish Council had not been vociferous at all and had badly let down the residents.

A Mrs Botting says that yes it would be nice to try but would there be any point? She goes on to ask District Cllr Brian Donnelly to comment.

Mr Donnelly explains that the cost of maintaining the facility was vastly outweighed the usage. If the Parish Council were to consider providing a public toilet then the amount of money could well be in excess of £50k plus running costs. This money would need to come from the Precept.

Mrs Botting advised the meeting that the Parish Council did indeed object most strongly when the decision was made by HDC. Mrs Hompstead informed the meeting that the Parish Council did not consider it suitable that the public use the local pub facilities and objected when this suggestion was made.

The Parish Council agreed that there should be a public meeting to discuss the issue in more depth and to try and investigate a solution. The full facts and figure should be available in time for the meeting. Mrs Botting stated that it would not be possible to arrange a meeting in the immediate future, but one would be scheduled for as soon as was practical.

Valerie Chapman

Q What is happening to the recreation field at Cousins Way, and is it being sold off?

A Mrs Botting passed the question to Mrs Hompstead Chairman of the Planning Committee. Mrs Hompstead explains the background to the inclusion of Cousins Way Recreation Field into the Local Development Framework but states that even if it does get included it does not necessarily mean that it would be developed for housing.

A member of the public stated that the recreation field s must not be sold as they were there for everyone in the village to use. He also demanded that all recreation fields should be protected from development.

9.30pm

Dr Tim Fookes

Dr Fookes was delighted to have the opportunity the bring the audience up to date with the latest developments and to address the issue of Cordens the Chemist closing in Lower Street.

He began by outlining the distinct advantages of the Pharmacy operation moving to the new proposed development and pointed out that there would only be one license to dispense medication issued to Pulborough. By moving the

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facility to the new site would mean that all of the residents of Pulborough would enjoy the same level of service which they did not at present. The new Pharmacy would offer more specialised items, as it would have significantly more space.

He also stressed that with the arrival of the new Tesco store that the Pharmacy would have to provide a greater retail offer, as many items would be available at Tescos. He pointed out that since the bollards had been erected outside of Cordens that retail sales had fallen significantly, and although safety of pedestrians was an important issue it had meant that many were not so able to use the chemists as before.

He moved on to an update on the actual building and informed the meeting that the Barn House Surgery was working with an excellent Architect and builder that specialised in medical buildings. If the development could achieve all of the criteria required by the planning department then they would hope to move in at the end of 2006. The first phase would include the moving of the Doctors, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Day care Centre and Pharmacy. It was also hoped that Mary Howe would move in at this time too. The second phase would include the 60-bed nursing home. A collaboration agreement had been signed to ensure that the various projects all come together at the same time.

Mrs Botting concluded the meeting by asking for any more questions and inviting everyone to remain for tea and coffee.

The meeting closed at 10pm

9 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mrs Botting thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.30 PM. Those present were invited to join the Parish Council for refreshments. Mr Donnelly thanked Mrs Botting for being an excellent Parish Council Chairman.

..... Chairman

..... Date