

PARISH OF RUDGWICK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 9TH MARCH 2020

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Rudgwick was held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9th March 2020 in Rudgwick Hall, Bucks Green, Rudgwick RH12 3JJ.

38 Residents, including eight Parish Councillors were present.

Also present were Mr David Winsor, Air Ambulance Kent Surrey and Sussex, Sergeant Sarah McManamon, Sussex Police, Jonna Foote, Parish Clerk.

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, David Buckley presided and welcomed all present; He pointed out that with the “what3words” location initiative, Rudgwick Hall is identified as “herbs.wiring.shifts”. This initiative is especially useful for providing emergency services with exact locations. He continued to provide a brief overview of the Agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from two Parish Councillors, the County Councillor and two residents.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th March 2019 were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman introduced members of the council, the Clerk and the guest speakers from the Air Ambulance Kent Surrey and Sussex and Sussex Police Force. The Chairman mentioned and thanked Rob Bookham, Ralph Brown, Vera Davis and Rob Wild, the four councillors who had not stood for election/had resigned from the council, for their contributions. He mentioned the current councillor vacancy.

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

- Jonna Foote, Clerk
- Sarah Hall, Assistant Clerk
- Simon Quail, Litter Warden and Mr David Ockendon (volunteer) for hedge cutting and pavement clearance
- 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
- Book Exchange and Games Hub Volunteers

The Chairman continued with outlining the work of the Parish Office, where the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer and Assistant Clerk are responsible for matters such as agenda and minutes; website; GDPR; leases; utilities; finance; play areas, planning and other such matters. The council is currently advertising the post of Facilities Officer, a person who will be responsible for the Health and Safety aspects of all council premises.

The Chairman then provided some visual background information to support the events

that had taken place in Rudgwick during the last year:

- 19th July 2019 – a poignant unveiling of the role of honour at Rudgwick Parish Primary School, honouring those Rudgwick parishioners who had fallen in the Great War. The Chairman thanked Roger Nash for organising the memorial.
- 75th Anniversary of the crash of a bomber command plane - a memorial to eight airmen killed during the Second World War was erected. On 31st August 2019, at 1 pm a large crowd of more than 100 people, most with some connection to the events of 1944 had been present, including a distant relative of one of the airmen who had travelled from New Zealand as well as the Mayor of Abergavenny. The service was led by the curate of Rudgwick Holy Trinity Church and the event was hosted by the Rikkyo School Headmaster. In January this year, a relative of one of the crew members of the plane located the exact crash site on the county border, Pallinghurst House, now Rikkyo School.
- 25th January 2020 - the council took part in the National Village Hall Day. The event was well attended; the number of people that were involved and enjoying the event, especially the youngsters, was cheering.
- Young people “now and then” – the visual representation showed how the world had changed; “then” a parent would have “to drag” their child into the house, away from playing outside. “Now” parents are having “to drag” their child out of the house, away from game consoles and computers. Rudgwick is fortunate to have a wide array of activities such as intermediate and junior soccer; junior cricket; tennis club and a thriving Youth Centre providing a safe and secure environment. It is hopeful that the Pennthorpe School application for a MUGA (Multi-Use Game Area) is successful as this will provide an additional opportunity for young people to be active.
- Hawkridge – the house was bequeathed to the village and for many years run by a local board of trustees. However, stricter legislation and increased costs made it unviable. With due diligence Hawkridge was transferred to Mount Green Housing Association and the Parish Council is in regular contact with the Association.
- Planning and Enforcements had seen planning applications for two Cox Green sites; the Chairman thanked the actions groups that objected against these and their support contributed to both Appeals being rejected. The Sussex Topiary site application did receive permission for the four pitches and a small day room, Horsham District Council enforcement actions were taken, not to the extent the council would have liked. Again, the action group contribution ensured that further applications were rejected. The Pathfield Close development was approved on the condition that the developer adheres to Policies 32 and 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework and as such a change of materials for the elevation is to be introduced. The council has had no further information and the deadline is to be believed to be three months after which the planning application consent elapses. The council expressed their disappointment regarding the replacement of the six single storey dwellings that were so important for the elderly Rudgwick parishioners, with two storey dwellings.
- Neighbourhood Plan – the Chairman commented on the excellent work that had been undertaken by the Steering Group. He thanked all those that had submitted comments. The Steering Group is currently consulting with Horsham District

Council (HDC) consultants. It was unfortunate that this was the consultant originally engaged to undertake the Rudgwick consultation but then could not fulfil this role as they were engaged by HDC. There are some development opportunities in Rudgwick as HDC does require more housing stock and the council will consider options.

