

PARISH OF RUDGWICK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 15TH MARCH 2021

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Rudgwick was held at 7.00 pm virtually on Monday 15th March 2021.

Present: 18 Residents, Councillors D Buckley (Chairman), M Ellis (Vice Chairman), A Haynes, S Kornicky, R Landeryou (Councillor/ Horsham District (HD) Councillor), I Maclachlan, W Manson, P Thompson, S Wightman.

Absent: Cllr Gormley,

Also present were 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 West Sussex (WS) County Councillor Christian Mitchell, the Vicar, Martin King and one resident.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on [9th March 2020](#) were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. [Chairman's Report](#)

The Chairman mentioned the appointment of the new the Clerk and Facilities Officer. Jonna Foote the previous Clerk, who has retired from the council, was thanked for her contributions and excellent service to the Parish Council.

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

- Anna Clayton, Clerk
- Jonna Foote, Clerk (retired)
- 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.

- Drainage Working Party: Cllr Paul Thompson has agreed to co-ordinate and chair the new Drainage Working Group.
- RYC – Youth Worker, Loyd Harp will sadly be leaving and returning to the USA after joining RYC in 2008. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all his hard work and the difference he has made to the youths in the village.

- COVID-19 – Rudgwick Volunteer Award presentation was a successful event with special thanks to the High Sheriff of West Sussex and the volunteers who accepted their awards on behalf of the village.
- Medical Centre - COVID vaccination update: Seven groups vaccinated and soon to be called all those aged 55yrs and over and all those aged 50yrs and over. The Chairman thanked all those staff at the Medical Centre for their exceptional work.
- Events – Two fatal accidents on the local roads, WSCT reported more than 3,500 people have signed a petition urging WSCC to improve road safety on the A281 in Rudgwick. There are no further updates on the police investigations at this time.
- Defibrillators – New legislation, The New Medicines and Medical Devices Act. We log and govern all our defibrillators through the 'Community Heartbeat Trust' charity system called Webnos – www.communityheartbeat.org.uk Our Facilities Officer carries out monthly checks on all our parish equipment located at the following sites: Church Gate House, Rudgwick Pharmacy, Rudgwick Hall, Tismans Telephone Box and the Blue Ship.
- Planning and Enforcement – Two national Consultations, one involving the algorithm to calculate local housing numbers, which was rejected and we are awaiting the results of the second consultation.
Sussex Topiary - Another appeal submitted.
Pathfield Close was revised to follow the Parish design statement regarding brick walls and roof.
Loxwood Clay Pits – No planning application as yet, concerns from the village.
Parish Cllr Ian MacLachlan is our representative.
- Neighbourhood Plan – Report received from the independent examiner who has concluded the plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum. Aiming for 6th May 2021 alongside local elections.
- Traffic Calming – Speed Indicator Devices have been ordered and the locations approved.
Downslink/A281 signage project – The Traffic Calming Group felt the Highways Department have not fully addressed this.
Pennthorpe – Safe crossing scheme has been delayed due to COVID, a survey to monitor footfall is required and due to the pandemic, the data would not reflect normal use.
The Traffic Regulation Order application has been accepted for the double yellow lines in the Co-Op vicinity, the application window does not close until July 2021 but at present we are scoring the highest at 16.
- WSCC Local Transport Improvement Programme – Application for a bridleway bridge at the A281 Downs Link crossing, feasibility study and costing to be carried out so it can be evaluated.
- Traffic Calming are looking at the junction of Church Street and the A281 and the congestion outside the Co-Op. A suggestion from West Sussex would be to have a technical feasibility study undertaken. The Chairman thanked Matt Gilmour and everyone involved.

- Speedwatch Group Report – The Chairman thanked Peter Gooch and Chris Darby, who are both actively involved in Speedwatch and are organising speed checks, where the data will be sent to Sussex Police.
- A281 Speed Results – Results received of traffic speeds in the vicinity of the Downs Link crossing, The Traffic Calming Group are questioning this data and updates will be given when we have more information.
- Traffic Calming - Police Enforcement – The Chairman met with a concerned local resident (who has been participating in a scheme to record the speed of passing traffic) and the local PCSO. Officer Downham has been very supportive and working with his colleagues to improve the situation.
Data recorded: 19th January 2021 speeds recorded over 54mph in Church Street, ranged between 60.18mph, 62.08mph and the highest recorded speed dated 15th March 2021 was 71.4mph.
- Section 106 Funds – Money received from developers will be used for working on various projects, the new heating system at the Village Hall and the provision of a new concrete skate park for the village youngsters, as the current one is close to the end of its life. Specified funds for WSCC Highways are also being set aside for Traffic Calming measures.

