

## **PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Pulborough Village Hall on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Mrs J Botting (Chairman)	Mr J Denison
Mr L Ampstead	Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs C Barnett	Mrs A Lawson
Mrs H Black	

### **District Councillors**

Mr B Donnelly

Mr R Paterson

### **County Councillor**

Mrs P Arculus

### **In Attendance:**

Mr T Crowley, Chief Executive, Horsham District Council  
Mrs E Kitchen, Leader of Horsham District Council  
Mr G Charman, Community Safety Officer  
Ms L Sunderland, Neighbourhood Warden  
Mrs J Radley, Parish Clerk  
Mr H Barrett, Assistant Parish Clerk  
11 Members of the Public

### **1. INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all of the guest speakers for attending.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Bransden and M Longridge and from the representative of the CAB.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005 were received and signed as a correct record.

#### **3.1 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SCHEME**

The Community Safety Officer of Horsham District Council, Mr Greg Charman reported that he had attended a Pulborough Local Action Team meeting who had expressed an interest in the Scheme. He gave a brief outline of the Scheme together with Ms Louise Sunderland, who was a Neighbourhood Warden for the Parishes of Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding.

The Council were informed that the Scheme was first founded at Ashington five years ago and together with the Scheme at Steyning, were working successfully as Steyning was considered to be the second safest village for its size.

The role of the Neighbourhood Warden was to visit areas in the village regularly which would reassure residents and to report incidents to the police so that in extreme cases formal action could be taken. It was aimed at

meeting the District Council's commitment to reduce the fear and risk of crime in the community in partnership with the police.

It was noted that the Wardens would work in pairs and mainly in the evenings. Residents, who had a particular concern, could contact the Warden who would assess a situation and take the necessary action. The estimated cost for this service would be approximately £60,000 per year. However, it was suggested that a geographically combined Scheme of the parishes of Pulborough and Billingshurst should be considered which would reduce the cost per household to approximately £10 a year.

Mr Charman explained that Horsham District Council would be responsible for the management of the Scheme and the employment of the Wardens and suggested that members should visit existing Schemes. The next step, if such a Scheme was acceptable to the parish, would be to enter into discussions with Billingshurst.

The Chairman reported that it was proposed to include an item in the Newsletter seeking residents' opinion on whether Pulborough should support such a Scheme. She then thanked Mr Charman and Ms Sunderland for their presentation on behalf of the Council.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2005/06**

Chairman presented her report on the Council's and its Committee's activities over the past year and expressed her willingness to answer any questions once everyone had an opportunity to read the document.

**6. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Council's Responsible Financial Officer, Mr I Kiverstein presented his report on the Parish Council's income and expenditure for 2005/06 and the budget for 2006/07. He added that the finances were quite healthy and that expenditure was within budget.

**7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE LEADER OF HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The Leader, Mrs Elizabeth Kitchen thanked the Parish Council for its invitation and reported that the District Council very much valued its working relationship with the parishes like Pulborough.

Mr Tom Crowley introduced himself by stating that he was relatively new to the post of Chief Executive (11 months) although he had working experience in Surrey and Sussex of 26 years. Horsham District had 36 parishes and 3 Neighbourhood Councils and he felt it was important to visit them to keep up to date with local issues. He added that a Local Government White Paper was due out shortly on the proposed re-organisation of local government and its suggested 'localism' and what that may mean for parishes. He reaffirmed the Leader's statement that he felt it was his role to maintain a strong relationship with the parishes.

Reference was made to the recent adoption by the District Council to enforce the blue disc restriction of parking for 4 hours only on the parish's only public car park and that there had been many residents and businesses that had expressed concern. The Chief Executive, in reply, referred to a meeting that was held in January 2006 advising the parish that this policy would be introduced in February and that it was currently working in Storrington.

Mrs H Black reminded those present that there had been planning permissions granted for dwellings recently in the vicinity which had not required car parking provision on site but had added to the burden of parking for local residents. Mrs Kitchen explained that the planning emphasis had to be on sustainability but this was slowly changing to take on a wider view.

The District Councillor, Mr B Donnelly explained that the Blue Disc Scheme had been in place for some considerable time and that they could be obtained at local venues. In reply to a member of the public's comment about the signage in the car park, he added that these venues were stated at the bottom of the notice.

The Chief Executive felt that it was trying to find the right balance and best compromise between the different demands in the village and consider the options of providing additional car parking.

Mr L Ampstead stated that the Traders in the village were anxious to enter into dialogue with the District Council on this problem and the inadequate monitoring of the siting of the recycling bins in the car park including the paper bin which was no longer required but takes up half a car parking space.

The Chairman reported that in her experience, the District Council's response to letters was quite poor and the Chief Executive reported that he had introduced an improved practise of telephone response but acknowledged that some departments were better than others in responding to correspondence. However if there were particular concerns, it was suggested that copies of correspondence should be sent to the Chief Executive and the District Councillors.

A resident sought the comments of the Council on the possible development of West Glebefields. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had no objection to a small development however access from the site would need to be acceptable, as it would be opposed to any form of access from Church Hill. However, there was currently no proposal before the Parish Council but it was noted that this site was to be considered by the Planning Inspector for development as part of the Local Development Framework.

Mr I Kiverstein asked the Chief Executive if the District Council's Street Cleansing Service for Pulborough could be investigated as the Parish Council had written numerous letters concerning the poor service and had achieved little.

Mr R Paterson reported that the developers of the proposed Riverside Concrete development were to improve the pavement on the west side of Stane Street and install a Pelican crossing near the bottom of the development on the A.29.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had strongly opposed the siting of these traffic lights, as it would cause huge tailbacks of traffic especially in the summer months. Mr Denison confirmed that the trees would not be affected with the clearing of the footpath at Riverside but felt that the leaves accumulated by the Chequers Hotel should be cleared to reveal the cobble stones underneath.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive, Mr T. Crowley and the Leader, Mrs E. Kitchen for the attendance at the meeting.

**8. QUESTION TIME**

The County Councillor Mrs P Arculus reported that she was the Portfolio Holder for Social Services on the West Sussex County Council. In reply to a member of the public, she reported that the County Council Traffic Order did not propose to introduce new on-street parking but that it was a co-ordination exercise of the all the existing Orders. Also, the proposed new Doctors' Surgery development had encountered contamination problems on site.

A resident referred to the Riverside Development and asked why provision had not been introduced for pedestrians by the railway line. He was informed however, that the Parish Council had wanted a footbridge but this had been considered to be too costly and because it would have had to have been sited on railway land. Mr B Donnelly reported on the planning reasons for the District Council's decision. It was suggested however that there should have been a Risk Assessment undertaken by the developers and asked the Clerk to try and obtain copies for the Councillors.

**9. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited all those present to join the Parish Councillors for refreshments.

**The meeting closed at 9.13 pm**

..... Chairman

.....Date