PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Rackham Old School on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors – Heather Cartwright (Chairman), Claudia Fisher, Philipa Trumper and Catherine Dugdale

Also present – Paul Marshall (WSCC councillor), Vicky Spiers (the Clerk) and 3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Paul Slimming, Will Rydon and Nigel Dean and from District councillors Paul Clarke, Jon Campbell and Len Ellis-Brown

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA None.

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. UPDATE FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Paul Marshall advised that WSCC were looking to formally adopted their 2024-25 budget in February, which will be balanced. Their element of the Precept will increase by 4.99% (which includes 2% which is ring fenced for social care). Paul advised that there were no cuts to services but that some efficiencies have had to be made (i.e. the introduction of booking slots for all recycling centres).

The HDC update was provided by Claudia Fisher – the HDC Local Plan has been agreed by HDC and will be going out to public consultation on 19th January. HDC will also produce a balanced budget for 2024/25. There will be an increase on council tax for empty and second homes in the District.

The council's Climate action Plan will be going to full council for agreement on 25th January.

The next tranche of funding under the Community Climate Fund closes on 11th February.

Claudia also advised that HDC have approved a proposal for a Rivers Charter, which if adopted will see the council build on the work that is already taking place in the District with HDC working along side other bodies, landowners and stakeholders.

Signed:	Date: 12th March 2024
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5. ADJOURNMENT TO TAKE QUESTIONS/QUERIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Two residents advised that in December a tree had fallen onto the road near their property in Rackham Street and had taken out their broadband and phone line, some neighbours helped them clear the tree from the road.

The residents advised that there are further large branches that are either laying on top of or precariously close to other Open Reach lines and they are concerned that these could cause damage or disruption to the broadband/phone lines.

After discussion, it was agreed that Heather and her husband will do a site visit to look at the trees and report back to council their findings.

The clerk also suggested that once ownership of the trees is established then the parish council could send a polite letter asking for the owner to undertake remedial work, with the possibility of following this up with WS Highways who have statutory powers.

The residents also enquired if the parish council can do anything regarding a speed reduction for the stretch of the B2139 by the Rackham Street turning as it was locally purported that despite the Speed Warning sign that vehicles often do not slow down. Council resolved to put in an application for a TRO – Paul Marshall advised he would support.

The council then discussed speeding vehicles along Greatham Lane, as the Speeding Policy changed in December 2022 there maybe some scope for a TRO for a speed reduction, the council resolved to put in an application for a TRO along this stretch of road, Paul Marshall advised he would support.

A resident, who had previously emailed the clerk, raised the issue of serious flooding at the junction of Rackham Street and Rackham Road, there has been a history of flooding at this junction which has been reported to WS Highways four times by the resident and three times by the parish council. WS Highways have in the past flushed out the culvert and pipe under the road and have advised they would keep under review, but it is thought by the resident and council that the pipe under the road is not of sufficient width to deal with the amount of water. The council resolved for the clerk to report to WS Highways again, this time also noting that this is a stop on Steyning School bus route, if we are unable to obtain a firm commitment from WS Highways to replace the pipe the clerk suggested that the council could consider applying for the work to be done under Operation Watershed.

Signed:	Date: 12th March 2024

6. CLERK'S UPDATE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

No items

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS & REPORT - to receive and approve the November and December 2023 bank reconciliations; approve the financial statement from 15th November 2023 to 16th January 2024 (including authorisation for any payments

The Financial statement (as detailed below) was reviewed and approved by councillors and signed.

Current account balance as at 15th	November 2023		£ 5,352.09					
Receipts since 15th November 202	23		£					
			0.00					
			0.00					
Less BACS payments between 15th	h November 2023 and	16th January 2024	£					
V Spiers - clerk's salary, office expenses and mileage for 01/10/23 to 30/11/23		524.60						
HMRC - clerk's income tax for 01/08/23 to 30/09/23		112.40						
			637.00					
				£ 4,715.09	SUB TOTAL	(as at 14th	Novembe	r 2023)
Less BACS payments to be approve			£					
		· 01/12/23 to 31/01/24 (includes back dated pay sector award from 1/4)	724.10					
HMRC - clerk's income tax for 01/1	.2/23 to 31/01/24 (incl	udes tax on back dated pay sector award from 1/4)	162.40					
PCC of Amberley - for printing of r	ninutes in the Wildbr	ooks magazine	50.00					
PCC of Parham - annual donation			50.00					
			986.50					
Current account balance available	after all navments as	above made	£ 3,728.59					

The November and December 2023 bank reconciliations and bank statements were reviewed, approved and signed.

8. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE COUNCIL'S FINAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2024/25

The clerk had sent to councillors prior to the meeting. Council resolved to approve. The Precept will increase by 2.86% which is an annual increase of £1.25 on a Band D property.

It was further resolved that following a request, the £50 donation to Parham Church would continue for churchyard maintenance.

9. TO REVIEW THE CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk had emailed Councillors details of the current Planning Applications, these are as follows;

Signed:	Date: 12 th March 2024

No new planning appli	cations received	
	9 Rackham Street Rackham - Erection of part single and part	
	two storey extension, reinstatement of a front porch	Application Approved by HDC Planning Committee on
SDNP/21/06423/HOUS	and construction of a detached carport and store	21/11/23
	Parham House - Conversion of existing Estate and farm	Following a site visit PPC support this application
SDNP/22/05888/FUL	workshop to provide a staff flat	advised HDC 6/2/23. Decision pending with HDC.
and 22/05889/LIS		
	Link Farm - Change of use of land for the stationing of three	PPC objected as these are not temporary dwellings as
	caravans for use of seasonal agricultural	they have been in situ for over 20 years, advised HDC
SDNP/22/05620/FUL	workers (Retrospective)	on 10/5/2023. Application in progress with HDC
	Link Farm - Change of use of land from storage of vehicles	PPC strongly objected, advised HDC on 23/5/23.
SDNP/23/01420/FUL	to storage of bricks	Application in progress with HDC
	Land at 505097 113463 Rackham Farm Rackham Street -	
	Erection of farm worker's dwelling and farm office with	
	associated landscaping, access and	PPC objected to HDC on 1/8/2023. Application in
SDNP/23/02652/FUL	parking	progress with HDC

10. TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS FOR UNDERTAKING A PARISH PRIORITIES STATEMENT

It was resolved that the council would focus on the application for two Traffic Road Orders and postpone further discussions on a Parish Priorities Statement to later in the year.

11. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

No meetings attended, the council noted and offered condolences on the sad passing of Cllr Malcolm Eastwood who had been a councillor for Henfield PC and a previous chairman of HALC.

12. TO DISCUSS ISSUE RAISED BY PARISHIONER REGARDING TREES IN RACKHAM STREET

Discussed under Item 5.

13. TO DISCUSS ISSUE RAISED BY PARISHIONERS REGARDING THE FLOODING AT THE JUNCTION OF RACKHAM ROAD AND RACKHAM Discussed under Item 5.

14. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Noted as 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm at The Old School Rackham.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Parham Parish Council 17th January 2024

Signed:	Date: 12th March 2024
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