

RUSTINGTON PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 3 April 2008

PRESENT: Rustington Parish Councillors M Warrington (In the Chair), A Akbar, Mrs C Broomfield, J Ceiriog-Hughes, J Collins, T Field, R Grevett, P Harris, Mrs F Harrison, Mrs S Lines, D Murphy, D Rogers, G Tyler and R Steward, County Councillors P Evans, P T Moor and Dr J M Walsh, District Councillors Mrs P M Bower, R J Bower and M J Clayden, Mrs C Ward, Mrs C Ellis, Mrs C Harris, Mrs L Collins, D Moyle and Mrs E Neno (Rustington Parish Council), PCSO C Wilson (Sussex Police), Mrs C Groves (Citizens' Advice Bureau), P Lines, I Armstrong and Mrs J Armstrong, A Beard (Littlehampton District Lions Club), Mrs L Beard (Zachary Merton Community Hospital League of Friends), R Parsons, Mrs G Price, R Webb, Mrs D Parkin (Rustington Trefoil Guild), Ms J Bottel, M Wright and Mrs A Wright, D Leach and Mrs E Leach, D Herbert and J Klanczkowski (Rustington Otters Football Club), M Snowdon and Mrs C Snowdon, Ms J Fleming, Mrs K Tidbury, Mrs S Loveland, B Loveland and Mrs Y Loveland, A Reed (Tram Security), Mrs E Collins (St. Andrew's United Reformed Church), D Chilton, I Taylor and Mrs D Taylor, J Bashford, Mrs P Gunn, A Taylor, Mrs S Puttick, W Line and Mrs M Line, Ms J Morris, C Partridge and Mrs S Partridge, Ms A Stewart, C Snell and Mrs H Snell, R Mann (Rustington Cricket Club), Ms A Bate, S Price, D Park, Mrs J Dwelly, A Mounteney, Reverend Z Allen (Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul), A Jones, I Nisbet, P Ayling, Mrs M Mills and T Barker

APOLOGIES: Sergeant P Allan (Sussex Police), W Molloy (Headteacher on behalf of the Chairman of Governors - Georgian Gardens Community Primary School), Councillor S Perry and Mrs B Messett (WAAF Association)

1. LITTLEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Meeting received a detailed Presentation from Carol Groves, Resource Manager, Littlehampton and District Citizens' Advice Bureau, on the work and successes of the Bureau.

Following the Presentation, Mrs Groves answered several questions and the Chairman thanked her for a most interesting Presentation.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported on the activities of the Parish Council during the preceding year. A copy of this Report is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

4. AUDITED STATEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

The Meeting received the Audited Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007.

The Clerk reported that these Accounts were available for inspection in the Council Offices.

5. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008 AND 31 MARCH 2009

The Meeting received a Report from Councillor G Tyler, Chairman of the Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee on the Council's finances for the year ending 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009. A copy of this Report is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

6. LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

The Chairman advised the Meeting that the Chairmen of the Governing Bodies from each of the three Primary Schools in Rustington were invited to attend the Meeting to provide a brief Annual Report in respect of the individual Schools.

The Chairman then confirmed that written Reports had been received from Mr William Molloy, Headteacher, on behalf of the Governing Body for Georgian Gardens Community Primary School and Mr Andrew Lauretani, Chairman of the Governing Body for Summerlea Community Primary School. The Reports were presented to the Meeting by Councillor G Tyler, in his capacity as a Member of the Governing Body for Georgian Gardens Community Primary School and by Councillor Mrs S Lines on behalf of Mr Lauretani.

The Meeting then received a Report from Mr John Ceiriog-Hughes, Chairman of Governors, on behalf of Rustington Community Primary School.

Transcripts of all three Reports are attached and form part of these Minutes.

7. REPORT FROM SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Meeting received a Report from PCSO Wilson which included statistics covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Also contained in the Report was a general overview of Police activity in and around the Village. A copy of this Report is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Meeting received the following Reports from the County and District Councillors:-

(a) County Councillor P T Moor

Councillor Moor reported on the County Council's 2008/2009 Budget, which had resulted in an increase of 4.64%. He said that the County Council would be striving to reduce the increases even further in the next few years, and he said that it was hoped that the current restructuring taking place, coupled with the sale of certain property, would facilitate decreases in the Council's overall Budget.

