

SOUTHBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held at St John's Church Centre on 14th April 2009.

Present: Mr C Bulbeck, Mrs M Bulbeck, Mrs S Cecil, Mr T Cunningham, Mr M Everson, Mr A Feltham, Mr R Gowlett, Mr R Hayes, Mrs M Hemmings, Mrs O Hickson, Mr J Jennings, Mr P MacDougall, Mr R Rolfe.

Apologies: County Cllr M Dunn.

Police Report

Before the start of the Council meeting, PCSO Bruce Ives reported on Police matters affecting the parish.

Children's Centre

Before the start of the Council meeting there was a presentation of proposals for a Children's Centre in Southbourne given by Pat Arculus, Stuart Fairweather and John DeMierre from West Sussex County Council.

Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members

611. None.

Minutes

612. It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

613. Min 587. It had only been possible to plant three trees on the small piece of land next to Bourne View Close because the ground had been found unsuitable for planting trees. The rest of the trees obtained had been planted on the edge of the recreation ground behind the pavilion.

614. Min 591. Mrs Bulbeck commented bad behaviour by children at the Leisure Centre had not been observed lately and a meeting with Mrs Eva, the Head Teacher, had not taken place.

Open Forum

615. No matters raised.

County Councillor Comments

616. Cllr M Dunn was not present.

District Councillor Comments

617. Cllr G Hicks reported the Audit Commission had awarded the District Council four points and it was one of only three districts nationally to receive such a high grading.

There had been a huge take up of free travel for the over sixties and 22,000 concessionary fare passes had been issued.

A number of bodies were coming together to keep the Fernleigh Centre in Chichester running and £500,000 was being spent to refurbish the building with a grant from the District Council.

Five new activities had been introduced at the Westgate Leisure Centre, with 'power plate' equipment proving to be very popular.

The proposed merger of St Richard's and Worthing hospitals was still being reviewed, the application for a judicial review was being held in abeyance, pending the clarification of some uncertainties.

Budget constraints would require some big savings in future years.

Mr MacDougal queried complaints about the housing development at Glebe House made by a neighbour. District Cllr R Hayes commented that County Cllr M Dunn had been involved and the Planning Officer was looking into the matter.

Mr Feltham commented the District Council had always subsidised the bus services and the concessionary fares scheme had resulted in buses being very well used.

Mr Feltham questioned the District Council opposition to a National Park for the South Downs when the parishes had been in favour.

Mr MacDougal noted the District Council had received some criticism for its handling of sites for gypsies and travellers. Cllr G Hicks replied that a lot of work had gone into identifying suitable sites.

Correspondence

618. A list of correspondence received had been circulated with the agenda, copy appended to the official minutes.

List item 1. The correspondence from Berrymans Lace Mawer Solicitors would be referred to the Council's insurers.

List item 2. Mr Gowlett would act as the link between the Parish Council and the School Council.

List item 7. Mr Hayes would attend the event run by WSCC to develop the new Children and Young People's Plan.

Additional Correspondence

619. Chichester DC. Timetable for Discretionary Leisure and Rural Play Grants.

620. Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Five Year Annual Progress Report; AONB Management Plan.

621. J. Elsbury. Fund raising for the Gerald Daniel Sailing Centre.

Design a Southbourne Logo Competition

622. The suggestion of organising a design a logo competition in conjunction with the Southbourne Fete was considered. The draft competition rules were noted. It was agreed the Parish Council would hold a competition and award a £10 gift voucher prize for each of the four categories, with an overall winner receiving a £25 prize. The details of the competition would be finalised at the next Fete Committee meeting.

Litter

623. Mr Gowlett drew attention to an article in the latest edition of the Local Council Review concerning measures available to councils for dealing with the problem of litter. Useful information was also available on the CPRE website.

It was agreed Mr Gowlett would produce an article for publication in the next issue of Clippings. Mr Gowlett, Mr Hayes, Mrs Hickson and Mr MacDougall would organise a parish litter pick in conjunction with the District Council's Spring Clean Day 2009 initiative.

Report of Southbourne Fete Committee

624. The minutes of the Fete Committee meetings held on 17th March and 1st April had been circulated. The next meeting of the committee would be held at 7.30pm on 22nd April at the Village Hall. All members of the Parish Council were urged to attend this meeting so that as many people as possible could become involved.

Approval was given to purchase a flag at a cost of £36.

Report of Southbourne Parish Biodiversity Working Group

625. Lindsey Bates, the District Council Environmental Officer, had been the guest speaker at the meeting on 9th April. There had been a poor response from local societies and Mr MacDougall would be making direct contact to encourage more support. The idea of having a wild-life friendly garden competition had been discussed. It was agreed in principle the Parish Council would support a garden competition and provide a suitable prize.

Report of Bournes Forum 18th March

626. The meeting held at Bosham on 18th March had been attended by District Cllr G Hicks and the Clerk. At the meeting an update was given on the Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy was described as 'on ice' as a result of uncertainty with regard to the A27 Chichester bypass and sewage discharge into Chichester Harbour. A presentation was given by a Representative from Action in Rural Sussex on Parish Plans. Parishes were asked to identify their top three priorities and it was suggested having clusters of parishes to produce joint parish plans. A presentation was also given on contaminated land. The next meeting would be held on 17th June in Chidham.

Report of South Chichester County Local Committee

627. The meeting held on 31st March had been attended by Mr Everson and Mr Jennings. The main topic for discussion had been Police matters and commuter parking. From January 2010 civil parking enforcement would be controlled by the District Council. The next meeting would be held on 30th June at Chichester City Council.

Report of Recreation Advisory Committee

628. A report of the Recreation Advisory Committee held on 7th April was received. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, it was resolved that, subject to the approval of the District Council, the Parish Council would place an order with Hags Play Ltd for a scheme for the toddler area and an Octagonal Teen Shelter. That an application would be made to the District Council under the Rural Playground Grants Scheme for a grant towards a scheme for the Junior area.

Finance – Payments for Approval

629. A list of payments for approval was presented to the meeting, copy appended to the official minutes. It was resolved the payments be approved.

Audit 2008/09

630. Notice of the external audit had been received from Mazars. The records would be on deposit from 20th July to 14th August and the Audit 'Appointed Day' was 17th August. An internal audit engagement letter had been received from WSCC setting out the terms for the provision of internal audit service for the Parish Council. Approval was given for the Parish Clerk to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

Matters Raised

631. Mr Feltham reported potholes outside Nos. 2 and 16 The Drive.

632. Mr Jennings reported a large dog was causing a particularly bad dog fouling problem in Stein Road.

633. In reply to a query by Mr Cunningham, Mrs Marrs was able to inform the meeting an Officer from the District Council had visited in response to a complaint by a resident in Lodgebury Close.

634. Mr Everson reported a drain was damaged in Main Road and the footway in Stein Road was in poor condition.

635. Mrs Hemmings drew attention to an overgrown hedge at Clayhall in Stein Road.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....