

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Pulborough Village Hall on Thursday, 17th May 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mrs J Botting (Chairman) Mrs H Black
Mrs C Barnett Mr I Kiverstein
Mrs K Mrs A Lawson

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson

In Attendance:

Representatives of the Fairtrade Group
PSCO Neville Warner
Mr John Mills, Archaeologist at WSCC
Mrs Ann Hart, Lloyds Pharmacy
Mr Paul Addison, Highways, WSCC
Mrs J Radley, Locum Parish Clerk
Mr H Barrett, Assistant Parish Clerk
15 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. PRESENTATION MADE BY THE FAIRTRADE GROUP

The meeting was attended by Mr Batt of the Fairtrade Group who announced that Pulborough had been declared a Fairtrade Village, the first village in West Sussex to receive such an award. He presented a certificate awarded to the 'People of Pulborough' who were being recognised as a caring community in adopting the principles of fair trade.

The Group would be widening their appeal to local organisations to use fair trade products and was to hold a barn dance in September. He expressed also the Group's appreciation of the support given by the Parish Council and the local people and, in the future, the Group would likely be seeking a contribution from the Parish Council towards the provision of a sign in recognition of the award to be erected in the village.

The Chairman of the Council accepted the award on behalf of the people of Pulborough and reported that the Award would be displayed in the Village Hall, with the permission of the Trustees.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Ampstead and J Denison.

4. PCSO NEVILLE WARNER

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Warner to the meeting who reported on the major changes taken place in the North Downs Division including the appointment of a new Chief Inspector Steve Black and a change of personnel at the Steyning and Pulborough Police Stations. All emergency calls were

dealt with by the Call Centre at Haywards Heath and the non-emergency number was 0845 67999.

He stated Pulborough currently did not have any major issues just minor incidents relating to the youth of the parish. The police were however working closely with LAT to develop youth activities in the village.

He emphasised the need to consider whether an incident could be considered a non-emergency, as police officers attending may have to come from Steyning. His own patch covered Ashlington, West Chiltington, Thakeham, Coldwaltham and Pulborough but he endeavoured to walk around Pulborough as much as possible.

A member of the public reported that she had had an excellent response from the police in a recent emergency and felt LAT did a lot of good work in the village and should be recognised for it.

PCSO Warner closed by stating he would be introducing his surgeries again but this time they would be held in the reception areas of Tescos and Sainsburys.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Warner for his attendance.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2006 were received and signed as a correct record.

5.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2006/07

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.

7. 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 2006/07 and the budget for 2007/08. He pointed out a typographical error in paragraph 4 of his report which should read £8,000 and not £1,000 as stated. This indicated that the finances were quite healthy and expenditure was within budget.

8. JOHN MILLS, ARCHAEOLOGIST AT WSCC

A presentation was given by Mr John Mills, Archaeologist on the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey Project of which the Pulborough Historic Character Assessment was part. It aims to inform strategic and local planning policy in respect of Sussex historic towns, provide archaeological and historical information to support town conservation area appraisals and responses to planning applications and to provide an evidence base for research into archaeology and history of the area.

He presented a series of maps of the suggested evolution of the town and the definition of Historic Urban Character Areas, with a historic environment value for each Area. He emphasised that the Project was to flag up to the planners the need to protect the historic character of the parish.

District Councillor Brian Donnelly congratulated Mr Mills on the excellent document that had been supplied by the County Council.

Mr Mills, in response to a request by a councillor, agreed to take back a request to put the document on the County Council's website but reminded the meeting there were paper copies available for inspection in the Library and the Parish Council.

Reference was made to a number of major development sites currently being considered by Horsham which Mr Mills was aware of but he would investigate the proposed Oddstones development.

The Chairman, on behalf the Council and those present, thanked Mr Mills for his informative talk.

9. ANN HART, LLOYDS PHARMACY

Mrs Ann Hart attended the meeting to report on the proposed application by Lloyds Pharmacy to provide a service in Lower Street when the current pharmacy moves with the proposed doctors' surgery site. She explained that siting was important, as requirements were that the pharmacy operated for 100 hours, which was difficult to achieve. Also Lloyds Pharmacy intended to provide a home service however, the application would depend on Primary Care Trust approval.

Reference was made to the home service to be provided by Corden Pharmacy but it was noted that it was for housebound patients only. Mrs Hart confirmed that Lloyds would provide this for anyone who requested it.

