

ITCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 27th March 2023 in the David Francis Room of the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Penny Simpson - Chairman

Cllr Richard French

Cllr Sanjeev Joshi

Cllr Brian O'Connor

Cllr Sarah Peay

The Clerk Jan Critchley

County Cllr Amanda Jupp

District Cllr Tricia Youtan

Ian Walker, Chairman of Itchingfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 32 Apologies for Absence** – were received from Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr Alan Strudley. District Cllr Tricia Youtan will be a bit late as she is at another meeting prior to this one.

- 33 Declarations of Interest** - *Members are reminded to make any declaration of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda.*
No declarations were given.

- 34 Minutes of the last Meeting to be approved**

The Minutes of the last meeting on 27th February 2023 had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The Minutes were then accepted and signed by the Chairman.

District Cllr Tricia Youtan arrived at 7.40pm.

- 35 To consider any matters arising from the last Meeting that cannot wait until the next meeting.**

1. Minute 29:1. The Clerk reported that she had received a quote to repair the fence at the back of Ashmiles, which all Cllrs had approved. The quote has now been accepted and work will commence on the 19th April 2023. **Action**

2. Minute 30:2. The Clerk reported that she has asked HDC to do a sweep in Bashurst Hill and West Chiltington Lane to clear the rubbish. The Clerk will chase up this up. **Action**

3.. Minute 20: Itchingfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr. Ian Walker, Chair of Itchingfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan gave the following update:

Ian reported that he had had a meeting today at HDC. Present from HDC Planning were Barbara Childs, Catherine Howe and Norman Quan. Also present was Cllr Claire Vickers, Leader of the Council Cllr and Liz Kitchen, Cabinet Member of Planning. Also present were representatives from Lower Beeding, Pulborough and Itchingfield Parish Councils. The meeting was called to discuss why all our Neighbourhood Plans are being held up and not going through to the Referendum stage. HDC has received legal advice from a leading planning counsel, accepted it and believe it to be correct. HDC are happy to share the legal advice, but it needs to be kept restricted as they are concerned about it being used by developers. HDC said that they would share the legal advice by this coming weekend. The clear advice is that if a Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with Water Neutrality, then it will be subject to a legal challenge. It was also clear that if a Neighbourhood Plan did not reference the Water Neutrality strategy in HDC's Local Plan then it would also face a challenge. So, the advice is that we cannot go to Referendum unless the Neighbourhood Plan is amended and the Local District Plan has gone to consultation, as Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans are linked when it comes to looking at basic conditions. It was debated why planning applications are being approved and HDC said that only a small numbers of planning applications have been approved recently as they required specific approval from Natural England. The legal advice says that if the four parishes did go for a Referendum without the Local District Plan in place, then if one of them was challenged then this would automatically affect the other three. If our Neighbourhood Plan is amended, then we will almost certainly, have to go through another consultation and examination. If we go ahead without taking these steps again, there would be the liability of a legal challenge. Nothing can proceed until the Local District Plan gets to Regulation 19 (final consultation) stage. However, HDC want their parishes to have as much protection in the interim. So HDC will put our policies in our plans through Cabinet and full Council, confirming that such policies conform to the National Planning Policy Framework and get this signed off. HDC will then, as they have already done with us and Pulborough, take the draft plan as though it had been made, but with firmer procedural backing. This will happen in June. The Local District Plan should be ready for Regulation 19 stage by the end of the year, to include a firm Water Neutrality Strategy. We should therefore, be ready to go ahead thereafter and get a Referendum by mid-2024. Apparently, there is a case going before the High Court challenging the legality

of the Water Neutrality issue; if that succeeded then HDC would need to think again and we could get a referendum much earlier. There is an issue about Community Infrastructure Levy. A parish with a 'made' plan gets an additional 10% after development. The regulations about this are tight and unbreakable. However, HDC are looking at imaginative and constructive ways as to how this can be addressed. Ian concluded that the next step would be to look at the legal advice that HDC has received and is going to send out and then decisions can be made as to the way forward. Ian said he would then put a communication in the BIG MAG. It was proposed that we keep Jeremy Quin MP in the loop regarding this matter.

Action

- 36 Open Session for Members of the Public** – There were two members of the public who were present, Rachel Venn and Adrian Baines, but they did not wish to address the Parish Council.

- 37 Planning Applications** – Circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Can Cllrs please check all documents relating to the planning applications on the HDC Planning Portal ahead of the meeting.

Action

1. New Applications

DC/23/0301 – Silver Trees, Bashurst Copse, Itchingfield – Demolition of existing dwelling, outbuildings and swimming pool. Erection of 1 no. replacement detached dwelling with integral garage, a detached garage and pool house. Installation of replacement swimming pool, creation of wildlife pond and associated landscaping.

Cllr Brian O'Connor proposed to recommend this planning application for approval, seconded by Cllr Richard French, agreed unanimously. The Clerk to write to HDC Planning.

Action

38 Reports by County and District Councillors –

District Cllr Tricia Youtan gave the following report:

1. Tricia started by saying how terrible the roads are with pot holes everywhere. Amanda Jupp said in defence that the WSCC are working really hard to sort out the problem, but we have had extremely bad weather recently with high rainfall and frost and as soon as one pot hole is filled another appears. The water-table is high at the moment and water is flooding off the fields and is just lying at the edge of the roads. No-one is clearing their own ditches so the issue continues. Amanda said it would help if everyone drove according to the conditions of the roads. Amanda said that Tricia has it in her power to report any potholes herself and this can be done very easily on-line.
2. Tricia said that the issue of anti-social behaviour in Horsham Town Centre with a gang of youths is now being dealt with. The Police have put into place lots of exclusion zones. It appears that the trouble has quietened down.
3. There is going to be a new Mental Health Unit that is opening up in Hurst Road in about six months-time.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Centre in the centre of Horsham has now moved to further down West Street near to Wilkinsons.
5. Cisswood House, Lower Beeding is now being filled up with refugees and this is funded by the Government.
6. Tricia concluded by saying that she contacted Andy Bush who is the arboriculturist at HDC regarding the removal of so many trees at Wellcross Grange prior to the proposed development. He has had a word with the developer and it now appears that the developer hasn't removed as many trees as proposed.

