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Minutes of the **Hybrid Parish Council Meeting**

Monday April 8th 2024 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr Potter - Chair Cllr Moore – Vice-Chair Cllr Barnes Cllr Lovejoy, Cllr Tynan Cllr Howton

Zoom attendee: The Clerk 1 member of public

In attendance: CDC – Cllr Henry Potter

3 Members of the Public

1. Apologies

Cllr Raikes, Cllr Bish and WSCC Jeremy Hunt

2. Declarations of interest

There were none

3. Minutes – to agree and sign the minutes of the 4th March 2024 meeting

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr Howton, seconded by Cllr Tynan and unanimously agreed to be a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by the Chair.

4. County Councillor, District Councillor and Chairman's report

i. **Cllr Jeremy Hunt WSCC**

No report – on holiday

ii. **Cllr Henry Potter CDC**

Henry Potter, CDC Ward Member for the Goodwood Ward.

- a) The meeting of the Planning Committee on the 27th March had given approval for the further extension to the Rolls Royce Motor-Cars assembly plant. The decision had hinged upon the Travel Plans both for the Construction phases and the Operation of the extended facility once completed. This was to be a major development and there would be some extensive disruption whilst WSCC Highways carried out the necessary alterations to the junction of Stane Street (the Roman Road) and the A285. This would allow the increase in traffic detailed in the

Travel Plans to safely turn coming from the Temple Bar interchange into Stane Street. Cllr Potter hoped this could be done without interrupting the 55 bus service on which so many people depended. During the application process, National Highways had shown tremendous concern about the impact of the expected additional traffic on the A27, so Cllr Potter hoped they would have even more concern regarding the proposed Commercial Logistics Hub and the traffic generation that would cause should it reach the Planning stage. Cllr Potter had noted that a PRELM application had been submitted and the proposal had already decreased in size from 60,000 square metres down to 44,000. An indication to Cllr Potter that the need for this kind of development was less than expected.

- b) In response to a full article in The Observer regarding the dreadful state of local roads, Cllr Potter had written a letter on this subject explaining why the pothole repairs failed after a very short time. They were not done properly! Whether WSCC would take any notice was another matter. Somebody had mentioned to Cllr Potter that they had not seen any repair teams of late. Cllr Potter said that you couldn't expect cold tarmac to stay in a wet hole, and there had not been any dry holes for the past couple of months!
- c) The District Local Plan Review was getting ever closer to the submission stage, a few modifications were being made as a result of the consultation, and hopefully it would be examined and approved by the autumn.
- d) The Council in line with its 'Green' Agenda had agreed to invest in additional electric vehicles: an extra city street sweeper, the first was performing well and a couple of vans for the Parks' Maintenance teams. A third van would be diesel powered because electric powered vehicles were not capable of towing a trailer! What would happen to the public who enjoyed caravanning holidays when they would be steered towards electric cars, was another question.
- e) Incursions on privately owned land, particularly Council owned car parks, by gypsies and travellers continued to be a problem. Recently twenty-five such caravans pitched up in Northgate Car Park causing concern among users, some being intimidated by these intruders. Needless to say, they could not be directed to the G & T transit site at Westhampnett as there was only room for nine. However, they did move on but at what cost? The cleaning up afterwards, and loss of income from normal parking charges, was all borne by the taxpayer. To this end, the Agenda for the next Cabinet Meeting on 16th included a request to agree the creation of a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Role and to release £50,000 from reserves to fund this position. There had been a liaison Officer in place for a number of years, Piers Taylor, and he held regular meetings with interested or affected parties, supplying details of incursions, damage and use of the transit facility at Westhampnett, so quite why there was a need for another amazed Cllr Potter.
- f) Cllr Potter was not sure what impact on the Strategic Development at Tangmere, the discovery of remains of Roman and even earlier

occupation, would have but it could cause this development to lose some considerable time to the detriment of the Local Plan. The loss of 1,300 homes at this site which were included in the Plan, would have to be compensated for by increased housing elsewhere. The Council had not yet issued a statement, but Cllr Potter was able to say that the Compulsory Purchase Order for the bulk of the site had not been completed yet.

