

ITCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 21st June 2021 in the David Francis Room of the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Penny Simpson – Chairman

Cllr James Sheppard – Vice Chairman

Cllr Alan Peers

Cllr Alan Strudley

Cllr Roger Pellow

District Cllr Tricia Youtan

56 Apologies for Absence – were received from Cllr Brian O’Connor, Cllr Sarah Peay, County Cllr Amanda Jupp and District Cllr Stuart Ritchie. The Clerk Jan Critchley also sent her apologies.

57 Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting on 24th May 2021 had been circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. The Minutes were then accepted and signed by the Chairman.

Action

58 Matters arising from the Minutes

1. Minute 46:1 - Replacement shrubs for Chapel Road. The Chairman and Cllr Alan Peers have now purchased the shrubs to be planted on the verge nearest to the fence alongside the new pathway in Chapel Road and Roy Tingley has agreed to strim the verge and plant the shrubs.

The Clerk will confirm when the grant from WSCC has been paid.

Action

59 Planning Applications – Circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. All Cllrs were asked to look at the planning documents for this meeting on the HDC Planning Portal ahead of the meeting.

1. New Applications

DC/21/0856 – 3 Finians Field, Barns Green – Removal of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

Itchingfield Parish Council has no objections and recommends this planning application for approval.

DC/21/0918 – Marlands Lodge, Plumtree Cross Lane, Itchingfield – Erection of a single storey rear Extension and detached garage.

Itchingfield Parish Council has no objections and recommends this planning application for approval.

DC/21/1141 – Kingfisher Farm Residents, Kingfisher Farm, West Chilmington Lane – Full Planning approval for the retention of 11 gypsy mobile residential units on the site and for the 11 touring caravans, full drainage and parking and bin storage and hard and soft landscaping.

A Representation Letter of objection dated 16th June 2021 has been sent to HDC Planning Officer Matthew Porter from DMH Stallard on behalf of Itchingfield Parish Council.

The Clerk to write to HDC Planning Department with the Parish Council’s representations

Action

2. Kingfisher Farm update – The Chairman reported that Planning Application DC/21/1141 had been validated in late May even though HDC Planning Department are behind with everything. District Cllr Tricia Youtan may give a statement saying that the validation was expedited, if Sharon Evans, Head of Legal, HDC, allows. The Parish Council’s letter from DMH Stallard is not on the HDC website yet despite a reminder from them. District Cllr Tricia Youtan will chase up. The letter from the Police however, is on the website and it is a disgrace quite frankly stating no objections. The Chairman said that she has contacted Katy Bourne and Jeremy Quin MP. As a result, Chief Inspector Sarah Leadbeatter contacted her stating she is “professionally embarrassed”. She and Inspector Ben Starns had not been consulted. Hopefully a second letter will be sent from the Police.

Action

Action

When the planning application comes before the HDC Planning Committee, DMH Stallard will speak on behalf of the Parish Council, along with the Chairman, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Roger Pellow. The Press will also be invited to the planning meeting. Cllr Roger Pellow to contact a PR spokesperson.

The Parish Council hope to try to knock this application out so that it gets a “No” recommendation from the Planning Officer.

Summary of actions:

- a) Chase up DMH Stallard’s letter and Police letter.
- b) District Cllr Tricia Youtan to make a Statement.
- c) Consider going public/going to the press.
- d) Cllr Roger Pellow to contact a PR spokesperson.

60 Report by County and District Councillors –

District Cllr Tricia Youtan contributed to the discussion regarding Kingfisher Farm but didn’t give a formal Report. However, she did point out the lack of white lines on the road between the A264 triangle and Christ’s Hospital and Barns Green.

County Cllr Amanda Jupp has not sent a full report in her absence, but had sent an email to the Chairman stating that she didn’t have any further news regarding the Environmental Agency and Valewood Lane, but would be following this up with Jeremy Quin MP.

Action

61 Accounts for Payment

1. There are nine payments to be paid:

One payment was paid out of meeting:

£4,387.90 Direct Debit payment to the PWLB.

The following cheques were raised at this meeting:

£28.00 to the Barns Green Cobra Team out of the Hub Beeding Fund.

£28.50 to EE Home Broadband in respect of the Internet Service for June 2021.

