

## **RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES:** of the Monthly Meeting held on 25 June 2007

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Warrington (Chairman), Mrs C Broomfield, J Ceiriog-Hughes, J Collins, T Field, R Grevett, P Harris, Mrs F Harrison, A Lauretani, Mrs S Lines, D Murphy, S Perry, D Rogers and G Tyler

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### **161/07      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akbar (Personal Commitment) and Steward (Personal Commitment). These apologies were accepted by the Council.

### **162/07      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest recorded by Members.

### **163/07      MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14 May 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **164/07      SUSSEX POLICE**

#### **(a)      Report from Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Craig Wilson**

The Clerk said that she had previously circulated an email message received from Sergeant Jim Stobart, advising that the Neighbourhood Team were currently carrying a vacancy, due to a slow down in recruitment and people leaving, etc. As a result of this, Neil Billingham had now been moved to carry out the function of PCSO for the Yapton, Climping and Ford areas. Sergeant Stobart was hopeful that a second PCSO would be allocated to Rustington once a PCSO was available through the recruiting system.

The Chairman then welcomed PCSO Wilson and thanked him for his continuing support and for attending the Meeting.

PCSO Wilson reported on the crime statistics for the rolling 90 days as follows:-

Crimes in Rustington East - 126, representing a decrease of 55  
Detected Crimes - 22  
Detection Rate - 17.5%

Crimes in Rustington West - 82, representing a decrease of 27  
Detected Crimes - 14  
Detection Rate - 17.1%

He then provided a monthly summary for the period from 25 May 2007 to 24 June 2007 as follows:-

300 calls received via Police call handling for Rustington East and West area, which represented an increase of 100 from the last Report. These included:-

27 relating to Criminal Damage  
8 relating to Vehicle Crime  
10 relating to Burglary  
11 relating to Theft  
11 relating to a Violent Crime with 1 relating to a Sexual Crime.

He said that a large increase in the number of incidents of Criminal Damage and Vehicle Crime had occurred towards the end of May. This was, in the main, due to a series of tyre slashing incidents in the Ash Lane/Broadmark Lane areas. The area was now designated as a Direct Patrol area, meaning that all Arun Police Teams were now committed to patrolling these areas throughout the night.

He also reported that a special Operation had been set up, called Op Respect, with a view to addressing Youth Anti-Social Behaviour in East Preston, Rustington and Angmering. Under cover teams were used in this Operation to target key areas and headway was now being made in tackling the problems.

He confirmed that PCSO Billingham had now moved to Yapton, leaving a vacancy in Rustington. He said that he would keep the Council informed in this regard.

Finally, PCSO Wilson commented that the Rustington Carnival had been a success, with a great amount of interaction with young people being undertaken by the Police Officers present who were most interested in the CCTV Van.

PCSO Wilson then responded to several points and questions raised by Members regarding the continuing anti-social behaviour incidents involving youths in the Parish, recent criminal damage incidents and the parking problems in the Service Road in The Street.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Wilson for his most interesting report.

Reference was made to the possibility of Mr Phil Jeffrey, Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker for the Arun Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, being invited to the next Meeting to give Members an overview of anti-social behaviour in the Parish.

The Council RESOLVED that Mr Jeffrey be invited to the next Meeting of the Council to give an overview of crime within the Parish.

**(b) Community Safety Representative's Report**

Councillor Mrs Lines referred to Minute 103/07(b) and said that she had nothing further to report at the present time.

**(c) Make the Commitment Campaign**

The Clerk referred to Minute 293/06(b) and reminded Members of the Council's previous decision to register with the "Make the Commitment" Campaign. She said that Ms Gill Starkie, the Road Safety Officer at West Sussex County Council had suggested that it might be beneficial for her to make a brief Presentation to the Council detailing the Scheme, prior to any further progress being made in this regard.

She said that, accordingly, she had provisionally arranged for Ms Starkie to make such a Presentation at the Meeting of the Council to be held on 24 September 2007.

The Council then RESOLVED unanimously that the provisional arrangement for Ms Starkie to make a Presentation on the "Make the Commitment" Campaign at the 24 September 2007 Meeting be CONFIRMED.

**(d) Arun Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership - Mobile Speed Indication Device Project**

The Council was pleased to NOTE correspondence received from the Arun Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in this regard.

**165/07**      **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk reported the receipt of apologies from Councillors Mrs Bower and Clayden.