A member of the public reported that a previous campaign against the close of the pharmacy had had no effect with the Trust and that there was a strong feeling in the village that there was a real need for this service in Lower Street as customers could not walk easily to the surgery.

It was unanimously agreed by all at the meeting that this service was a necessity in this part of the village and every effort should be made to support the Lloyds application.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Ann Hart for her attendance.

10. TRAFFIC PARKING ISSUES IN PULBOROUGH

The Chairman reported that regular meetings were being held with Mr Paul Addison, responsible for strategic planning of highways, and that the Section 106 funding of £20,000 received from the Tesco's development, had now finally been approved by Horsham District Council for speed restrictions and highway improvements outside St. Mary's School. These works were due to take place during the school holidays.

A member of the public stated that he thought there was to be another access provided to the rear of the school. The Chairman then reported that there was to be a touchpad crossing from the Riverside development, about which the Parish Council was extremely concerned.

The Chairman advised that other Section 106 funding was likely from the Sainsburys and Oddstones development sites.

Mr Paul Addison reported that he met with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council on a regular basis to ascertain where the strategic highway problems were in Pulborough. He mentioned the survey which had been supplied to the Library and was available to any resident of Pulborough to highlight where they consider the traffic problems were. A map was displayed on the wall for those residents attending the meeting to highlight.

Reference was made to the roundabout installed at Stane Street, which was causing considerable problems particularly to foreign drivers, who had difficulty in understanding the system. It was suggested that the red area should be removed and planting installed in the centre, which would soften the area.

Mr Addison reported that an independent auditor would inspect the area.

The Chairman thanked Mr Addison for his guidance and assistance.

11. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The locum Clerk reported that in view of the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, the Register of Interests had been updated and that as it was the beginning of a new Council term all members would have to complete a new Register of Interest. This was to be supplied by Horsham District Council and the Clerk would circulate these as soon a copy was received.

12. PAYMENT OF CHEQUES

RESOLVED: that cheques be drawn for the following payments:

J Botting	£19.75
Pulborough Social Care	£120.00
Wightman & Parrish	£8.99
Cleaver Tree Surgery	£235.00
NatWest	£27.68

13. QUESTION TIME

A member of the public reported the problem of dog fouling and was advised that residents needed to report to the Dog Warden at Horsham District Council and, if it was a persistent problem, he would be able to monitor and take action. The Parish Council would ask for the District Council to provide Dog Litter Bins in problem areas, if they were identified.

Councillor Brian Donnelly reported that the District Council was recruiting more personnel to try and combat this anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Roger Paterson reported that the lease on the local Post Office was due to run out in September but the landlord was keen to keep it for this purpose subject to serious renovation of the building. A site would be required by the post office during the renovation.

Reference was made to the bottle bank at the car park and the meeting was informed that, because the size of the containers requested was much smaller, this meant an increase in the number of bins, to dispose of the same amount of bottles.

Parking in Pulborough was raised and reference was made to the free parking in the proposed Doctors' Surgery. The Chairman reported that this would be limited to two hours and that perhaps the notices should be made larger. However, she assured those present at the meeting that the Parish Council were fully aware of the problems of parking in the parish and would strive to solve the issue.

14. **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 9.30 p.m.

..... **Chairman**

..... **Date**

CHAIRMANS' ACTIVITIES REPORT 2006/2007

1. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Parish Council

I would like to start by thanking my Deputy Chairman, the Committee Chairmen and all the Councillors for their support and help. Between us, we put in a large amount of hours and I certainly could not manage without their time and commitment. We were glad to welcome Lesley Hoff as our new Clerk, and she has very quickly proved to us all how efficient and indispensable she is. I know that Lesley loves working with such a wonderful view available to her and that quite often she has to draw the blinds to enable her to concentrate on her job! Howard Barrett, the Assistant Clerk, is still being a star, filling in afternoons in the office, doing odd jobs around the village, sorting the filing and generally being extremely useful.

Pulborough Community Partnership

The Parish Council has been working closely with the Partnership on many various projects. The Walks leaflets are very near to being finally printed; the web site should soon also be operational. There has been considerable progress with the Traders of the village to draw together a scheme for the enhancement and improvement of the Lower Street trading area utilising the Section 106 monies from Tesco, and this will be coming in front of the village for consultation in the autumn.