He gave a progress Report on the proposed access improvements on the A 259 in the vicinity of the Sainsbury's Superstore. He said that it was anticipated that the works would be commencing in July 2008 at a total cost of some £575,000.00, of which the majority of funding had been contributed by Store Property Investments Limited, the Freeholder of the Retail Park, Sainsbury's and the County Council.

He then referred to the former Abbotswood site in Station Road, and said that Contractors were currently tidying up the site and demolishing some of the buildings. He confirmed that the main house would not be being demolished at the present time, pending the outcome of an Appeal that had been lodged by Saxon Weald Homes Limited against the local Planning Authority's decision to refuse permission for the proposed development of 62 flats/apartments on the Site. He said that he hoped that this would be resolved by the middle of the year.

He also reported that the pedestrian crossing recently installed along the A 259 in the vicinity of the public footpath which led from Downsway across the road towards the Angmering School, was working very well and had certainly improved the safety of the students. He said that West Sussex Safer Routes to School Scheme, in this vicinity, would be being progressed very soon as all documentation had now been signed by landowner. He confirmed that the Working Party dealing with the aforementioned issues, was also investigating ways of improving the associated traffic congestion problems on the A 259.

Councillor Moor said that the recent controversial issue regarding the future of the Joint Area Committees in the Arun District had now been resolved, with the County Council agreeing that the status quo should remain, with the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, the Joint Western Arun Area Committee and the Joint Downland Area Committee continuing to operate as before.

He concluded his Report by advising that the Electoral Commission was currently in the process of undertaking a Review of the County, following a request by the County Council to seek a review with a view to securing single member

divisions. He said that it was anticipated that the results of the review would be implemented in time for the May 2009 County elections.

(b) County Councillor P Evans

Councillor Evans said that he wanted to address the Meeting in his capacity as Chairman of the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee. He said that members of the public were welcome to attend any Meetings of the Committee, and he urged anyone interested in any local issues to attend. He said that all Meetings were advertised locally, and were often held at The Woodlands Centre. He said one of the main purposes of the Committee was to engage with the Public to progress projects wherever possible.

(c) County Councillor Dr J M Walsh

Councillor Walsh reported on the current proposals for the Littlehampton Community School to become an Academy. He said that the only way that there would be a new School for the future, was by pursuing the Academy route.

(d) District Councillor Mrs P M Bower

Councillor Mrs Bower referred to the Appeal in respect of the proposal for the development of the former Abbotswood site. She said that representations were required by the Inspector by the end of April 2008, and she hoped as many members of the local community as possible would submit an objection to the Inspector. She said that the main bones of contention was that that the proposed building would be three storeys high, together with the problems of traffic congestion that would be caused by such a large development at this point on the public highway.

(e) District Councillor R J Bower

Councillor Bower reported on a matter that would, in his opinion, affect the whole of the Arun District, namely the proposal for an E C O T o w n to be built at Ford. He said the proposal that had been put forward was for 5,000 properties, and an Emergency Meeting of the District Council's Cabinet would be being held on 14 April 2008 to consider what the Council's strategy should be to oppose the proposal. He advised that the local community's input was imperative and he urged everyone present to register their views in this regard at the appropriate time. He said that the Arun District did not have the infrastructure to

support such a vast development.

(f) District Councillor M J Clayden

Councillor Clayden reported that he found his first year as a District Councillor for Rustington extremely interesting. He said that he was pleased that the District Council had only increased its Precept by 3% for 2008/2009. He then thanked the Parish Council for all of its work and efforts to ensure that the Village continued to be a vibrant and pleasant place in which to live.

9 . PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions raised by Members of the Public present included the following subjects:-

- (a) Concerns in respect of the 23.3% increase in the Parish Precept for 2008/2009
- (b) Question as to the need for the new Museum, and the need for or refurbishment of, certain public toilet facilities
- (c) Major problem of inconsiderate parking causing terrible congestion - Angmering Way, Rustington - Council's support sought to assist in addressing the problems and hazards being faced by residents
- (d) Concern in respect of the reduction in staffing levels at the Zachary Merton Community Hospital
- (e) Planning Appeal - Former Abbotswood Site - Request for date of Appeal and address details for written representations
- (f) Request for Litter Bin on Cycle Track/Footpath leading from Mill Lane to the Rustington Retail Park
- (g) The production of a Village Design Statement for the Village.

Chairman:

Date: