

RUSTINGTON PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 2 April 2009

PRESENT: Rustington Parish Councillors M Warrington (In the Chair), J Collins, T Field, R Grevett, Mrs F Harrison, M Jones, Mrs S Lines, D Rogers, R Steward, G Tyler and P Warren, County Councillor P T Moor, District Councillors Mrs P M Bower and T C Chapman, Mrs C Ward, Mrs E Lamb, Mrs C Harris and D Moyle (Rustington Parish Council), PCSO C Wilson, PCSO E Hartley, PCSO H Pearson (Sussex Police), P Lines, Mrs W Warrington, I Armstrong and Mrs J Armstrong, J Gregory (Vice-Chairman of Governors, Summerlea Community Primary School), R James and Mrs M James, T Barker, C Snell, R Mann (Rustington Cricket Club), K Clarke and Ms M Fin (Littlehampton Rotary Club), D Leach and Mrs E Leach, K Grimes, Mrs K Tidbury and P Ingram (Rustington in Bloom), B Richards and Mrs M Richards (Arun Decorative and Fine Art Society), A Taylor, D Vaughan and Mrs A Wakeling (Rustington Residents Association) and A Perkins (Owen Electrical Limited)

APOLOGIES: Rustington Parish Councillors A Akbar, Mrs C Broomfield, J Ceiriog-Hughes, S Perry, District Councillors R J Bower, M J Clayden and D F Wilde, D Brixey (Headteacher - Angmering School), R Morris (Arun West Team Leader) and Ms C Harris (Arun East Team Leader) (West Sussex County Council Youth Service), Mrs P Myerscough (Little Explorers Pre-School) and Mrs M Vosper (Rustington Afternoon Townswomen's Guild)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 2 April 2008 were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. 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.

3. AUDITED STATEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

The Meeting received the Audited Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008.

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

4. FINANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2009 AND 31 MARCH 2010

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 2009 and 31 March 2010. A copy of this Report is attached and forms part of these Minutes.

5. 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 Mrs Rosemary Cornish, Chair of Governors, on behalf of Georgian Gardens Community Primary School and Mr John Ceiriog-Hughes, Chairman of Governors, on behalf of Rustington 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 Ceiriog-Hughes.

The Meeting then received a Report from Mr John Gregory, Vice-Chairman of Governors, on behalf of Summerlea Community Primary School.

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

6. REPORT FROM SUSSEX POLICE AUTHORITY

The Meeting received a Report from PCSO Hartley which included statistics covering the year from 31 March 2008 to 2 April 2009. 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.

7. 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 2009/2010 Budget, which had resulted in an increase of 3.25%. He advised the Meeting that this represented the smallest percentage increase for the past 15 years. He said that the Council's total expenditure was broken down as follows:-

- 60% - Children and Young People's Services (formerly Education)
- 20% - Adult Services (formerly Social and Caring Services)
- 20% - All Other Services

He confirmed that for the seventh year running the Government Grant to the County Council was the lowest in the Country. He also reported that the Chief Executive and 25 Senior Officers had agreed to a freeze on pay, and all Councillors had also agreed to a freeze on allowances in the current financial year.

He then reported that the County Council was aiming to settle all accounts within 20 hours to ensure a good system of cash flow in the current economic climate.

He referred to the ongoing problems of pot holes on public highways, and said that £1M had been allocated by County Council in the current financial year, with further provision of £1M being made in the next financial year. He advised the Meeting that there were currently somewhere in the region of 9,000 pot holes in Sussex to be repaired.

He then gave a progress Report on the access improvements on the A259 in the vicinity of the Sainsbury's Superstore. He advised that the works had been completed in November 2008 at a cost of £570,000.00, and were proving to be most effective. He said that the Working Group which had helped to progress the improvements, had subsequently been appointed by the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee as its Highways Sub-Committee, with responsibility for considering ways of improving the A259 between Littlehampton and Ferring. He advised that the Group was made up of representatives from the County Council and the five Parish Councils in the eastern area.

He also made reference to the West Sussex Safer Routes to School Scheme and said that the Angmering School pupils were being encouraged to use not only the footbridge and pedestrian crossing on the A259 to the east of Station Road, but for those travelling to School from the western direction, the new pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Retail Park.

He then referred to the former Abbotswood site in Station Road, and said that negotiations were currently underway with the chosen Developer, namely Saxon Weald, who was proposing to build 62 flats/apartments for the elderly and 6 flats/apartments for disabled people, and mainly those with learning difficulties. He said that he was hoping that the County Council would be able to negotiate with the Developer for a pedestrian crossing to be introduced in Station Road, close to its junction with Mill Lane and Ash Lane.

The Chairman advised the Meeting that Councillor Moor would be retiring from his post as a County Councillor in June 2009. He then thanked Councillor Moor for his unceasing dedication to, and efforts on behalf of, the Parish Council and the Parishioners, over the years in all County Council issues relating to Rustington. This sentiment of appreciation was echoed by those present at the Meeting.

(b) District Councillor T C Chapman

Councillor Chapman reported that during the year he had dealt with a number of personal issues affecting his constituents in the West Preston Ward, and he was happy to report that none of the aforementioned cases had arisen as a result of any action or lack of action by the Parish Council. He said that the only comments that he had received had been most favourable, and in support of both improvements and additions to the facilities provided by the Parish Council during the year.

He also congratulated the Parish Council on its success in providing the Museum, Café and Community Garden in the centre of the Village, which he believed were already proving to be valuable facilities for the local community and visitors alike.

He then thanked County Councillor Moor for his diligence and perpetual efforts in ensuring that the road improvements in the vicinity of the Retail Park on the A259 New Road came to fruition.

He concluded his Report by referring to a major challenge for the future, namely the further raising of the school leaving age which, he was sure, would lead to added disaffection amongst the local youth. He said he was of the opinion that the retention of young people in educational establishments for an even longer period would only lead to a lack of self esteem, and also reluctance to engage with the society around them.

(c) District Councillor Mrs P M Bower

Councillor Mrs Bower referred to the recent Local Development Framework Public Consultation which had now ended. She said that the District Council's Sub-Committee would be considering the responses received in June 2009, and would be recommending the District Council's preferred option to the Full Council in October 2009.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

- (a) Replacement Block Paving - Broadmark Parade
- (b) Newly installed Litter Bin - Cycle Track/Footpath leading from Mill Lane to the Retail Park
- Frequency of emptying

- (c) Tesco Express, Sterling Parade - Development of good relationship with Methodist Church in respect of litter clearance
- (d) A259 New Road - Improvements
- (e) Rustington Museum Project - Complimentary comments
- (f) New Floral Planter for Conbar Avenue Residents Association - Timetable for planting
- (g) Parking Issues - Angmering Way - Would residents be consulted on proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

9. VOTE OF THANKS

A Vote of Thanks was proposed by Mrs Mascha Richards, to the Parish Council for all of its hard work and efforts for the benefit of the Community of Rustington during the past year. She also referred particularly to The Woodlands Centre, and congratulated the Council on providing such an excellent community facility.

Chairman:

Date: