

**ITCHINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 in the David Francis Room of the Village Hall**

**Present:**

**Cllr Penny Simpson – Chairman**

**Cllr James Sheppard – Vice-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**

**District Cllr Kasia Greenwood**

**62 Apologies for Absence – none.**

**63 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.

**64 Minutes of the last Meeting to be approved**

The Minutes of the last meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

The Minutes were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

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

1. Minute 49:1- Fence at the back of the Orchard on the forest side. The Clerk reported that a small part of the fence is down but there is also a fingerpost on the ground. The Clerk and Cllr Sarah Peay will contact the PROW Officer to get this fingerpost re-instated before the fence is repaired.

2. Minute 56:6 - Flooding under the railway bridge in Two Mile Ash Road. The Clerk reported that she had written to Adam Bazley at WSCC and also to Network Rail. Adam replied straightaway stating that he would get a team to look at the drains.

3. Minute 44:4 – Light that illuminates the Defibrillator sign. The Clerk to remind Neale Francis to take a look at this. The Clerk to also contact BEAT regarding their Service Reports.

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**66 Open Session for Members of the Public** – Claire Farrelly and Jenny Myers said that would like to address the Parish Council about a few issues, one being the traffic issues on Bashurst Hill and Claire said that first she would like to thank the Parish Council for what the Parish Council is trying to do to get a speed restriction in Bashurst Hill and West Chiltington Lane. Claire said that both her and Jenny live at the top of the hill and the traffic is horrendous with near misses on a regular basis. Claire asked if there was anything they could do to support the parish council and the Chairman said that the best way is to keep a diary and report all incidents to the police so they have evidence. These reports could also be sent to Cllrs Richard French and Sarah Peay. Jenny asked whether the speed is going to be reduced and Cllr Richard French said that he would be covering this in his report later in the meeting. Claire thanked the Parish Council for getting HDC to clear the rubbish in Bashurst Hill when it gets really bad. If Claire and Jenny can report when it gets bad then the Clerk can request HDC do a sweep of Bashurst Hill and West Chiltington Lane. The Chairman suggested that Claire and Jenny do keep up the pressure and make notes of any anti-social behaviour and speeding and keep in touch with Cllrs Sarah Peay and Richard French and said that the Parish Council is fully supportive. Claire said that she would like to bring up another matter regarding accessibility into the village via Public Rights of Way which are either too muddy or there are cows in the fields by the footpaths. County Cllr Amanda Jupp said she would look into this as if there is a drainage issue then this can be sorted out and also cows should be fenced off and not be able to get onto the public footpaths. Cllr Sarah Peay said that the Countryside Code puts the onus on the walkers and remember this is farmland where people are earning a living and it is a privilege to walk across the farmer's land. Cllr Sarah Peay suggested that Claire and Jenny download the Ordinance Survey map on their phones as there maybe more accessible footpaths into the village. The Chairman thanked Claire and Jenny for attending and hi-lighting these issues.

**Action**

67 **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.

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1. New Applications

**DC/23/0460 – Mill Farm, Mill Lane, Itchingfield – Demolition of an agricultural building and the erection of a dwelling (as an alternative to prior approval reference DC/21/2075).**

