

FLORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St Michaels Community Centre on Monday 13 March 2017

Present: Cllrs Pam Harvey, Jimmy Lockhart, John Dyer, Ann Barnes, Janice Holmes, David Harrison

Attending: District Councillor Phil Hardy, County Councillor Colin Foulger

Tree Warden report: none

Public Comment:

- A member of the public commented on the fact that at two recent planning meetings, the parish council had been treated unfairly and had not been heeded. The Chairman of a recent meeting appeared to ride roughshod over the parish council representatives, instructed the committee how to vote and lectured the parish councillors. Cllr Hardy pointed out that parish councils are consultees and they do have a voice in planning matters, though he agreed that that particular planning meeting did not listen to the parish council. Cllr Hardy will ascertain the complaints procedure and this will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Tas Valley Mushrooms continue to work early or late, in contravention of the conditions.
- Weight limits currently in force in the village, because of their location and extent, do not prevent HGV traffic, and the parish council is told that there is no budget to make changes to the weight restrictions. Cllr Foulger pointed out that the whole process of making changes (including surveys, public consultation periods, public advertising etc) is long drawn out and expensive. He will however raise this question again.
- Offroad parking in St Michael's View has still not been resolved by Saffron Housing. Two properties do not have offroad parking and this was a major source of friction during the spate of anti-social behaviour in 2016. A budget for the work has been in place for a year, but Saffron have now said they are not allowed to install drop kerbs: Cllr Hardy will check this.
- Some vans are now parked on the road although they are not taxed or insured. A young man is living in one of these (he is over 16 years of age) so the impression is that Saffron are not ensuring that their tenants follow the terms of their tenancies. Cllr Hardy will follow this up.
- Some of the current issues can be raised in a meeting with Saffron Housing who seem reluctant to attend meetings at which the public are present. Clerk will put Saffron in touch with Cllrs Webster and Barnes.

County Councillor's report:

Councillor Foulger confirmed the County Council tax increase of 3.9% (including 3% for adult care) which has already been widely reported. From 1 April all previous overspends will be cancelled from reserves, but then further overspends or dipping into reserves will not be allowed.

District Councillor's report:

Councillor Hardy encouraged everyone to study the Community Governance Review to consider the possibility of smaller councils merging. In some cases separate parishes can retain their own identity, but can form joint parish councils with neighbouring parishes. The full results are due imminently and will then be open to consultation.

1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Tim Webster

2 Declarations of Interest: none

3 Minutes of Meeting 9 January 2017: agreed and signed

4 Matters arising from the previous minutes: none

5 Finances:

a	bank balances as at 8 March 2017	
	current account	6247.37
	savings account	892.12
	total	7139.49
	less u/p cheques	1105.84
	cashbook balance	6033.65

b Barclays have not responded to the form we completed for online account access so it is likely they will ask for new Appointment of Bankers paperwork plus new Personal Details etc - this is an opportunity to check if we would like to make any changes (for discussion at next meeting).

c Payments: the following payments were authorised:

Ben Burgess Hire	Broadwater dredging work	468.00
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(signed but held pending confirmation from Cllr Harrison of how the Broadwater invoices are to be split)

Luke Simpson	Broadwater dredging work	356.25
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G Roderick-Jones	clerk's expenses	26.95
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Flordon Community Trust	annual donation	500.00
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NOTE: invoice from Gerry Ireland not yet arrived and will be dealt with at the next meeting.

6 Planning:

a 2017/0373 The Gables, Station Road (previously circulated to councillors) retrospective application for change of use to residential
no comment

b 2017/0319 Hedgerow, Greenways Close (previously circulated to councillors) single storey rear extension and dormer to front elevation
no comment

c late application: 2017/0624 1 St Michael's View, single storey extension and replacement garage
(councillors to send comments to clerk by 21 March)

7 Highways:

a Speedwatch update: more volunteers are needed to replace people who have had to drop out. Cllr Barnes recently attended a Speedwatch AGM at which the Flordon Speedwatch project was praised by Engagement Officer PC Jim Squires.

b SAM2 update: we expect to hear about funding of 50% from the Parish Partnership Scheme some time this month.

- c Trod path update: Ongoing. Gary Overland (Highways Engineer) will check the trodpath surface again; Cllr Harrison will follow up.

8 Village Sign:

there is a possibility of funding of 500.00 from the Community Group via Community Trust. For discussion at the next meeting.

9 Annual Payment to the PCC:

There is a question as to whether the PC is getting value for money. Areas of the churchyard are tended by Cllr Lockhart and by Mr Taplin, but some areas are not being looked after as well. Wildlife areas still need care. Currently cut materials are not being removed and leaves on the paths form slipping hazards. Cllr Lockhart will follow this up.

10 Broadwater update:

The work has now been completed. It was undertaken because dredging and clearance work had not been carried out for ten years. In the past the work has been done by the IDB (Internal Drainage Board) but this time they wanted six thousand pounds, so FPC undertook the work. The IDB said that they would inform English Nature. The work was carried out as before, with dredged materials laid as the IDB have done previously, and with little or no disturbance to the banks.

The work was carried out at short notice to take advantage of a power outage, enabling work underneath power cables to be carried out safely and efficiently. However, the Parish Council acknowledge that not enough was done to inform residents in neighbouring properties, and would like to apologise for this oversight. Cllr Barnes will give the clerk a list of names and addresses of the people involved and they will receive apologies. The need to keep people informed has been noted for future occasions.

Cllr Lockhart had a meeting with one of the householders, Mr Ball, to discuss his concerns, which include a portion of his garden alongside the river collapsing, rodent damage to the riverbank, a tree collapsing and also the lack of information given to residents who were affected by the work.

The request for a grant of £500 towards the costs is no longer to be made. Cllr Harrison has produced a costing for the whole project which includes a promise of £1362.13 from Redwings towards the costs, bringing the cost for the Parish Council of £1066.30, which lies within the £1200 which had been earmarked for the project.

11 Correspondence: the following were noted:

- brochures concerning the proposed offshore windfarm and associated onshore work
- invitation to open evening at Police HQ in Wymondham
- confirmation of 6-monthly trodpath repayment
- new format monthly police newsletter
- email from Saffron Housing turning down invitation to March meeting

12 Items for the next agenda/AOB

- start building a Broadwater Fund for the next work which should be in 5 years' time
- replace seat removed during trodpath work
- consider consolidating allocated funds into savings account

13 Date of next meeting:

(NOTE EARLIER TIME)

Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 followed by AGM on Monday 8 May 2017