

**PARISH OF RUDGWICK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2nd MAY 2023**

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Rudgwick was held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 in Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green, Rudgwick RH12 3JJ.

70 Residents, including eight Parish Councillors were present.

Also present were Rev. Martin King, Keith Allen, Fiona Sodha, Matt Gilmour, 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.

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies of absence received.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on [14th March 2022](#) were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

- Fatal Road Accidents – 2 fatal accidents at the Mucky Duck and Hornshill Crossing
- Downslink Crossing – To mark the second anniversary of Pathu's death, members of his family and friends gathered at the site to pay their respects. Bridge the Downslink Campaign is still active

4. [Chairman's Report](#)

- People
- Events

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
Ashley Ryan
Paul Thompson Vice Chairman

Resigned during the year

Susan Wightman
Patrick Mason

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:

Make Rudgwick Dementia Friendly

Claire Feagan, The Care Coordinator and Social Prescriber at Rudgwick Medical Centre spoke about factors that affect health that are not always clinical, she highlighted many areas which she would like to connect further with local residents. Care plans, bereavement and dementia were some of the topics mentioned, with a keen focus on holding events and requesting the support of RPC. Looking to make Rudgwick Dementia Friendly by involving the community and requesting RPC support in raising awareness of events.

Platinum Jubilee

Celebrations within the village included a new Platinum Jubilee commemorative bench with local resident Joyce who was an evacuee, unveiling the new bench.

Tree-bilee planting by Preservation Society at the KGV fields.

Rudgwick artisans at the Jubilee Hall

Death of QEII

The Parish Council sent a letter of condolence and received a personal message from the King.

Skatepark

New Skatepark now open, special thanks to Jane Strong and Luca.

Hall Improvements

Rudgwick Hall has a new kitchen and CCTV.

Capital Funding from S106

RPC projects have been part funded by S106 monies, SIDs, Skatepark, RH Kitchen and Bucks Green Room and RYC refurb. 83% of the cost of these projects has been via S106 funds.

5. Finance and Precept

- Council Tax

The Chairman reviewed the Precept, providing the following figures:

Precept: 5 Years Council Tax from 2019/20 (CPI went from 107.1 to 126) (D Band)						
Council Tax	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/24	%+
Horsham District Council	£149.53	£152.52	£157.52	£162.09	£166.94	11.6
Rudgwick Parish Council	£69.51	£71.23	£71.23	£72.49	£75.48g	8.5
West Sussex County Council	£1,383.57	£1,438.74	£1,510.56	£1,555.74	£1,633.41	20.2
Sussex Police	£189.91	£199.91	£214.91	£224.91	£239.91	26.3
Total	£1,792.62	£1,862.40	£1,954.22	£2,015.23	£2,115.74	18

Precept 23/24 Neighbouring Council Tax (D Band)					
	District	County	Police	Village	Total
Slinfold	£166.94 (1)	£1,633.41 (a)	£239.91 (a)	£68.23	£2,108.49
Loxwood	£181.07 (2)	£1,633.41 (a)	£239.91 (a)	£57.77	£2,122.16
Rudgwick	£166.94 (1)	£1,633.41 (a)	£239.91 (a)	£75.48	£2,115.74
Billingshurst	£166.94 (1)	£1,633.41 (a)	£239.91 (a)	£109.37	£2,149.65
Ockley	£199.19 (3)	£1,675.08 (b)	£310.57 (b)	£46.26	£2,231.10
Ewhurst	£201.64 (4)	£1,675.08 (b)	£310.57 (b)	£87.97	£2,275.26

(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. Reports from Parish Council Committees, working groups and other organisations;

Planning issues

The Chairman discussed:

HDC's long term plan

Water neutrality

Enforcement – Raven's Wood -court actions

Thanks to Sue Kornysky and the Planning Committee

Halls and Recreation

Thanks to Alex Haynes and committee,

- Toilet and kitchen refurbishment
- Solar panels
- LED lighting
- High efficiency heating
- Finger posts
- Trees
- Bucks Green room
- CCTV at the Hall

- Skatepark
- Car park repairs
- Footpath at Churchmans Meadow
- Water compliance carried out regularly

Representatives then spoke with updates on the following:

- [Climate and Environment](#) – Cllr Bob Burse
- [Graveyard Extension](#) – Rev Martin King
- [Community Speedwatch](#) – Keith Allen
- [Rudgwick Youth Centre \(slides\)](#) – Fiona Sodha
- [Traffic Calming](#) – Matt Gilmour

The Chairman thanked them for coming to the annual parish meeting and giving informative presentations.

7. Questions on Parish matters from electors

Question 1: Can the proposal include Lynwick St?

If this restriction was introduced to Church Street, it would encourage drivers to use Lynwick Street as it has a 30mph speed limit. Lynwick Street is a major part of Rudgwick with many local people using it as a cut-through to the A281 and large lorries accessing The Brickworks industrial estate.

The one-way system on the bridge in Church St saw increased traffic in Lynwick Street and we fear that it will increase again if Church St becomes a 20mph zone.

Despite the limit here, cars, including some high-performance vehicles, regularly travel well in excess of 30mph. There is also a higher volume of traffic with the redevelopment of the brickworks site, including heavy goods vehicles.

Lynwick Street is already hazardous for pedestrians and cyclists, horse riders and dog walkers. There are no pavements and also no street lighting for most of it, with a narrow bridge with poor visibility. The road is in poor condition.

Question 2: State of Kilnfield Rd adjacent to the roundabout (and other potholes)

I was planning on asking about the "spring" just above the mini-roundabout on the East side of Church Street & the dreadful potholes at the top end of Kilnfield Road.

I have contacted Mr Landeryou & Mr Mason too.

Would like to ask questions on how the PC are engaging with WSCC re the pot holes in Church Street and the suggested traffic calming measures in Church Street (20mph & chicanes).

A resident reported that the flooding was caused by blocked drains on Church Street.

Question 3: 20mph on Church St

- A few thoughts on the idea of a 20mph limit in Church Street.
Progressing in a car along Church Street is often a slow and frustrating exercise:
 - lots of cars parked on the road between the roundabout and the shop, reducing the road to single lane;
 - car parking and moving off around the laybys either side of the road outside the shop;
 - cars turning in and out of Foxholes, Thurne Way and Station Road;
 - trying to cross the DownsLink bridge as that is single lane only;

- start and end of the school day can create chaos around Orchard Hill and Princess Elizabeth Road.

So from the roundabout to beyond the DownsLink is often a slow business, and getting up to 20 mph is an achievement.

- Introducing a new lower limit will however slow everyone down even more, as most people do adhere to limits, making progress along the road even more difficult - for example some drivers will then go no more than 15 mph. 30 mph along the top and bottom ends of Church Street where there is a little more free flow, is really not fast, and most people understand to slow down when appropriate.
So introducing a 20 mph limit will merely serve to frustrate drivers even more, and won't actually address any perceived problem.

Question 4: Footpath at Watts Corner

The existing tarmac footpath parallel to the main road is inches away from the heavy traffic with large HGVs creating a big backwash which is threatening to pedestrians so close to the road. It is frightening. It carries risk of accident every day for every user. There is heavy use by residents walking between Rudgwick village and Bucks Green: e.g. young parents taking their preschool children in pushchairs to the Scout Hall, parents walking their children to the primary school, older solo children going to the skate park, playground, football field and cricket field and tennis courts, residents from Rudgwick attending events at the village hall, residents walking to the Fox pub and the garages, residents of Bucks Green and Tismans Common, Haven Road walking between their homes and the shops in Rudgwick

- Making this journey safer I propose that the public footpath (3597) within the spinney between Firs Field and Watts Corner be turned into a solid path suitable for mothers with pushchairs and any others seeking safe access between Bucks Green and the village of Rudgwick.
- This improvement would move pedestrians away from the dangerous main road by making use of this safe public footpath.
- It would be an excellent benefit for residents and create a lasting commemoration.

Replies from West Sussex Public Rights of Way

Is this to be funded by Rudgwick Parish Council or is this a request for WSCC PROW Team to add it to our resurfacing programme?

If it is the latter, I must advise you that works such as these are funded through an annual programme of Capital Improvements. All schemes that fall within this category are assessed against their contribution towards the delivery of wider policies and plans within the County Council and are given a priority score. The highest priority schemes are collated each August and put forward for funding approval for design/development or delivery the following financial year. As you might expect, we have a long list of schemes and this approach ensures we are delivering the highest priority schemes each year. The resurfacing of Rudgwick Footpath 3597 would not score highly, compared to other schemes around the county and, even if it were a high priority we are unable to make firm commitments about if and when such schemes might be delivered, if at all,

- In addition to Nigel's response, I note under the Condition section of your document you refer to the path not being suitable for bicycles amongst other

users. Cyclists are not lawful users of Public Footpaths and therefore if your intention is to upgrade the path so it can be used by bikes the landowner would need to give consent and it is likely the width would need to increase. If consent is given then there are a couple of options available:

- a) Landowner dedicates the route as a Public Bridleway - WSCC would make the Order under S25 of the Highways Act 1980, which would also allow horses to use the route, or
- b) allow cyclists on a permissive basis – this can either be through a Permissive Agreement with the County Council, in which case the Council may take on some aspects of maintenance to facilitate cycle use and it would be shown on the Council's interactive map. If interested in this we can send more details. Alternatively, it could be through an informal agreement that could be publicised locally and WSCC would not take on higher maintenance over and above what we would already do for a Public Footpath.

Question 5: Neighbourhood Plan

NHP pasted referendum May 2021, formally adopted by HDC June 2021. Legal document and part of the development plan for the area. Waiting for Horsham's long-term plan.

8. Closing Remarks

Thank you to contributors, councillors and staff and parishioners

Don't forget your ID on Thursday 4th May.

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to join the Coronation Walk on Monday 8th May at 6pm to celebrate the Coronation.

New Coronation noticeboard now in situ outside the Co-Op.

9. 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 presentations.

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

Meeting closed at 9.13pm

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Chairman
D Buckley

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Date