Councillor Chapman referred to the District Council's 2006 Best Value Performance Indicators General Household User Satisfaction Survey Results. He drew Members' attention to the important factors that had been revealed as key priorities for the residents of Arun as follows:-

- (a) Crime Levels
- (b) Health Services
- (c) Traffic Congestion
- (d) Affordable Housing

He said that the Performance Scrutiny Committee, of which he was a Member, would be looking into the results of the Survey in more detail during the next few months, and he would report back to the Council on any further progress in this regard.

The Council NOTED this information, and the Chairman thanked Councillor Chapman for his most informative Report.

**166/07**      **COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Moor thanked the Council for allowing him the opportunity of commenting on matters relating to the County Council.

He referred particularly to the following:-

- (a) Proposed Traffic Signal Controlled Crossing - New location A259 New Road between Texaco Roundabout and Roundstone Lane Roundabout (where Public Footpath meets road) - Works to be completed during School Summer Holidays
- (b) West Sussex Safer Routes to School Scheme - The Angmering School - Further proposed improvements to footways and cycleways - Still ongoing - Hopeful that any problems would be resolved in the near future
- (c) Proposed widening of access and introduction of Pedestrian Crossing - A259 in vicinity of Sainsbury's Superstore - Meetings ongoing with Sainsbury's Senior Management - If these prove not to be productive, then County Council still determined to go ahead with its original Scheme
- (d) Abbotswood - Now responsibility of Property Department - Saxon Weald Housing Association now preparing a Proposal for the County Council for a mixed development of extra care, affordable and private housing
- (e) NHS - Fit for the Future Proposals for West Sussex - Mass demonstration outside No. 10 Downing Street on 27 June 2007
- (f) Vehicles for Sale on Grass Verges and the Public Highway - Current legal situation very fluid - No specific law against this unless there are more than one with same contact details - Trading Standards responsible for progressing any cases for possible prosecution.

The Council NOTED this information, and the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed his appreciation to Councillor Moor for his informative Report.

**167/07**      **REPORT OF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

**(a)**    **Grant Aid - 1<sup>st</sup> Rustington Scout Group**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks and appreciation from the 1<sup>st</sup> Rustington Scout Group for the recent Grant Aid of £100.00 awarded by the Council towards Group funds.

The Council NOTED this information.

**168/07**      **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on his official representation and attendance at Meetings and Social Functions since the Annual Meeting as follows:-

- Littlehampton Concert Band Birthday Concert - 19 May 2007
- Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund - Princess Marina House Appeal Fun Run - 20 May 2007
- 1<sup>st</sup> Rustington Scout Group - Annual General Meeting - 23 May 2007
- Arundel & Littlehampton District Scout Council - Annual General Meeting - 14 June 2007
- East Preston Carnival Procession - Judging - 16 June 2007
- Rustington Carnival Procession - Judging - 23 June 2007
- Combined Ex-Services Association Veterans' Day Drumhead Service - 24 June 2007.

The Chairman then advised that he had recently declined an invitation from George Wimpey Homes Limited, the developer of The Limes in Mill Lane, to receive a number of 'Rustington' roses for planting around the Village. He said that in view of the fact that the Council had been strongly opposed to the development, he did not feel that it would be appropriate for the Council to be seen, in any press publicity, to be accepting such a gift.

The Council NOTED this information.

**169/07**      **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Council NOTED the Report of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2007.  
(Copy previously circulated).

**170/07**      **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Council received the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2007. (Verbal Report from the Chairman of the Committee).

The Council RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2007 be APPROVED.

**171/07**      **LIGHTING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

The Council received the Report of the Lighting and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 7 June 2007.

The Council RESOLVED that the Recommendations contained in the Report of the Lighting and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 7 June 2007 be APPROVED.

**172/07**      **TRAFFIC ISSUES WORKING PARTY**

The Council NOTED the Report of the Traffic Issues Working Party Meeting held on 5 June 2007.

**173/07      ARUN EASTERN PARISHES GROUP**

The Council NOTED the 31 May 2007 Meeting Report.

**174/07      APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The Clerk advised that there were vacancies on the following Committees.

The Council RESOLVED the following:-

**(a)      Allotments Committee**

Hold in Abeyance

**(b)      Planning Committee**

Hold in Abeyance

**(c)      Internal Audit Committee**

Councillors M Warrington, Mrs S Lines, G Tyler and Mrs Broomfield be appointed.

