

PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Rackham Old School on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors – Heather Cartwright (Chairman) from 8.10pm, Claudia Fisher (acting Chair until Heather arrived), Will Rydon, Nigel Dean and Philipa Trumper

Also present – Fraser Wheeler to provide a talk on Greener Amberley, Vicky Spiers (the Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies noted and accepted from Paul Slimming and Catherine Dugdale. Apologies also noted from Paul Marshall, 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 Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September 2024

The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by Claudia Fisher.

4. Update from District and County councillors

Claudia Fisher (in her capacity as a Horsham District councillor) provided an update on the following:

- The draft Climate Reduction Plan for Nov 2024 to March 2030 will be going forward to HDC cabinet meeting on 24th Nov for approval, highlights include net zero goals for HDC operations direct emissions by 2030 and indirect emissions by 2050, moving to EV's and an office move in February 2025 which will save 120 tonnes of carbon emission per annum
- Food waste collections are starting in Spring 2025

5. Talk by Fraser Wheeler on Greener Amberley

Fraser gave a brief background, stating that the scale of the national and international challenge on climate and nature was clear, and well documented.

The Government has committed to a UK target of net zero carbon emissions, and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, by 2050. Local government has been tasked to play its part. Horsham District Council (HDC) has committed to the district becoming carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2050. West Sussex County Council has a statutory responsibility for nature recovery, and Wilder Horsham, a partnership between HDC and the Sussex Wildlife Trust, has been tasked to drive biodiversity in our district.

Amberley Parish Council (APC) has local responsibilities in this field. In June 2023 APC set up a working group on climate action and nature recovery, consisting of Councillors and volunteers. It has evolved into Greener Amberley, an umbrella group under the APC for climate and nature action across the community, that builds on, supports and connects existing efforts in the community, makes forays into new areas of interest, and seeks to achieve more than the sum of its parts.

The working group aim to raise awareness in the community. They have been planting hedges in the cricket field and Millennium Green and organising talks.

Following a parish Greener Amberley survey there are now 40 volunteers who have signed up to take forward the objectives of the Greener Amberley Strategy.

Fraser stated that the working group would like to build a relationship with Parham PC. Councillors thanked Fraser for his informative talk and agreed they were keen to work with APC on this.

6. Adjournment to take questions/queries from members of the public

None

7.Current matters – update (a) Re-location of parish noticeboard – Heather advised she would have a look for a location and report back to the council at the January PC meeting.

8. To appoint a council representative for SDNPA matters

Philippa Trumper was duly appointed.

9. Clerk’s update and information items

The clerk advised that the telephone kiosk had been temporary repaired following some vandalism. Claudia advised that she would order some acrylic to replace the broken glass.

10. To receive and approve the September and October 2024 bank reconciliations; approve the financial statement from 19th September to 12th November

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

PARHAM PARISH COUNCIL – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 19.09.2024 to 12.11.2024	
Current account balance as at 10th July 2024	£2,736.67
Receipts since 19th September 2024	
30/09/2024 Horsham District Council - 2nd instalment of Precept	£ 2,911.50
	£ 2,911.50
Less payments between 19th September to 12th November 2024	
19/09/2024 V Spiers - clerk's salary for 1/8/24 to 30/9/24 and office expenses and mileage	£ 571.30
19/09/2024 HMRC - clerk's income tax for August & September 2024	£ 124.40
	£ 695.70
	£5,648.17 SUB TOTAL (as at 12th Nov 2024)
Less payments to be approved at this meeting :	
V Spiers - clerk's salary, office expenses and mileage for Oct & Nov 2024	£ 675.35
HMRC - clerk's income tax for Oct & Nov 2024	£ 150.20
APC - reimbursement for printing costs	£ 9.99
V Spiers - reimbursement for materials for broken glass in telephone kiosk	£ 17.95
Defibrillator shop - new pads	£ 70.74
	£ 924.23
Current account balance available after all payments as above made	£ 4,723.94

The September and October 2024 bank reconciliations and bank statements were reviewed, approved and signed.

