

Minutes of Funtington Parish Council Meeting

held at St Mary's Church Hall, Funtington on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 6:30pm

Present:

Cllr J Mottershead [JBM] (Chair), Cllr R Littler [RL], Cllr B Mousley [BM], Cllr J Mousley [JM]

In Attendance: none

Members of the Public: There were 6 members of the public present

The meeting commenced at 6:32pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Jack Mousley [JM], Cllr Victoria Cathie[VC], Cllr Carol Donnelly[CD], Cllr David Ash[DA] and District Cllr J Brookes-Harmer [JB-H]

2. Declarations of Interest

None received

- 3. To Receive and Confirm the Accuracy of the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 1st November 2023.** It was unanimously CONFIRMED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council were an accurate record. They were duly signed by the Chair.

- 4. Open Forum.** No matters were raised

- 5. Planning Applications.** To Consider and Agree Action on the following, if appropriate.

The Parish Council's full comments on these and all other relevant Applications can be read via either the SDNP website: at <https://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/online-applications/> or the CDC planning website: at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/24073/Comment-or-search-on-a-planning-application>

- a. New planning applications.

Seven applications for 12 new mobile home sites have so far been received this month as well as a further application for a large 'day room' to replace a previous application for to smaller 'day rooms'. The Parish Council has objected to all these applications, although it was remarked that these sites already had mobile homes in place. The increasing dominance of the G&T site in West Ashling was noted. This is greater than for all other Chichester Parishes and the cumulative effect of many smaller planning applications, in this instance, would represent a 25% increase in size on the sites in West Ashling (West Ashling Road Tower View sites and Scant Road East sites). It was also noted that the CDC plan which is scheduled for adoption imminently includes only only 6 additional G&T sites in West Ashling. Residents are encouraged to provide their feedback to CDC via the [planning portal comments](#). Cllrs will meet on Friday with members of the CDC planning group. Cllrs thanked JBM for all her work on this.

Other applications:

Week 44

No new applications received

Week 45

No further applications received

Week 46

FU/23/02500/DOM – no objections were recorded

SDNP/23/04306/HOUS – no objections were recorded

SDNP/23/03632/FUL – no objections were recorded

Week 48

SDNP/23/04624/HOUS - no objections were recorded

Week 49

FU/23/02484/FUL – this large application was noted and will be reviewed at the next meeting

b. Enforcement and Appeals – no comments were recorded

c. **Developments at Broadley Copse** – nothing new to report

6. To Receive Reports from County and District Cllrs and Other Delegates.

A report had been received from Cllr Brookes-Harmer which had been previously circulated to Cllrs. [Link to CDC Cllr report.](#)

7. General Matters for Decision – To consider and agree action on the following:

a. To approve the updated [Parish Risk Register](#). It was unanimously AGREED to accept the Risk Register. The register will be published on the Parish Council website

b. To agree a Cllr to act as Police Liaison. JBM reported that Cllr Donnelly had agreed to take on this role. This was AGREED unanimously by all present.

c. To approve the final version of the [Parish Asset Register](#). It was unanimously AGREED to accept the Parish Asset Register. This will be published on the Parish Council website

8. Financial Matters for Decision – To Consider and Agree Action on the following:

a) Schedule of Payments, for authorization – It was unanimously RESOLVED to AUTHORISE the Schedule of payments for invoices from November (circulated previously). Cllrs voted unanimously to accept all payments

A list of payments is included below (incl VAT where appropriate, which is reclaimable by the Council)

NOVEMBER 2023

Method	Amount	Payee	Reason
IBT	£18.00	Vision ICT	New Cllr email in box
IBT	£374.00	CDC	Uncontested election fee
IBT	£504.00	Moore	Internal audit fee
IBT	£5757.06	MKH Build	Repair works – prev. agreed
IBT	£1260.00	Colin Arnold	The Dell, mowing, maintenance
IBT	£53.92	Glasdon	Replacement Bollard
IBT	£179.76	Mulberrv	Interim internal audit
IBT	£123.17	Glasdon	Bollard and reflectors

IBT = Interbank transfer

b) Report on Council's Bank Accounts as at 29th November 2023, for acceptance: The clerk presented

the bank reconciliation for November 2023. The reconciled current account balance is £35,642.29 and savings account balance is £67.02

9. Matters for Discussion

- a. **2024/25 Budget proposals and precept request:** The RFO gave a summary of expenditure in 2022/23 and 2023/24 to date, along with projections for expenditure to year end, noting that although not in danger we should exercise caution in the remaining months of this financial year due to reserves having been significantly depleted in 2022/23. She presented the budget proposals for 2024/25 from a recent meeting of the Finance Task and Finish Working Group for Cllrs to review before the January Parish Council meeting. Precept calculations based on the tax base predictions supplied by CDC were considered, noting that accurate figures would only be available once CDC had supplied their final version. It was remarked that Council Tax charges for the parish were well below the national average and lower than those of neighbouring parishes which offered similar facilities to residents. Reserves were also considerably lower. Cllrs discussed a gradual increase in precept over several years as a preferred option such that the Parish Council continue to be able to fulfil its objectives and responsibilities to parishioners. A final decision on the precept will be made at the next meeting for submission to CDC. In response to a question from the floor, JBM remarked that no CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies would be forthcoming from social housing and it is not clear at this point how many of the new houses in West Ashling will fall into this category.
- b. **Funtington Neighbourhood Plan (NHP):** As the funding window at the start of 2023/24 was missed, there will be no further funds available until April 2024 (applications for 2024/25 open in February). Cllrs are keen to keep momentum for this project and the next stage is the residents' survey for which questionnaires will need to be printed and delivered. BM recommended a delay until the CDC local plan is resubmitted in January which will cover relevant issues such as the A27 plans, which could have an impact.
- c. **Flood Prevention:**
 - Watery Lane – water is flowing well through the culverts and no flooding has been reported
 - Mouthey's Lane – awaiting information from local farmer on flood prevention interventions
 - Road with No Name (West Stoke) – no flooding reported, no properties in danger
- d. **Grant Funding Opportunities:** Cllrs were asked to consider various funding opportunities including the Rural England Prosperity Fund and the the SDNP ReNature Grants

10. Matters for Information

- a. **Summary of Parish Correspondence:** Members acknowledged recent correspondence.
- b. **West Stoke Sign** - loss adjusters were awaiting acknowledgement from Highways regarding ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the sign
- c. **West Stoke BT Phone Box** – Cllrs noted with appreciation that a local firm, Chichester Shutters, based in West Stoke, have agreed to sponsor annual planting in the phone box.

11. AOB

- a. **Waterloo Farm** – the recent takeover of Waterloo Farm was noted from the floor. Cllrs will approach representatives of the Greene organisation to request a presentation on changes and plans for the January meeting.
- b. **Dell Pavilion Update** – The pavilion will be removed early next year once the ground is dry enough
- c. **Rubbish Collection** – Cllrs acknowledged and extended thanks for the significant contribution to the local community made by the various litter collectors in the Parish.
- d. **West Ashling Playground** – JBM noted that the new maintenance contractors had now started and their work has been excellent. Stump removal will be completed shortly.

12. **Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 in The Church Room, St Mary's Church, Funtington

The meeting closed at 19:35