**175/07      SUMMERLEA COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL - ANNUAL REPORT**

The Council NOTED the Annual Report received from Mr A Lauretani, Chairman of Governors, and AGREED that this should be attached as an Addendum Report to the Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2007.

**176/07      RUSTINGTON YOUTH CENTRE**

**(a)      Progress Report**

The Clerk reported that the Centre was continuing to operate successfully, with the number of weekend hirings increasing for private parties and other similar functions. She said that the general redecoration of the Centre was continuing as previously reported.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

**(b)      Management Committee - Annual General Meeting**

The Council NOTED the Report of Management Committee Annual General Meeting held on 12 June 2007.

Reference was made to Minute 12/07 relating to the resignation of Mr P Rollason as Treasurer of the Management Committee, and it was AGREED that a letter of thanks and appreciation should also be sent from the Council to Mr Rollason.

**177/07      PARISHIONERS' AWARD**

The Council considered the Report of the Working Party held on 18 June 2007.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED unanimously that:-

- (a) No Award be made in respect of a Group/Organisation in 2007

- (b) The 2007 Parishioners' Award in respect of an Individual, be awarded to Mrs Lynette Nicholson in recognition of her unceasing and outstanding public service to the Community of Rustington
- (c) The recipient of the Award be announced immediately, and that a Presentation be made at the Reception following the Annual Civic Thanksgiving Service on 16 September 2007
- (d) In future years, Individuals, Groups and Organisations that were not Parish based, but whose contribution for the benefit of the community of Rustington was considered to be so outstanding as to be worthy of such an award, would be eligible to receive either of the Awards.

The Clerk reminded Members that as previously agreed, the recipient of the Award would receive £50.00 in cash together with a commemorative dish or trophy, suitably engraved, or a personalised scroll, to keep as a memento.

#### **178/07      RUSTINGTON MUSEUM PROJECT**

##### **(a) Progress Report**

Councillor Tyler referred to Minute 149/07 and said that the Contract would be going out to Tender within the next two weeks.

He then reported that following the submission of a grant application to the SITA Trust's Community Challenge Fund, which included a comprehensive Business Plan prepared by the Council's external Funding Consultant, notification had now been received advising that the deadline for the receipt of applications had been revised and was now 28 September 2007, with a final decision being made in this regard by the Trust Board on 11 December 2007.

He also referred to the proposed Evening Reception for prominent businesses and individuals, and said that this had yet to be arranged, but that it was hoped that it would be able to coincide with an event to be planned in connection with the Community Action Plan by the Economy Focus Group. He said that all Members would be advised as soon as a date had been finalised.

The Council NOTED this information.

##### **(b) Raise The Roof Campaign - Progress Report**

The Clerk reported that in excess of £2,400.00 had been received so far in respect of the Raise the Roof Campaign, with still more pledged donations anticipated.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

#### **179/07      RUSTINGTON-IN-BLOOM**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Judging Date for the South and South East in Bloom Competition was Tuesday 3 July from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. She said that she would be grateful if any Members who were able to assist on the morning of the judging with various last minute clearance tasks around the Village, could let her know as soon as possible, so that she could allocate suitable locations for various individuals.

The Clerk then reported that the In-Bloom Committee had raised £90.00 from its most recent fundraising event, namely the Tombola Stall at the Rustington Carnival.

#### **180/07      BROADMARK LANE PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Clerk referred to Minute 19/07 and the Council NOTED a letter received from the Construction Director, Berkeley Homes Southern Limited.

## **181/07      PARISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

The Clerk reported that the Public Questionnaire had been included with the Annual Newsletter as planned, with many completed questionnaires now being received in the Council's Offices and the Village Information Centre.

Councillor Ceiriog-Hughes said that the Open/Publicity Day in the Youth Centre on the day of the Rustington Carnival, namely 23 June 2007, had been extremely successful, with many members of the public visiting and expressing an interest in the whole concept of the Community Action Plan. He also reported that the Schools' Logo Competition for the Plan had been judged on the same day, with all entries being displayed in the Centre.

He said that the next Meeting of the Steering Group would be held on Monday 16 July 2007 at 4.30 pm, when the next steps in the process would be discussed, including the timescale for the analysis of the completed questionnaires and further consultations with the more hard to reach groups within the local community.

The Council was pleased to NOTE this information.

## **182/07      FIRST AID COURSES**

The Clerk referred to Minute 23/06 (Emergency Planning Committee Meeting - 7 August 2006) and reminded the Council that this matter had been deferred until after the Council Elections in May 2007, when all Members could be given the opportunity to attend a qualifying First Aid Course.

The Clerk said that she had now established that an In-House Qualifying First Aid Course could be arranged with APK First Aid Training at a cost of £1,140.00 plus VAT, for up to 12 delegates. She said that the cost of the scheduled Courses for individual Members was £255.00, and these were held at the Arundel Park Hotel.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council RESOLVED unanimously that this matter should be DEFERRED pending the receipt of further information in respect of all the options that were available to Members, including more basic training, together with the appropriate costings. The Clerk said that she would prepare a Report for consideration at the next Meeting.

## **183/07      CLOSED CEMETERY - WORTHING ROAD**

The Clerk referred to Minute 20/07 and reported that this matter had previously been deferred until after the May Elections to enable the newly elected Council to consider whether any further action should be taken in this regard.

She reminded Members that whilst Hargreaves Homes had previously indicated that they would have no objection to the Council taking over responsibility for the land in question, this would probably include the additional overgrown strip of land running in a southerly direction towards Worthing Road. She said that she had visited the site of the closed Cemetery and it had been cleared completely of all debris and now had the appearance of a grassed area of land which, she presumed, was being maintained by Hargreaves Homes.

Following a discussion, the Council RESOLVED unanimously that no further action should be taken in this regard at the present time, but that the situation continued to be monitored on a regular basis.

**184/07      FAIRTRADE RUSTINGTON**

The Clerk referred to Minute 350/06 and the Council NOTED a letter received from Mrs L Hitchcock advising that due to extenuating circumstances, she was no longer able to progress the Rustington Campaign to become a Fairtrade Village.

The Council was concerned to NOTE this information.

**185/07      ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL - MID-TERM REVIEW OF ARUN'S PRIORITIES**

The Clerk NOTED a letter received from the Head of Strategy, Partnership, Economic & Cultural Development in this regard.

**186/07      DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - 'PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE' - CONSULTATION**

The Clerk reminded Members that she had previously circulated an email message received from the Director, Local Governance and Local Councils, together with the 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' Consultation Document and a PowerPoint Summary Presentation in this regard.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the closing date for comments in respect of this Consultation was 17 August 2007, and she asked if any comments Members might have could be forwarded to her by 13 July 2007, to enable her to formulate a response, if required, for approval at the next Meeting.

The Council NOTED this information.

**187/07      LITTLEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**

The Clerk, in the absence of Councillor Akbar, reported that he had attended a Meeting of the Management Committee on 13 June 2007. Councillor Akbar had commented that the outreach facility provided by the Parish Council at the Village Information Centre was continuing to be of great benefit to those clients who lived either in Rustington or in close proximity to the Village. Councillor Akbar had also advised that the Management Committee was now further strengthened by the addition of two new Members.

The Council NOTED this information.

**188/07      SCHOOLS' CYCLING PROFICIENCY TESTS**

Councillor Ceiriog-Hughes advised the Council that he would be attending the Rustington Community Primary School, in his capacity as a School Governor, on 26 June 2007, to participate in a Press Call with South Today regarding the future of Cycling Proficiency Tests in Primary Schools across the County.

The Council NOTED this information.

**189/07      DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

The Council NOTED the following documents and publications received for Members' information:-

- (a) Arun Business Partnership - Issue 3 - May 2007
- (b) CPRE - "Fieldwork" - June 2007
- (c) CPRE - "Sussex Review" - Summer 2007
- (d) ICIS - "Wellspring - West Sussex" - Issue No. 1 - 2007
- (e) Rustington Residents' Association - "Topics" - May/June 2007

- (f) Southern Railway - Stakeholder Brief - Issue 38 - April 2007 - West Coastway Proposed Timetable Alterations Documentation
- (f) St Bridget's News - Spring/Summer 2007
- (h) Sussex Police - "Patrol" - June 2007

**There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 8.06 pm.**

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....

**During the Public Question Time held prior to the Meeting, the following matter was raised:-**

- (a) **Future of Health Services in West Sussex - "Fit for the Future" - Public Consultation - Request for Parish Council to formally oppose Primary Care Trust proposals.**