The Chairman reviewed the Precept, providing the following figures:

Precept: Council Tax (D Band)			
Council Tax	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Horsham District Council	£149.53	£152.52	£157.52
Rudgwick Parish Council	£69.51	£71.23	£71.23
West Sussex County Council	£1,383.57	£1,438.74	£1,510.56
Sussex Police	£189.91	£199.91	£214.91
Total	£1,792.62	£1,862.40	£1,954.22

Precept 21/22 Neighbouring Council Tax (D Band)					
	District	County	Police	Village	Total
Slinfold	£157.52 (1)	£1,510.56 (a)	£214.91 (a)	£65.05	£1,948.04
Loxwood	£170.81 (2)	£1,510.56 (a)	£214.91 (a)	£55.89	£1,952.17
Rudgwick	£157.52 (1)	£1,510.56 (a)	£214.91 (a)	£71.23	£1,954.22
Billingshurst	£157.52 (1)	£1,510.56 (a)	£214.91 (a)	£95.50	£1,978.49
Ockley	£188.46 (3)	£1,549.08 (b)	£285.57 (b)	£41.67	£2,064.78
Ewhurst	£190.79 (4)	£1,549.08 (b)	£285.57 (b)	£80.47	£2,105.91

(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.

5. Questions on Parish matters from electors

Question 1: Lorries in Church Street

Can speeding lorries in Church Street be controlled?

The Chairman confirmed that Church Street is a designated B road and we cannot apply to ban lorries, the traffic calming measures will reduce the speed of all traffic.

Question 2: Bridge, Church Street

How safe is the structure of the Bridge in Church Street?

The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council has been concerned about the state of the bridge for many years. West Sussex Highways report that they carry out regular checks to ensure its safety.

Question 3: Traffic Calming

Could I ask the Traffic Calming Working Group if they have investigated the possibility of installing a speeding camera on Church Street. It would certainly generate a large income for the Parish?

The Chairman confirmed that a Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be placed on Church Street but unfortunately the Parish do not receive an income from speeding.

Question 4: Traffic Calming

I have some real concerns over recent activity in the conservation area that may lead to a new form of development. I live opposite the Kings Head and over the last few weeks/months there has been the following activity

1. Road Survey and Traffic Survey
2. Land Surveys of the area including the pub, car park and scrubland behind the car park.
3. Tree Surveys
4. Ecological Survey
5. Full land clearance of the scrubland and trees
6. Attempt to raise the telecommunications lines between my home and the pub, including siting a new pole on the pavement outside my house.

The owner of the pub, car park and land is an American Hedge Fund who are looking to develop the area, I feel. They have no regard to the conservation area or the impact on the village historical area.

Is it possible for the Parish Council to somehow be ahead of the game and to put things in place that will stop this development?

The Chairman confirmed we are committed to maintain the special characteristics of the Village Conservation area. Any attempts to build in this area would be strongly resisted.

Question 5: HDC

Horsham District Council (HDC) has recently removed the right of the public, parish councils and local societies to make 2 minute statements at Council meeting debates. There is clear evidence that this significant change to its constitution has been implemented without basic democratic due process i.e. it wasn't part of the resolution specified and voted upon at the Council meeting of 9th December 2020. Following my alerting them, a number of parish councils have already raised concerns with HDC over this. Given that we live in a democratic society, not following and respecting such basic principles of procedure is surely unacceptable and should be challenged.

Does Rudgwick Parish Council agree and if so, what action will it now take?

The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council does agree with the assertion in the question. After this meeting we will communicate with HDC Chairman and Chief Executive to report the concerns expressed in this meeting.

Question 6: Cameras

A resident asked as part of the neighbourhood speed watch, whether on the village signs (Bucks Green and Rudgwick) there could be camera signs added?

The Chairman commented that while he does not know the answer to this question, he envisaged that when the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) are put in place, motorists will be warned that speed is being recorded and anticipates that signs will be put up. The Chairman confirmed he would follow up with Matt Gilmour and the TCG. (Traffic Calming Group)

Question 7: Conservation Area

A resident advised that comments relating to the land at the top of Church Hill and its possible development in a conservation area, is not in the conservation area. Therefore it would need to be fought as a place on the edge of a conservation area, which may put a slightly different perspective on what was mentioned earlier.

The Chairman thanked the resident for bringing this to his attention.

Question 8: Conservation Area

A resident expressed their concerns about the possibility of losing the pub, should the area be developed and for the Asset Register to be checked.

The Clerk to check the Asset Register to see if the Kings Head is registered.

Question 9: Community Application

A Resident asked in relation to the Kings Head information discussed, the community application run outs in May 2021 and is a five year process, will RPC or the RPS be renewing the application?

The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council will investigate further.

6. 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 Jonna Foote and Anna Clayton
All councillors and supporters

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 pm.

.....
Chairman
D Buckley

.....
Date