- Traffic Calming Steering Group (TCSG) – The Chairman provided details how this active sub-committee of the parish council whose specific remit is to consider traffic calming in the parish. It advises the council on measures to be considered and it undertakes appropriate tasks on Rudgwick Parish Council's (RPC) behalf. The TCSG have identified three projects that they wish to see undertaken:

Project 1: Mobile radar speed signs at locations throughout the parish, including Loxwood Road, Haven Road, A281 and Church Street.

The TCSG is recommending to the RPC the investment in two mobile radar speed signs – like the device on the southbound carriageway of the A29 just to the south of the Five Oaks roundabout. These will be devices that can be moved between approximately 11 sites identified throughout the parish. This is subject to agreement of the proposed sites by West Sussex County Council (WSCC). Existing poles will be used, and volunteers will mount/relocate the signs.

Timing: Completion by end 2020

Budget - Approximately £5,000 – Funded by Earmarked Reserves from Rudgwick Parish Council Project Management (TCSG).

Project 2: Church Street traffic calming with 3 main priority areas:

1. Outside Pennthorpe School - pedestrian crossing solution
2. Outside Co-Op – improve pedestrian safety & slow traffic
3. Outside Kings Head – improve pedestrian safety & slow traffic

Together with several smaller initiatives, mainly (but not exclusively) on Church Street. Potentially to include some/all of the following:

- Zebra or Pelican Crossing outside Pennthorpe School;
- Raised tables outside the Co-op and the King's Head;
- Highlighted crossing point outside the chapel;
- Reduced width of road at various points on Church Street;
- Increasing prominence of A281 Downslink crossing;
- A pavement solution on the west side of Church Street outside Two Wells;
- Village gates to The Haven and Tismans Common;
- Moving the bus stop at the bottom of Church Street;
- Larger/ clearer speed restriction and 'stop' signs at various points;
- Revised 20mph flashing signals outside Pennthorpe;
- Double yellow lines outside Pennthorpe, on the corners of Orchard Hill and Queen Elizabeth Road, and on Tates' Way (outside the primary school).

Budget – contribution of £67,000 of S106 monies towards costs, which are to be determined.

Project Management: WSCC (via a Community Highways Scheme application)

Project 3: Improvements to the A281 junction with the B2128 at Watts Corner to improve safety & eliminate, or significantly reduce, the bottleneck of traffic waiting to join the A281.

Solutions could be traffic lights, roundabout, slip road etc.

Budget - Not established as feasible options still to be identified & assessed.
Funding: Rudgwick Metals TAD S106 contribution of circa £115,000 is to be utilised.

Project Management: WSCC (Annual Delivery programme)

- Section 106 Funds – The Chairman explained that the S106 Working group looks at the S106 funds coming to the parish. Around £300,000 (after index linking) will be available for use over the next few years.
Around 60% of these funds are specified for WSCC Highways uses within Rudgwick and we are hoping to work with Highways to direct these funds mainly towards Traffic Calming measures identified within the parish.
The remaining 40% of the money is under parish control, albeit to be used for specified projects. The council is currently planning to direct some of the funds to projects such as:
 1. A new heating system, this summer, for Rudgwick Village Hall.
 2. The provision of a new concrete skate park for the village youngsters, as the current one is close to the end of its life.