Other Matters

Sadly, the Youth Club, which had been up and running for school year 6 age, has shut because of the loss of one of the Youth Leaders. There are efforts to start it up again with specially trained volunteers and we wish them the best of luck. Please contact them if you can help in any way.

At long last the traffic calming measures by St. Mary's School have been finalised and the work will be started, hopefully in the summer holidays. This will use the Tesco's Section 106 monies promised many months ago.

This coming year will see the start and/or fruition of a lot of 'happenings'.

A good thing is the completion of the Doctors' dream – their new surgery complex. We wish them a successful move.

A bad thing is that we are sure there will not be adequate parking for the whole complex on the Spiro Gills site but there should be more than enough parking in the main car park for Lower Street needs.

A good thing is that we shall be putting up our colourful hanging baskets again this year.

Sainsbury's car park and store extensions will be most welcome and there will be two public toilets near the new entrance.

The thought of some 'affordable' housing in the Riverside site will, hopefully, mean that some of our local families will have their own new homes. However, having more traffic from this site, Oddstones and Coppice Hangers developments off Church Hill may mean the whole village will grind to a halt. It is our intention to zealously guard any Section 106 funding from these and other sites, to ensure that some of the monies are earmarked for use in the village for youth and sporting facilities.

One thing that I think the whole of the village will agree on, is the ugliness of the new Stane Street roundabout and we are leaning heavily on W.S.C.C. Highways Dept. to improve the appearance. How about some planting in the centre?

Staff

I would like to say a big thank you to our wonderful groundsman, Jim Leadbetter. Despite extremes of weather this winter, he has been able to keep the Main Rec. looking fabulous. Lil Rhoder's hard work on the booking side of the Multi-Sports Facility meant that it was almost continuously booked during the summer holidays. Due to her ill health Lil has had to hand her job over to Lisa Richards and we thank Lil and wish her the very best of luck.

Jan Botting, Chairman.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING & SERVICES COMMITTEE

The members of the Planning Committee approach their work knowing full well that conclusions they reach will inevitably upset some people, because it is not possible to please all the people all the time.

The Parish Council is only able to recommend to Horsham District Council how an application should be judged and ultimately the South East England Rural Assembly is the final decision-maker. That being said, the Planning Committee takes its responsibilities most seriously.

Last year the Parish Council opposed the decision to allow a very large development in a garden on Church Hill. This has recently been the subject of an Inspector's Enquiry and the decision of the Inspector at the time of writing is, as yet, awaited.

There are currently large developments going ahead in the village including the housing development alongside the new Medical Centre and the even greater number of houses now under construction on the old quarry site behind Sopers Cottages. Additionally, the Council has recently viewed plans for houses and apartments on the 'Oddstones' site. The Council's view on the Mill Place site was given only after prolonged discussion, site visits and taking all aspects of the development into consideration. With regard to this particular planning

application it has to be stated that gardens are considered by Central Government to be 'brown field sites' and Central Government legislation cannot be put aside when arriving at decisions. Nor can the Planning Committee make decisions with political bias as its criteria. It is not a reason to deny any planning application no matter where it is and for whatever purpose just because someone somewhere may make a profit from the development.

The over development of Pulborough is of great concern to us all, yet we have to accept whether we like it or not, that Central Government has decreed that a certain number of dwellings have to be built in our part of England. The Planning Committee and the Parish Council try very hard, often in difficult circumstances, to mitigate the consequences of decisions taken elsewhere.

It is important that everyone in Pulborough keeps their eyes on the published Planning Application lists and if you feel strongly about any item, then you have the right to attend any Meeting and speak at that Meeting provided that the Parish Clerk has been given the appropriate notice of intention. Indeed all Pulborough Parish Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are open for any member of the public to attend and speak if they so desire.

Hazel Black, Chairman.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RECREATION & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

A new street light has been placed at the corner of the pavilion car park to enable safer use for those using the sports facilities in the winter months.

New tennis nets purchased by the Parish Council for the MSF are now ready for the summer.

5-a-side goal posts were donated by the Football Club and with new nets provided by the Parish Council, they are being well used.

Phil our Tree Warden, with the help of local young people, has planted oak trees and a tulip tree on the Cousins Way Recreation Ground under the 'Trees for Shade' project. Several new benches have also been placed in the village.

The Cricket Club goes from strength to strength, they have been able to purchase new sight screens and cover from Section 106 contributions with the help of the Parish Council.

Christine Barnett, Chairman.

17.05.07