Itchingfield Parish Council recommends this planning application for approval

68 **Reports by County and District Councillors –**

**County Cllr Amanda Jupp gave the following report:**

1. Amanda started by saying that she was contacted on Saturday evening 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 by Southern Water regarding the water outage that West Sussex experienced throughout the whole weekend and through to 16<sup>th</sup> May. All vulnerable people were contacted and made sure that they all were given water. Amanda said That there were a lot of confusing communications from Southern Water about the reason for the outage. At meetings Amanda attended she was informed that the water should be back on by Sunday but unfortunately, this didn't happen. The water stations were slow in getting set up which didn't help the situation. A parishioner had asked why the Parish Council Emergency Plan had not come into force but Cllr James Sheppard explained that this would only happen if we need to help ourselves when no-one else can and this wasn't the case with this incident.
2. The recent inclement weather has had an adverse effect on the condition of the roads and extra teams have been recruited by Highways to address the number of repairs that need to be carried out. As you can imagine, workloads are heavier than usual this year but hopefully the drier weather will continue enabling further permanent repairs to be undertaken. If you consider any defect to be a risk to safety telephone 01243 642105 or otherwise visit the website to log a report at [westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel](https://westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel).
3. The County Council is committed to leading West Sussex initiatives to improve digital connectivity, as set Down in [Our Council Plan \(2021-2025\)](#) and [Economy Plan \(2021-2024\)](#) and will soon be publishing its **Digital Infrastructure Strategy**. This will detail plans to ensure connectivity is future-ready and capable of underpinning a strong and vibrant economy that attracts businesses and people to visit, live and work in West Sussex.
4. The County Council's Public Health Directorate is funding access to the '[Gro health' app](#) in response to increasing numbers of people who are overweight or obese, in addition to a range of existing funded weight management services available via [West Sussex Wellbeing](#) and the NHS. Gro Health will offer an additional local programme for those wanting access to free digital support who are not eligible for the NHS digital weight management offer. It can be accessed online using phone, tablet or computer, without the need to download any special software.
5. The **Highway and Transport Delivery Programmes** identify capital highways infrastructure maintenance and transport improvement schemes for delivery during 2023/24 and beyond. In terms of scale and value, these are probably the most significant the authority has undertaken; capital funding required for delivery is £36.484m (not including major road projects). The funding is predominantly received from the Government for roads maintenance and transport improvements and supported by additional County Council funding and developer contributions. Scheme delivery has already started. In February 2023 the County Council approved its [Council Plan](#), revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24. Work is already underway on planning the 2024/25 budget, as well as looking at how the County Council will balance its books over the medium term.
6. **DEFRA** has published final annual results for local authority collected waste for 2021/22 which demonstrates the County Council's increased recycling rate from 2020/21 and that the County Council has risen to fourth position out of 29 Disposal Authorities in England. Landfill is reported at 7% for West Sussex, the lowest on record.

**District Cllr Tricia Youtan gave the following report:**

Before Tricia commenced her report, the Chairman congratulated Tricia on being re-elected.

1. Tricia said that the good news was that the Mental Health Centre has now opened in Hurst Road next to the Youth Centre. It is aimed at 13 to 25 year-olds.
2. The Health and Well Being Centre recently moved to a temporary site in Parkside, but Tricia said that she was delighted to inform the Council that it will move to a five-year lease property in Swan Walk near to Wilkinsons' in July this year.

**District Cllr Kasia Greenwood gave the following report:**

Before Kasia commenced her report, the Chairman congratulated Kasia on being elected.

1. Kasia said that she has only been in post for three weeks so didn't have a report, but would like to introduce herself to the Councillors. Kasia said that she had just finished a few hectic weeks of training and would be attending her first meeting of the Council at HDC this week. She said that getting our local Neighbourhood Plan in place is her absolute priority so this is the first matter she will be looking at. The Chairman thanked Kasia and welcomed her input in this.

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- It was proposed by Cllr Richard French that Section 1 Annual Governance Statement for year 2022/23 and Section 2 Accounting Statements for year 2022/23 be signed by the Chairman and Clerk ahead of year end audit. Seconded by Cllr Brian O'Connor and agreed unanimously. Both documents were then signed. The Responsible Financial Officer had signed the Section 2 Accounting Statements 2022/23 before being presented to the authority for approval.

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**75      Barns Green Primary School**

Following the visit of the Headteacher of Barns Green Primary School Tracey Newbold and her concern about the amount of dog poo that is on the paths by the school, the Chairman had been in communication with Erica Baxter who is a PCSO for another area but lives in the village about the legality of putting up some cameras. The Chairman has also written to Tracey and has received a reply back stating that the school is not in a position to put up cameras. The Chairman is in the process of finding out if this is a financial reason or another reason.

**Action**

**76      Any other Business**

1. The Annual Village Meeting to be put on the June agenda for discussion.

**Action**

**77      Date of Next Meeting - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023. There being no other business closed at 9.30pm.**

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