- g) The development of Old Place Farm off Madgwick Lane in Westhampnett for 165 houses was being brought forward, and the site abuts Goodwood Airfield. This already benefited from Outline Planning Permission, so this application, 23/02711/REM, was for the reserve matters, design, landscaping, water attenuation and noise attenuation due to the proximity of the Goodwood activities. The access off Madgwick Lane had already agreed and Cllr Potter thought it would be an interesting application.

End of report

iii. **Cllr Henry Potter - Chairman**

- a) Cllr Potter said that after 7" (175mm) of rainfall in February and not much less in March (+4") the Parish was waterlogged!! To such an extent that the sewer network in The Street had been completely overwhelmed requiring the presence of tankers to evacuate the overflowing manholes at the southern end of the Village. Prior to these emergency measures, the raw untreated sewage had poured down the road, flooded the access to the footbridge to Tangmere and eventually flooded the eastbound carriageway of the A27 to such an extent that National Highways had seen the need, on health and welfare grounds, to close that area of the road between Temple Bar and the roundabout for two days, causing all of the eastbound traffic to detour through Halnaker and Boxgrove. During those two days the traffic had been nose to tail from Temple Bar through the villages right to the Tangmere roundabout! It had been chaos, with countless HGV's with trailers, and just so many vehicles, which had made it difficult for residents to leave their drives. The blocked drain adjacent to the footbridge had been the cause of the flooding, and lack of preventive maintenance! Once cleared, the flood had gone away. Then, the tankers had been called in! And with the tankers the nightmare for residents in Priors Acre, Abbots Close and the southern end of The Street, returned. 4-way traffic lights had been installed and tankers had been running all night, in fact 24/7, causing many to endure sleepless nights. There had been a brief respite after a few days with no appreciable rainfall, and the level in the sewer had fallen but then more rain followed and back came the tankers, traffic lights and more misery. One thing that puzzled Cllr Potter was that the dell hole on the common just east of Church Lane footpath was full indicating a high water table. This was not that unusual and the antiquated heating ducts in the Church had been known to flood, but never had the village experienced the infiltration of water into the sewer system on this scale before. These tankers had been taking away between 14,000 and 18,000 litres of mostly water, though of course it is

contaminated with untreated waste, every 3 or 4 hours! Where and how was this excess water getting in? Major questions for SW not least why wasn't this excess water passing through the system to Tangmere and on to the WW Treatment Works in Easthampnett Lane. One suggestion from one of the tanker operators had been that there was possibly a partially blocked or collapsed drain. Attempted detection of this had not taken place yet.

- b) A walk in Tinwood Lane towards the end of March had brought Cllr Potter to an instance of fly tipping, just beyond the turning to Keepers Cottage. Two bags of waste, one of broken up polystyrene packaging, a printing machine and some nice flower pots had been recovered and taken to the tip. This had been there some time but now due to the lack of foliage it had become visible.
- c) For the first time in about 15 years the Parish had been sent the fixture list for the Cricket Club for 2024, so hopefully there would be no more conflict with other events on the Playing Field. Cllr Potter had understood that the VH Trustees were Planning another community fun day this summer, a repeat of the successful event last year. Any volunteers to help would be much appreciated.
- d) Cllr Potter along with Cllrs Howton and Bish had paid the scheduled visit to the Bio-mass energy plant and met with Sam Medcraft to run through the details of the extended site area and the inclusion of the attenuation pond. After all the rain that had been had recently, Cllr Potter was amazed at how little water was present at the site. Considering the drained roof areas of the buildings, new and existing, the pond showed no sign of water. But it hasn't been lined as the application stipulates to aid the biodiversity of the site. There was a considerable amount of wet useless unusable straw lying around and currently the boiler was being fed just woodchip at the rate of about 1 tonne per hour! Wet straw was an ongoing issue.
The plant wasn't running, as it had been shut down for routine cleaning which took about 7 days. Mr Medcraft asked if it were still necessary to attend this evening's meeting, and Cllr Potter hadn't thought it necessary.
- e) Finally, Cllr Potter wanted to mention yet another incident of wanton vandalism in the Village. The recently installed real time passenger information posts had a very useful audio speaking device which, on the push of a button, told the time of the next bus. This was helpful if someone is unable to read the actual digital display board. In certain lights it is difficult to read. A week after these new devices had been installed some idiot saw fit to wrench the device from the post and toss it under the seating bench. Cllr Potter asked what was wrong with these people?