The Chairman reviewed the Precept, providing the following figures:

Precept: Council Tax 2019/2020 (D Band)	
Council Tax	
Horsham District Council	£ 149.53
Rudgwick Parish Council	£ 69.51
West Sussex County Council	£1,383.57
Sussex Police	£ 189.91
Total	£1,792.62

Precept 20/21 Neighbouring Council Tax (D Band)					
	District	County	Police	Village	Total
Slinfold	£152.52 (1)	£1,438.74 (a)	£199.91 (a)	£65.05	£1,856.22
Loxwood	£165.81 (2)	£1,438.74 (a)	£199.91 (a)	£54.91	£1,859.37
Rudgwick	£152.52 (1)	£1,438.74 (a)	£199.91 (a)	£71.23	£1,862.40
Billingshurst	£152.52 (1)	£1,438.74 (a)	£199.91 (a)	£89.27	£1,880.44
Ockley	£183.51 (3)	£1,511.46 (b)	£270.57 (b)	£41.58	£2,007.12
Ewhurst	£185.79 (4)	£1,511.46 (b)	£270.57 (b)	£80.47	£2,048.29

(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.

- Allotments – The Chairman explained that the allotments in Ellens Green/ Cox Green became unavailable earlier this year. He wrote an article in the Parish Magazine and a subsequent breakdown in communication meant that the council published a notice that was incorrect. The Data Protection Act was breached, and this was reported to the council's Data Protection Officer. The council offered a formal apology to the person concerned.

If there is a demand for allotments, the council will pursue this through the proper channels.

5. Questions on Parish matters from electors

Question 1: Broadbridge Heath Bus Lane – Arriva 63 Bus Service

Does the Parish Council agree that to not provide a two-way bus lane here is incomprehensible, and will they support other concerned bodies, notably including BBH Parish Council, in formally objecting to this decision?

The Chairman agreed that this is to the detriment of the villagers and as it is a planning matter, it was proposed to use delegated powers and to instruct the Clerk to write a letter of support of the provision of a two-way bus lane.

Question 2: Mount Green Housing Association

I gather that Mount Green properties are reviewed annually and I read that the Hawkrigde review is to be in April. If so, could a representative from the Parish Council be there as I gather there are still ongoing issues with maintenance?

The Chairman confirmed that the council is in regular contact with Mount Green Housing Association and will follow this up.

Question 3: Access to Hawkrigde House and Jubilee Hall

Several residents at Hawkrigde use ‘walkers’ and have no easy access to the building nor the garden as there are no ramps. Also considering a third of the population will get arthritis, it means there are likely to be eight or more residents finding the steps difficult. Please press for ramps to be installed.

The Chairman confirmed that this issue was raised with Mount Green Housing Association in November last year and a reply was received in December:

“Construction of ramps at the rear and front of property. There is a level access to the building at the front and rear. We are unaware of any requirement to install ramps at the site. Of course, if this was required as part of our statutory obligations then we would of course review this.”

This also, of course, applies to the Jubilee hall. This is largely used by pensioners for the Book Exchange and their lunches. Also, the Games Club.

The Chairman confirmed that the council will continue to examine the possibility of access to Jubilee Hall; it is a listed building with constrictions.

Question 4: What are the council’s delegated powers?

The council’s Standing Orders permit the Planning Committee to take decisions outside council meetings.

6. Guest Speakers

The Chairman introduced both Mr David Winsor from Air Ambulance Kent Surrey (AAKSS) and Sussex and Sergeant Sarah McManamon from Sussex Police and thanked them for coming to the annual parish meeting.

Mr David Winsor started explaining that AAKSS is a charitable trust and does not receive any Government/NHS funding. The first flight took place in 2005; in 2007 the service was expanded to cover Surrey and Sussex; in 2013 they started carrying blood and were permitted to fly at night; in 2017 the new AW169 helicopter was introduced and in 2018 the service rebranded itself to the current AAKSS. The two helicopters (based at Rochester/ Redhill) are manned by two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic and are ready to fly out 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The staff team are highly qualified, medical

staff are on “secondment” to the service and return to their respective hospitals when they have fulfilled their desire to provide medical help as part of AAKSS. They have a range wide experiences, including anaesthesia so that patients can be put in reduced coma if required. Air crew staff are trained at Redhill where the helicopters are maintained.