£20.25 to the Barns Green Village Hall Committee in respect of the Parish Council Meeting in May 21.

£928.76 to BHIB in respect of the Annual Insurance Premium.

£334.95 to Newbridge Garden Centre for replacements shrubs on the verge by the Level Crossing.

£34.45 to HDC in respect of the emptying of the dog bin from July to September 2021.

£100.00 to Pat Cochran in respect of Litter Warden duties for June 2021.

£1,039.64 to the Clerk comprising of £977.68 salary for June 2021 and £61.96 expenses.

2. The Signing of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 ahead of audit:

a) Signing of Section 1 Annual Governance Statement year 2020/21.

b) Signing of Section 2 Accounting Statements year 202/21.

62 Correspondence

There was no correspondence that required actioning.

63 Highways

Highways

1. Valewood Lane – urgent flooding and drainage issues - County Cllr Amanda Jupp is still following up this issue with Jeremy Quin MP and the Environmental Agency.

2. Operation Watershed – Cllr Brian O’Connor and the Clerk are waiting to hear from Sue Furlong at WSCC regarding next steps.

3. District Cllr Tricia Youtan is going to chase up with the WSCC, the lack of white lines from the triangle at the A264 past Westons Farm Shop and through and onwards towards Barns Green.

Action

64 Local Neighbourhood Plan – Report. The Chairman had circulated the following report from Ian Walker, Chairman of the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan:

***Itchingfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
Update report 20 June 2021***

It seems incredible that we started the process to prepare our Neighbourhood Plan way back in late 2015 and we

still do not have a Plan in place. The reasons for the long delay in finalisation are many, and of course the Covid pandemic is one of them.

The present position is that the independent Examiner, a planning inspector, has (in accordance with the Regulations) been through our draft Plan in detail and has made a number of suggested amendments. These are all of a “minor tweaking” nature and there are no matters with which we need to take issue.

The tone of the Examiner’s report is largely complimentary, both about the Plan itself and about the Response that we put in to the Examiner following his initial queries.

We are now waiting for Horsham District Council to issue a Decision Notice. This will set out (under Regulation 18 of the Regulations) (a) what action they propose to take in response to the Examiner’s report, and/or (b) what modifications they propose to make to the draft Plan in accordance with the Examiner’s report.

Assuming that HDC accept the Examiner’s report then we will amend the draft Plan to take account of the Examiner’s comments and thus produce the “final” version of the Plan.

HDC will then organise a referendum for all the residents of the parish for the purpose of approving the Plan. Assuming that a majority of those who vote accept the Plan, it becomes “made” and forms part of the planning framework for the District. The requirement for the holding of a referendum comes not from the Regulations but from the Localism Act 2011. Other Regulations require that 28 days’ notice must be given before the referendum takes place and places obligations on HDC in relation to providing information and having documents available.

A number of other parishes held referendums on their Plans on 6th May – all were accepted. Given that these referendums were held on the same day as the local elections a reasonable turnout was achieved – our referendum might be a one-off event and therefore we will need to encourage residents to get out and vote. We know that there may be dissenters (those who live near the two selected development sites for example) and it would be a shame if apathy distorted a fair result.

The Plan will take effect as soon as it is “made” and will last until 2031. We will have an obligation to review the Plan after 5 years, and this will take account of changes to the HDC District Plan and (possibly by then) a changing landscape for planning legislation generally (if the recent Amersham by-election result is thought to have far-reaching influence).

At that stage we can also revisit the provisions in the Plan relating to sites for the travelling community – the current provisions in the Plan are a holding position pending HDC creating a proper policy in that regard.

Ian Walker

Chair of the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan

65 Annual Village Meeting – This is now going to be postponed until September due to the continuing Covid-19 Restrictions.

66 AOB

1. The Clerk to provide Cllr Roger Pellow with a copy of the new Public Rights of Way Map as he wants to make a comment of one of the footpaths in the parish. Cllr Roger Pellow to contact the Clerk with his comments so that she can write to the Public Rights of Way Officer.
2. The Chairman said that Cllr Roger Pellow is now the new Trust Representative for the Parish Council and the Trust is aware.

Action

67 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19th July 2021. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.03 pm.