End of report.

Henry Potter, Chairman of the Council

5. Planning applications to be decided

Following the visit of three councillors to the Biomass project they had learned that the Duke was on the case of the appearance of the site and that they were working to get it back to usual standards. They seemed principally

to be working on mitigation of the errors of the first contractor. The implementation of the project had been poor (wrong contractor), and it was not yet running as it was supposed to. The noise emanation would also be monitored.

The council agreed to withdraw its objection to the planning application for the attenuation of the pond.

Action

Clerk

Mr Leah said that the noise was still an issue, and that Goodwood were still operating outside the parameter of the original planning application (with regard to noise).

6. Public Question Time from residents (Standing Orders 3d – 31)

On behalf of another resident Mrs O'Hare asked the following:

Given the appalling situation at the bottom of the Street with Southern Water tankers operating 24/7, could the Parish Council ask the operator of the manually operated lights on site be asked to block traffic coming off the A27 into the Street at the weekend during the Goodwood members' meeting, (excepting buses and emergency vehicles).

It was short notice but the council agreed to try and implement this. It was **AGREED** that National Highways should be contacted so that warning signage could be put on the A27, as well as Goodwood, and the traffic police at Arundel.

Action

Clerk

Mrs O'Hare also asked that the Parish be made aware that part of the problem with the over-flowing sewers was the unacceptable items that were put into toilets. Residents should be reminded that only Pee Poo and Paper should go into a toilet – NOTHING else.

Action

Clerk

Cllr Potter read out the following response from Southern Water to his letter after the last meeting about the sewage overflow in Boxgrove.

"The primary reason these tankers were deployed was to protect properties from potential internal and external flooding and to safeguard the environment. Upon inspection, we discovered multiple blockages in the sewage line, predominantly caused by wipes and other obstructive materials. I want to assure you that these measures were crucial for the safety and wellbeing of the local community.

The safety of the community and the protection of the environment remain our top priorities. Due to unusually high flow rates in the sewer caused by groundwater and rainfall, it has become necessary for us to undertake tankering operations. This proactive measure is crucial to safeguard local homes, businesses, and natural surroundings from potential damage or disruption.

At present, the elevated levels within the sewer system prevent us from conducting Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) inspections to assess the condition of the sewer network. Our team is closely monitoring the situation, and we plan to carry out these essential surveys as soon as conditions permit.

We understand the importance of keeping you informed and wish to assure you that we will provide updates on our progress, including when we anticipate the removal of the tankering operation and the completion of our surveys. Additionally, we are committed to rectifying any damage that may be caused by our operations.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time. Should you have any concerns or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.”

7. Motion to provide a drinking water fountain outside village hall

Cllr Lovejoy said that with the national move to try and reduce the number of plastic water bottles which were used, the introduction of a water fountain around the hall would be a good idea. Cllr Barnes agreed that this was a community minded proposal. There were concerns about vandalism, but it was agreed that this should not be a reason for not implementing a project. Before looking into the different types of system available it was agreed to petition residents for their opinion.

This could be set up at the open day on 27th April.

Action

Cllr Lovejoy

8. Boulodrome: Agreement to proceed to preliminary planning application.

The view of CDC planning department had been that the boulodrome probably would require planning permission and they had advised submitting a preapplication. The clerk to confirm the cost but it would be less as a Parish Council.

The council unanimously **AGREED** to proceed with the application.