The decision to assist is made by an AAKSS employee liaising with the 999-emergency centre. Criteria are strict, i.e. major trauma incidents – life threatening injuries. Medical assistance is provided as soon as the helicopter lands and this can be of a very high level, i.e. open-heart surgery. The AAKSS have approximately 2,500 cases consisting of: traffic accidents (40%); accidental injuries (25%); medical emergencies (stroke/heart attack) (16%); assault & self-harm (14%); sport and leisure (4%) and exposure, other transport and “others” (2%) – six to eight calls per day and two per night.

Annual costs for this are £14 million, £38,740 a day, £350 for a kit bag; £75 for a pair of boots to give examples of how the money raised is used.

AAKSS new helicopters (five short rotor blades, enabling the helicopter to land in a smaller space, blades are 12 feet of the ground so medical staff can straightaway jump out when the helicopter has landed) and with increasing amount of space and equipment, more people are helped. Another benefit is that up to two people can now accompany a patient on their trip to one of the four major trauma centres; these are never further away than 20 minutes of flying. Since 2013 helicopters carry four units of blood and plasma on board. The service is grateful to the Emergency Rider Service, volunteers on motor bikes who transport, blood, plasma, documents, breast milk to AAKSS/ between hospitals.

David mentioned that the service had been called out 647 times since Christmas in our part of West Sussex. Members of the public then asked questions which David answered “medical staff are paid by “their” hospital during their AAKSS period of work, with AAKSS refunding the NHS”, “the service has reserves to ensure that lack of money will not stop the helicopters flying”. The service is currently trialling inter-hospital patient transport for three years and if this is found to be effective, the service can then offer this to the NHS but at a charge. The AAKSS fundraises continually and welcome donations.

Sergeant Sarah McManamon, from the Horsham Prevention Team explained that after a period of staff reduction (from 370 to 200 in 2017, with a loss of knowledge and experience), Sussex Police was now benefitting of an increase of staff. The 100 new Police Community Support Officers – PCSOs - (these can be distinguished by the wearing of blue rather than black t-shirts as well as not carrying items such as baton and hand cuffs) will all be in place later this month, some are currently still on training at Worthing Headquarters. (Adur and Horsham being satellites stations). The PCSO role has been given additional powers such as: taking statements, problem solving and Sarah explained that their support is invaluable: provide appropriate police support with incidents such as a fallen tree, visit schools and meet the public in “their patch” and so can be informed of anti-social behaviour and other issues that a community may experience. The Police UK website breaks down crime rates to areas, and since the start of 2020 the Rudgwick/Slinfold/Itchingfield area have experienced 24 crime incidents. Most calls that have come in during the last few months have been those concerning fallen trees.

In the new structure there is also a dedicated Rural PCSO who deals with farm burglaries and other rural matters. Members of the public asked questions which Sarah answered with “A PCSO can deal with anti-social behaviour, they can seize alcohol and drugs but

not perform searches - they can ask"; "A PSCO can restrain someone but so can any member of the public – although the police would prefer members of the public not to put themselves in that situation."; "Trainers over a power cable can possibly indicate that drugs can be bought at that location, however this is not 100% certain."; "There is an increase of drugs in the rural community, but it may well be that it has always been there, just that now the public and the police know more about it. It has been observed that "County lines, drugs" are coming down to Horsham from Crawley and the police visits school as a preventative action."; "Police will cross county borders if in pursuit and collaborate with colleagues in the other counties."

Sarah continued to stress the importance of reporting incidents, with as much detail as possible. If a member of the public notices something that requires immediate action, is urgent, then phone 999; otherwise report online or contact 101. The Police has acknowledged that holding times were too long and they are working hard to cut these down (22/23 February eight/five minutes respectively.) Sarah continued to stress the importance of reporting incidents with as much detail as possible.

7. Vote of Thanks

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

Alderman John Bailey
District Cllr Richard Landeryou
County Cllr Christian Mitchell
Parish Clerk Jonna Foote
All councillors and supporters

and continued with thanking both speakers for their interesting presentations and presented them with some locally produced cheese and beer, and flowers.

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

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Chairman
D Buckley

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Date