

PARISH OF RUDGWICK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 14TH MARCH 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Rudgwick was held at 7.00 pm on Monday 14th March 2022 in Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green, Rudgwick RH12 3JJ.

16 Residents, including ten Parish Councillors were present.

Also present were Councillor James Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs, Helen Peacock, Environmental Coordination Manager, PCSO Damian Cecil, Anna Clayton, Parish Clerk and Sarah Hall, Assistant Clerk.

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, David Buckley presided and welcomed all present. He continued to provide a brief overview of the Agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the County Councillor, Adam Chalmers, the Director of Community Services and one resident.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on [15th March 2021](#) were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

- Neighbourhood Plan – Successful referendum, well done to Rudgwick. Pathfield Close proposal therefore followed the parish design statement regarding brick wall and roof.
- Fatal road accidents –
 1. Downslink Crossing: The Chairman attended the inquest (on line). The Coroner recognised the remedial work done on the Downslink but still referred to the 'dangerous' crossing. The Coroner issued a PFD notice to WSCC requiring a response within the statutory period.
The response from the CEO indicated they would do a survey by November and attend to the red surface.
 2. Bridge the Downslink: County Cllr Mitchell has been supportive, WSCC think the cost would be more in the £1.4m to £2m bracket i.e. they'd need to see if Sustrans put in £1m then could WSCC match that sum. All this is with the two relevant cabinet members.
 3. Operation Flagstone: the fatal incident on Loxwood Road, Rudgwick. The investigation remains active and ongoing.
 4. Road accidents, one on A281, Alfold crossroad, Surrey and one at Hornshill: Sadly, two fatalities recorded.
- Loxwood Claypits – Ongoing concerns relating to the width of the Loxwood Road and lorries using this stretch of road.
- Defibrillators – RPC carry out monthly checks, All community defibrillators need governance to be compliant with Medicines and Medical Devices Act. RPC are hoping to add more defibrillators.
- Rudgwick Youth Centre – Run by volunteers since Loyd's departure. The Chairman thanked all involved.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman then continued by thanking those working and supporting the council for their commitment:

- Anna Clayton, Clerk
- Sarah Hall, Assistant Clerk
- Jane Strong, Facilities Officer
- Simon Quail, Village Warden
- Andy Mallpress, Open Spaces Warden
- Ted Brown, Tree Warden
- Charlie and Anne Sanders, Rudgwick Hall key keepers
- Chris Darby, keeping King George V field and Rudgwick Hall safe and secure

The Chairman continued by introducing and thanking members of the council, Horsham District Cllr Richard Landeryou and West Sussex County Cllr Christian Mitchell and thanked the Cllrs that have resigned during the year.

Serving Parish Councillors

Steve Alker
Bob Burse
Allan Gormley
Alex Haynes
Paul Kornycky
Sue Kornycky
Ian MacLachlan
Paul Thompson Vice Chairman
Susan Wightman

Resigned during the year

Mark Ellis
Richard Landeryou
William Manson
Vicky Nice

The Chairman then provided some visual background information to support the events that had taken place in Rudgwick during the last year and that are planned:

Events

- Covid – Big Thank You to everyone at Rudgwick medical centre and all businesses for their efforts.
- Rudgwick Brickworks Completed, thanks to all the local residents during this time.
- Graveyard Extension – Generous donation from the landowner, thanks to the residents of Highcroft Drive for access and to Paul King-Fisher for his technical support. Further works to be completed on the path once the weather improves.
- Platinum Jubilee – RPC were hoping to plant trees but due to services located in the areas of the planting, it will be a Wildflower meadow at QE2 Rd. A new bench will be sited at the Co-op ahead of the Jubilee weekend. RPC are also working with the Preservation Society to plant trees and a bench at KGV playing fields.

Parish Council Committees and Working Groups

- Planning – Issues surrounding 5 year land supply, Water neutrality, Enforcement court actions. Thanks to Sue Kornicky and the Planning Committee.
- Drainage – RPC now have a Drainage Working Group (DWG) committed to investigating issues with drainage (foul and surface water) in the parish of Rudgwick with a view to achieving a substantial improvement compared to historical events. There is now information relating to the DWG on the RPC web page. The DWG was formally established by noting a proposal at the RPC in February 2021.
- Halls and Recreation – Intending to build a new skatepark, wooden skatepark will be replaced by a concrete skatepark, currently delayed by planning consent. Rudgwick Hall modifications are also being planned, with a view to investigate improved insulation.
- Traffic Calming Working Group (TCWG) updates and reports can be located on the RPC website. Additional SIDs have been bought. A local resident has participated in a prototype scheme to record the speed of passing traffic. As previous figures show there are still reasons to be concerned about speeding traffic.