Action

Clerk

9. Crockerhill

Thanks to Cllr Lovejoy’s intervention the Clerk had been contacted by the CDC Environment department. The clerk suggested that Mr Glen Olley would be the best person to meet with the office to discuss the issues. The clerk will arrange.

The broken-down coach had been listed on DVLA and a more recent photograph was shown to the meeting.

Action

Clerk

10. Neighbourhood Plan – presentation of Open Day information

Most of the information will be presented on A1 boards located around the hall, manned by the members of the NP team. The Team will go through the topics listed below with residents

- a) Site selection process – the team will explain the site selection process to the residents and the reasons for acceptance or refusal.
- b) Specific selected sites information boards prepared by the promoters.
Expected sites:
 - a. Rohan Stables – this site should be 15 houses at the most (currently 26) – waiting on developers
 - b. The Folly – 10 houses
 - c. The Old Granary 4 houses
- c) Opportunity for residents to give their preferences – which they prefer and any other changes they would like to see.

- d) Introduction of new biodiversity policies, request for assistance from resident's local knowledge.
- e) Opportunities for residents to register their general likes and dislikes in the parish.
- f) CIL usage. We will list projects that we have identified, and residents will have the opportunity to state theirs for ex Tinwood and High footpath.
- g) Listing of Heritage Assets in the parish in order to give protection to these. There will be opportunity for residents to add to the list. For example finger signposts, trees, iron signposts at the end of Redvins.
- h) Important views identified and opportunity to add to these.
- i) Presentation of new design code policies. Residents will have the opportunity to comment.
- j) Presentation of other new policies.

Mr Leah said that it was important for councillors to attend where possible.

11. Resilience plan – update from attendees at CDC/WSCC meeting

Cllr Moore said that there had been four presentations at the meeting and that the most useful had been the idea that the Village Hall could become the Community hub in the case of an emergency. The team at CDC has templates, lanyards, badges etc everything needed in times of stress. The presentation from WSCC gave an overview of the structural resilience nation-wide down to parish level, from high to low, and the emergency services in these instances.

CDC talked about the need for “rest centres”. Cllr Moore felt that this was leaning towards “respite centres” on a more permanent basis. He felt that there was little experience of this in practice and that there were a lot of unanswered questions.

Cllr Moore's view was that in a major disaster Boxgrove would offer the Hall but not for a permanent rest centre.

The question was asked what would happen in a total failure of electricity in the Parish. Cllr Potter said that SSE would supply generators.

12. Clerk's report

i. To agree and sign the annual governance statement.

The clerk read out the statement. Cllr Potter proposed, and Cllr Moore seconded the agreement and signature. This was unanimously **AGREED**, and Cllr Potter signed the statement.

ii. There was no correspondence to report.

Councillors were reminded to send their Register of interests form (the new one without any personal details listed) to the clerk by email. The hard copy to be given to Cllr Potter for storage.

iii. Payments for consideration:

With the addition of the invoice for Zoom (£155.88) the payments for consideration were unanimously **RESOLVED**.

13. Boxgrove Rangers Report – there was no report

14. Agenda items for the next meeting

– the next meeting will begin with the Electors' Meeting at 7pm – an opportunity for residents to come and ask questions or give suggestions to the council. The Annual

meeting of the Parish Council will follow on immediately afterwards – at latest at 7.30pm.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday May 13th at 7pm

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Henry Potter – Chairman

**Boxgrove Parish Council Financial Statement
Meeting April 8th 2024**

Balances on accounts	71244.62
	71244.62

Received since last meeting

None	0.00
total	0.00

Paid since last meeting

I whitaker	salary	804.46
nest	pension	58.66
J McDonald	SID battery	89.94
processmatters2	neighbourhood plan	3300
		4253.06

Payments for consideration

I whitaker	salary	804.46
nest	pension	58.66
HMRC	contributions	33.12
council running costs	Jan/Feb/March 24	264.19
WSALC/NALC	subs	345.2
CDC	litter bin emptying	2297.56
RJDixon	grass cutting	225
PWLb	loan repayment VH	3393.19

7421.38