

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

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

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