County Cllr Amanda Jupp gave the following report:

1. Amanda confirmed that she had let all the Parish Cllrs know about the latest on the new School Crossing and this should be completed in the summer holidays. Amanda said she had let the school know too.
2. Amanda said that she has already updated us on the pot hole situation and just reminded everyone to report any. The WSCC has an extra £1.4m in the budget for pot holes and white lining. She said she is having a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways and he is going to be looking at better ways to repair emergency pot holes as the repairs are not lasting. She said that now that white lining has been done at Baystone Corner it may be a good idea to look at white lining at Dog Barking Bends in Two Mile Ash Road, although part of this is in Southwater parish. Amanda said the Parish Council could look at lowering the speed limit at both these spots or also consider extending the 30mph limit in Two Mile Ash Road to the start of the cottages at Dog Barking Bend.

39 Highways

1. Valewood Lane drainage issues – no more to report in Cllr James Sheppard's absence.

40 Local Traffic and Roads

Cllr Richard French gave the following report:

1. Richard firstly thanked Amanda for arranging for the white lining at Baystone Corner which has made a very positive improvement and also thanks for the progress on the School Crossing which is very good news.
2. Richard said he has put in an article in the BIG MAG relating to the possibility of the Parish Council appointing

a Drains Warden and he has also arranged for an updated flyer to go into the BIG MAG regarding information on reporting and information links on local traffic and roads.

3. Richard said that he has been in email communication with James Strachen regarding the SID's proposal. Hopefully Richard will catch up with him next week and also discuss about the speed strips.
4. Richard asked Amanda whether she had had a chance to talk to David Exwood regarding the reinstating/realigning of the fence on the A264 on the left-hand side on the approach to Toat Hill. Amanda said that she had tried but had been unable to contact him. Richard suggested that it maybe a good idea for someone from the Parish Council to contact him. It was decided that Richard would contact him. **Action**
5. Richard asked Amanda whether she had any further updates regarding the issues of parked cars at Toat Hill Garage. Amanda said she was going to ask Adam Bazley to go and have a look and report back. **Action**
6. Cllr Sarah Peay will contact Southern Water regarding the cleaning of the road and clear the ditches after a mains Water burst in West Chilmington Lane. **Action**
7. With regard to the completion of the School Crossing in the summer holidays, Amanda said that she thought it would be a good idea to have an official opening when the schools go back after the holidays. The Chairman said that she would liaise with the school regarding this idea. **Action**

41 Finance – All payments for approval since 27th February 2023.

1. There are nine payments to be paid

£22.50 to Barns Green Village Hall in respect of rental for Meeting on 27th March 2023.

£28.50 to EE Home Broadband in respect of the Internet Service for March 2023.

£65.99 to The Workshop, Aberfeldy in respect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Plaque.

£37.96 to HDC in respect of the emptying of the Dog Bins from April to June 2023.

£290.26 to Vision ICT in respect of annual website hosting and support fee from May 2023 to April 2024.

£100.00 to Pat Cochran in respect of Litter Warden duties for March 2023.

£1,157.95 to the Clerk comprising of £1,082.55 salary for March 2023 and £75.40 expenses.

£1,386.49 to HMRC in respect of Employers and Employees Tax for January, February and March 2023.

£40.95 to Penny Simpson in respect of stakes, ties and a watering system for the new oak tree to be planted.

It was proposed by Cllr Brian O'Connor to accept and approve the payments, seconded by Cllr Sarah Peay, Agreed unanimously.

42 Risk Policy – no more to report in Cllr Alan Strudley's absence.

43 Correspondence

The Clerk has received a letter from KSSX, Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex, requesting a grant. The Clerk read out the letter which stated that last year was the busiest year in their 34-year history. They attended 3,224 missions and treated 1,928 patients, that's 5 people per day – of which 331 were in West Sussex. After consideration by the Cllrs, it was proposed by the Chairman that the Parish Council to give a grant of £1,000.00, seconded by Cllr Sanjeev Joshi, agreed unanimously. The Clerk to issue a cheque at the next meeting in April. **Action**

44 Any other Business

1. The Clerk reported that a grant of £200 has been secured from HDC for the Barns Green Village Hall for The Coronation Day on the 6th May 2023.
2. The Chairman asked whether the Parish Council wanted to do something for the Coronation. The Chairman will liaise with the school to see what they would like to do and if they are short of anything. **Action**
3. Cllr Sarah Peay said that she believes there to be an increasing number of caravans being sited at Kingfisher Farm. The Clerk to ask Madeleine Hartley from HDC when did HDC last visit to check numbers and request that HDC makes a visit imminently. **Action**
4. The Clerk reported that the light that luminates the Defibrillator sign is out. The Clerk has checked that it is nothing to do with the electricity supply from the Barns Green Sports and Social Club so the Clerk will ask Neale Francis to have a look. **Action**

45 Date of Next Meeting - Monday 24th April 2023. There being no other business closed at 9.01pm.