Community Speedwatch Group Coordinator Keith Allen spoke to confirm that Speedwatch is a national scheme and Rudgwick is part of the scheme. Desperately need additional volunteers and any help would be gratefully received, if an hour or more can be spared it would be beneficial. 8/9 sessions take place per month for an hour over 11 sites. The Chairman thanked Matt Gilmour and everyone involved.

- Traffic calming – The Chairman introduced speaker PCSO Damian Cecil, who looks after Rudgwick along with Southwater, Nuthurst, Slinfold & Warnham. He confirmed he tries to visit Rudgwick on every set of shifts (5 or 6 days) so hope people will see him. He also tries to visit when the CSW members are working and he has been in email contact on a regular basis. On the subject of speeding he updated that there is a new scheme called the Speed Management Plan (SMP) which has been created by the Sergeant at Sussex Safer road Partnership (SSRP) to try and help to identify any issues and then work towards a plan to deal with those issues.
This is intended to provide a single point of contact for all Councils, and he will be emailing the details to RPC soon.
- [Go Greener Rudgwick](#) - The Chairman introduced speakers from Go Greener Rudgwick and thanked them for their informative presentation.

The Chairman reviewed the Precept, providing the following figures:

Precept: Council Tax (D Band)				
Council Tax	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Horsham District Council	£149.53	£152.52	£157.52	£162.09
Rudgwick Parish Council	£69.51	£71.23	£71.23	£72.49
West Sussex County Council	£1,383.57	£1,438.74	£1,510.56	£1,555.74

Sussex Police	£189.91	£199.91	£214.91	£224.91
Total	£1,792.62	£1,862.40	£1,954.22	£2,015.23

Precept 22/23 Neighbouring Council Tax (D Band)					
	District	County	Police	Village	Total
Slinfold	£162.09 (1)	£1,555.74 (a)	£224.91 (a)	£66.65	£2,009.39
Loxwood	£175.81 (2)	£1,555.74 (a)	£224.91 (a)	£55.89 *	£2,012.35
Rudgwick	£162.09 (1)	£1,555.74 (a)	£224.91 (a)	£72.49	£2,015.23
Billingshurst	£162.09 (1)	£1,555.74 (a)	£224.91 (a)	£101.77	£2,044.51
Ockley	£193.51 (3)	£1,626.39 (b)	£295.57 (b)	£43.65	£2,159.02
Ewhurst	£195.79 (4)	£1,626.39 (b)	£295.57 (b)	£84.49	£2,202.24

(1= Horsham; 2= Chichester; 3= Mole Valley; 4= Waverley; a= West Sussex; b= Surrey)

The Chairman mentioned that the figures show that WSCC, HDC and Police are offering good value for money with the Rudgwick Parish Council adding to this, considering the size of the parish and the facilities the council is responsible for.

6. Questions on Parish matters from electors

Question 1: Why is the Annual Meeting held in March?

The Chairman confirmed that Standing Orders state when we can hold meetings. It is held in March to coincide with Council Tax Demands.

Question 2: Are the full lorries travelling south on Lynwick St coming from the brickworks?

Reply from Tim Harrison:

We have no lorries exporting any material from the Brickworks. We have not restarted any internal restoration as we are waiting for better spring weather. However I have notice that Cook and sons white and red lorries have been hauling clay from somewhere in the locality and using Lynwick street as part of the route, I would suggest that has been the cause of the query.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should need any further assurance.

Question 3: When is Lynwick St being resurfaced now the Brickworks is complete, is there an update on when this will be happening?

The Chairman advised he did not have an update but will ask WS County Cllr Mitchell where it is in the programme for resurfacing.

6. Guest Speakers

The Chairman introduced both Councillor James Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs and Helen Peacock, Environmental Coordination Manager HDC and thanked them for coming to the annual parish meeting and answering parishioner questions.

Helen Peacock, Environmental Coordination Manager HDC, gave an informative presentation on [Environmental Issues and climate change and what Horsham District Council is doing](#)

7. Vote of Thanks

The Chairman thanked the following people for their commitment and support to the community and Rudgwick Parish Council

District Cllr Richard Landeryou

County Cllr Christian Mitchell

Parish Clerk Anna Clayton and Assistant Clerk Sarah Hall

All councillors and supporters

And continued with thanking the speakers for their interesting presentation and presented them with some locally produced cheese and beer.

The Chairman closed the meeting and invited the public, councillors and guest speakers to join him in taking refreshments.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

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Chairman
D Buckley

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Date