

ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council held in Staplefield Village Hall on 9th May 2022 at 7:30pm.

Members present: Brad Williams (Chairman), Bob Birthwright, Maria Fielding, Crispin Salimbeni, Nuala Hampshire, Dhana Mahendran, Simon Stokes, Jon Gilley, James Steadman.

Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk), Pete Bradbury (MSDC and WSCC Councillor), 6 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman.

Brad Williams was elected as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of Vice Chairman.

Bob Birthwright was elected as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Public Session.

An Ansty resident requested a grant from the Parish Council for their Jubilee celebrations.

Deaks Lane residents requested an update on the Highways visit to Deaks Lane.

A resident said that the MSDC Planning Enforcement team at MSDC has been under resourced since at least August 2019.

4. Apologies for absence.

All members were present.

5. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

The Clerk has issued dispensations to all members for matters relating to the Mid Sussex District Council Draft District Plan.

Maria Fielding declared a personal interest in application DM/22/1145 because she is a neighbour. Crispin Salimbeni declared a personal interest in application DM/22/0443.

6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th April 2022.

The minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

7. Roles and responsibilities on the Parish Council:

The following responsibilities were AGREED:

- Finance Working Group

Brad Williams, Bob Birthwright, James Steadman, Crispin Salimbeni, Simon Stokes, Dhana Mahendran.

- Staplefield Review Group

Brad Williams, Bob Birthwright, Maria Fielding, Crispin Salimbeni

- **Quarterly review of Parish Council finances.**
James Steadman
- **Appointed trustees on Ansty Village Hall Trust**
James Steadman
- **Appointed trustees on Ansty Village Centre CIO**
Crispin Salimbeni and Jon Gilley
- **Noticeboards.**
Crispin Salimbeni, Jon Gilley, Nuala Hampshire.
- **Rotary Councillors Forum.**
Brad Williams.

8. General Power of Competence.

The Parish Council confirmed that it is eligible to use the General Power of Competence.

9. Deaks Lane traffic issues.

It was confirmed that WSCC Planning Services were not invited by MSDC to comment on the recent Winery Lawful Development Certificate application and would not meet with the Parish Council because determination of the application is a legal matter, and it does not involve any consideration of planning merits including highway matters.

However, Brad, Jon and the Clerk were able to meet with WSCC Highways Manager who can deal with the condition of the road. It was agreed that the Lane will be surveyed and various options will be considered to improve the safety of the Lane including:

- "Gates" at either of end of the lane could warn vehicles of walkers, cyclists and riders.
- Applying for a Watershed grant to clear the ditches along Deaks Lane to help stop flooding and erosion.
- Creation of some passing places along the lane.
- Creation of a "Quiet Lane".

It was agreed that residents will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. The residents are also concerned about the visibility to the east at the Staplefield Road exit from Deaks Lane.

10. Grant to Ansty jubilee celebrations.

Jon Gilley declared an interest in this item because he is involved in organising this event. It was AGREED that a grant of £150 will be given to the Ansty Jubilee event to cover the cost of medals for the children and publicity.

11. District Plan/ Cuck-stye.

The Cuck-stye campaign has formed a constituted committee of 10 people called Stop Cuck-stye Action Group (SCAG). A Landscape Architect is to be commissioned who will be paid for by a grant from Cuckfield Parish Council.

A Question Time event is to be held on 10th June in Queen's Hall with Mims Davies MP, Alison Bennett (Lib Dem Councillor), Michael Brown (CPRE), Pete Bradbury, Robert Salisbury and hopefully Jonathon Ash- Edwards. The event will be recorded and live

streamed.

12. Planning decisions.

The following planning decisions were noted:

- a. DM/21/4136. Description: single storey side extension and 2 no. Dormers for en-suites. Amended plans received 17th March 2022 removing one dormer to the rear roof slope and amending the design and scale of the remaining dormer. Location: Tanyard Cottage, Brook Street. Granted.
- b. DM/22/0785. Description: amendment to approved scheme under application dm/21/4045. Single storey extension to detached dwelling with first floor dormer to bathroom and associated landscape works. Location: Meadow Cottage, Rose Cottage Lane, Staplefield. Granted.
- c. DM/22/0310 Description: first floor extension over existing garage. (amended plans received 07.04.2022) Location: 4 The Coppice, Haywards Heath. Granted.

13. Planning applications.

- a. DM/22/1145 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Single storey rear extension infill between existing extension and boundary. Site Address: 2 Tanners Mead, Staplefield. No objection.
- b. DM/22/1151 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Proposed first floor extension to the north elevation and a new balconette to the south elevation Site Address: Legh Manor Farmhouse, Cuckfield Road, Ansty. No objection.
- c. DM/22/1024 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Two storey side extension and internal alterations. Site Address: The Lodge, Staplefield Road, Cuckfield. No objection.
- d. DM/22/1175 Application Type: Householder Application Proposal: Single storey side extension and first floor extension with internal alterations. Garage door to be replaced with a double pedestrian doorway. Site Address: Old Mill Cottage, Cuckfield Road, Ansty. The Parish Council do not object to this application but agree with the MSDC Conservation Officer that this building should be treated as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset. It is an important asset that should be protected under District Plan policy DP34.
- e. DM/22/1273 Application Type: Listed Building Consent Proposal: Repairs to the north facing roof slope over the historic North wing of the house. Site Address: Legh Manor, Cuckfield Road, Ansty. No objection.
- f. DM/22/1359 Application Type: Tree Surgery Proposal: English Oak (T24), Scots pine (T38),(T47),(T49),(T83),(T88), and Grey poplar (T55) - all Fell to Ground Site Address: Eldridge Vale Caravan Park, 100 Valebridge Road. Refer to Tree Officer at MSDC.
- g. DM/22/0443 Application Type: Change of Use Application Proposal: Change of use from Agricultural Grain Store to storage use (Class B8) (amended 27.04.2022). Site Address: Holmsted Farm, Staplefield Road, Cuckfield. No objection.

14. Monthly Finances.

The financial statement including the schedule of payments, the receipts and bank

reconciliation was AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

15. Grant application from 4sight.

It was AGREED that a grant of £150 will be made to 4Sight who support two residents in the parish.

16. Parish Wards issue and Community Governance Review.

The Clerk provided an outline of the issues. The Boundary Review proposals mean that from May 2023 three additional wards will be created in the parish. One more at Rocky Lane with 2 Councillors and two at the Northern Arc with one Councillor each. However, the total number of Parish Councillors will still be 9, so the Ansty Ward Councillors will be reduced from 4 to 2, and the Staplefield Ward Councillors will be reduced from 3 to 1. The Parish Council does not understand why Councillors should be taken from Staplefield, which has a stable population and contains most of the Parish Council assets, or from Ansty where the population has increased in the last 5 years. They feel that this will lead to under representation in important parts of the parish. By contrast the new wards at the Northern Arc will have a tiny population in the next few years as the houses are being built over a 20 year time frame.

Burgess Hill Town Council have now instigated a Community Governance Review (CGR) with a view to moving the newly created Northern Arc wards into Burgess Hill. If successful, this would take effect from May 2023 and would then reduce the total number of Councillors in Ansty and Staplefield to 7, with the parts of the parish still being underrepresented.

It is understood that prior to the May 2027 elections a CGR will be proposed to move both the Rocky Lane wards into Haywards Heath. This would further reduce the number of Parish Councillors to 4.

Pete Bradbury suggested that moving the Northern Arc wards into Burgess Hill should not take effect until 2027. This is because the CGR should reflect the views of the community. The community in those wards will not exist in any significant numbers in 2023 and as the new houses are built the residents may ultimately wish to consider all options open to them which are: to remain within Ansty and Staplefield, create their own Parish Council or move into Burgess Hill. Moving the wards in 2023 will also mean that the Parish Council will miss out on precept income from those wards which will impact the Council tax levels paid across the parish.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council will make representations based on both the consequential impact on the electoral arrangements of the parish including the need to retain current representation levels within all wards, and the premature moving of Northern Arc Wards to Burgess Hill.