11. Annual review of clerk’s role

The clerk advised that the national sector pay rise had been agreed at an extra 63p per hour back dated to April 2024. Following a discussion councillors resolved to move the clerk from salary scale 11 to 21 which more accurately reflects the

role, meaning an increase in the per hour rate from £14.13 to £16.65 this is effective from 1st April 2025.

12. To review the draft 2025/26 Budget and Precept

The clerk had forwarded to council prior to meeting, it was noted that additional reserves were required for the defibrillator and also to cover increased administrative costs and the clerk's salary, the final budget and precept will be agreed at the January PC meeting.

13. To discuss how the parish council inform and advise landowners in the Parish about the benefits of offering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) credits on their land (discussion lead by C Fisher)

Claudia explained that Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. In England BNG became mandatory from 12th February 2024 meaning that all developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. If developers cannot achieve BNG on their own sites, they will have to make off-site gains by using off-site biodiversity units.

Claudia advised that landowners could sell biodiversity units to developers the biodiversity value is measured in standardised biodiversity units including factors such as the size, quality and location. Claudia advised that full details on how to do this is on the Government website ([Sell biodiversity units as a land manager - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sell-biodiversity-units))

14. To discuss building stronger connections with the Parham Estate (discussion lead by C Fisher)

The clerk advised that she has contacts in the Parham office and with the Estate Manager, council agreed that it would be a good idea to build more connectivity with Parham Estates and other bodies such as RSPB, it was resolved that the clerk would send an introduction letter to RSPB.

15. To discuss an application for a Traffic Road Order for a speed reduction along the B2139

The council noted that TRO applications involved a lot of work so resolved for the clerk to contact WSCC Highways for a preliminary conversation to see if this would be a viable application, if so the clerk will take the application forward for a reduction in speed from 60mph to 40mph. It was also noted that a resident had raised the poor state of the part of the edge of this road, near the Rackham turning, Heather advised that this had occurred following an incident with a lorry who taken out the verge and damaged the edge of the road, she will speak to Springhead Estates (who own the land) to see what the plans are to restore.

16. To review the current planning applications

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

DECIDED APPLICATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING		
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. REFUSED BY 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. REFUSED BY HDC
SDNP/24/01602/HOUS	Meadow Cottage , 7 Rackham Street, Rackham - Demolition of the front porch, rear bay window and part demolition of the rear side wall. Erection of a front porch, side extension with front and rear dormer and garage	PPC - no objection but suggested a couple of conditions - HDC REFUSED
APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION		
SDNP/24/02058/FUL	Rspb, Wiggonholt - Ecological enhancements of RSPB Pulborough Brooks through the installation of 4 hydrological control structures, replacing or complementing existing ones	Application has been called in by SDNPA - In Progress
SDNP/24/02458/HOUS & SDNP/24/02459/LIS	Skinners Cottage , Rackham Street - Replacement windows to the dwelling and gatehouse	PPC - no objection - APPROVED BY HDC
SDNP/24/04585/HOUS	Meadow Cottage , 7 Rackham Street, Rackham, - Demolition of the front porch, rear bay window and part demolition of the rear side wall with proposed front porch, and single storey side extension	Re-submission of SDNP/24/01602/HOUS with a smaller extension - PPC comments as before

17. To review Government consultation on 'Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings'

The clerk had sent details of the consultation to councillors prior to the meeting, following a discussion the council resolved for the clerk to respond to the consultation agreeing to remote attendance.

18. To receive any updates on external meetings attended by councillors

None

19. To note the 2025 meeting dates as – 21st January, 11th March, 13th May, 8th July, 9th September and 11th November

Noted.

20. To note the date of the next meeting as 21st January 2025

Noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Vicky Spiers - Clerk to Parham Parish Council
15th November 2024