The Clerk will draft a response and circulate it to Councillors for comment.

It was also agreed that residents will be contacted via Resident Associations to explain the situation so that they can respond to the consultation in an informed way.

17. MSDC consultation on the review of the Local List.

The Parish Council agreed not to respond to this consultation.

18. Maintenance works at Staplefield Pavilion

The Parish Council noted the urgent works that had taken place to repair the urinals at the pavilion.

It was AGREED that the showers will be capped at the end of the cricket season when the tank has been drained.

Bob Birthwright agreed to look at the broken light fitting in the away changing rooms.

19. Easy PC accounts.

The Parish Council agreed to subscribe to Easy PC Accounts.

20. Ansty Village Centre.

Brad reported that there is still an issue with the operation of the car parks. Pete Bradbury asked Brad to write to him so that he can see if he can help within MSDC.

Pete Bradbury left the meeting.

21. Updates from MSDC and WSCC Councillor.

None received.

22. Minor matters and items for the next agenda.

a. Finance Working Party Meeting.

The Working Party will be held on 6th June at 7:30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

b. Request for new footpath.

A request has been made to WSCC by a member of the public for the creation of a new footway on the B2114 Staplefield Road between D163 Deaks Lane and Public Rights of Way path (number 49CR) outside 'North Lodge'. WSCC has asked the Parish Council if it will support this initiative. It was agreed that there is very poor visibility exiting Deaks Lane and the strip is heavily used by walkers. It AGREED to lend its support for this proposal as it will significantly improve safety.

c. Request for firework display on Ansty Rec on 29th October.

There have been no complaints since the last display and so it was agreed that a display can take place providing it is not too late and the mess is cleared up afterwards. This is subject to approval from MSDC.

d. Update on Planning Enforcement.

The Divisional Leader for Planning and Economy at MSDC has confirmed that they are looking at the options to increase capacity in the Planning Enforcement Team. The Parish Council are concerned that the Enforcement Team have been under resourced for around three years. The Clerk was asked to write to Mims Davies MP.

MEETING CLOSED.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council Monthly Finances 9th May 2022
Payments for approval

Voucher	Description	Supplier / customer	Total
22	Flyers	Lemonade Print	208.50
23	Pavilion water	Castle Water	5.00
24	Room Bookings	Ansty Sports and Social Club	60.00
25	Internal Audit	Peter J Consultants	146.25
26	Printing	Brad Williams	331.26
27	Replaced isolation to urinals	ABC Gas Plumbing and Heating	120.60
28	Electricity	EDF Energy	8.00
29	Phone	Vodafone	29.41
30	Jubilee church decorations	Brenda Rowe	100.00
31	Expenses	Elizabeth Bennett	39.00
32	Pavilion plumbing	ABC Gas Plumbing and Heating	510.00
33	Fixed lock	Lock Assist	110.00
34	Cuckstye Landscape meeting	Louise Hooper	250.00

Receipts in April

Voucher	Supplier / customer	Account	Total
16	MSDC	Ansty RMA	125.48
17	HMRC	VAT Repayments	4,265.87
18	J Coombs	Cricket	116.10
19	MSDC	Ansty RMA	535.47
20	Stiles Harold Williams	Cricket	150.00
21	MSDC	Parish Precept	49,641.00

Bank Reconciliation

30th April 2022			
Bank Accounts		Cashbook	
Current	74,172.93	Opening	76,631.21
Deposit	55,257.95	Total receipts	54,833.92
less uncashed payments	-36	Total payments	-2,070.25
Totals	129,394.88		129,394.88

Signed by Chair of Parish Council Meeting 9th May 2022