

# ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.00 pm in Ansty Village Hall.

**Present:** Brad Williams (Chairman), Maria Fielding, Dhana Mahendran, Nuala Hampshire, Jon Gilley, James Steadman, Simon Stokes, Liz Bennett (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were accepted from Crispin Salimbeni.

**2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Chairman's Report.**

Brad presented a short video regarding the proposed development of 1600 houses and a country park between Ansty and Cuckfield – "Cuck-stye". He then presented his report outlining Parish Council activities:

**Ansty.**

**Village Centre.** Following a public consultation, the Parish Council donated £100k to the building of Ansty Village Centre. The Parish Council also helped to secure £650k in s106 contributions from Mid Sussex District Council. Building work began in early 2020 and the building was finally opened in Spring 2021.

**Ansty Village Sign.** The village sign was replaced by the Parish Council in 2020 using the same design as the previous one.

**Staplefield.**

**Pavilion.** In 2020 the exterior of Staplefield Pavilion was refurbished. This included new windows and doors, repairs to the timber and roof and painting and sealing the whole exterior. This work has significantly improved the appearance of the pavilion as well as extending the life of the structure.

**Bus shelter replacement.** The bus shelter near the play park was removed and replaced with a smart new oak one in 2020.

**Victory Inn.** The PC supported The Victory Inn during the pandemic by allowing the temporary use of extended outdoor seating and shelter.

**Play Park drainage.** The PC secured funding from WSCC to improve the drainage at Staplefield Play Park. The work was completed in 2020.

**Trees.** The PC had all the trees on Staplefield Common and Upper Staplefield Common surveyed and resulting maintenance work carried out.

**Rocky Lane.** The Parish Council has secured funding to provide two new bus shelters along Rocky Lane and a parish noticeboard. Unfortunately, the contractor has

suffered health issues and the work has been severely delayed. We are hoping that they will be installed soon. The Parish Council is also providing some new salt bins for The Beeches.

**Mobile Speed Indicator Devices** The Parish Council bought the first SID using a combination of grants and crowd funding. It has subsequently been able to buy 3 more SIDs which are rotated around various locations in the parish with the help of volunteers. The data from the SIDs has been sent to the Police who have recently been out with their speed vans in Staplefield and Brook Street.

**Planning applications.** The Parish Council responds to around 7-10 planning applications each month. The PC has been particularly concerned about the traffic arising from the Burgess Hill Northern Arc and has been in active discussion with MSDC, WSCC and Homes England. It has also put pressure on MSDC to take enforcement action for irregularities at Cuckfield Golf Course.

**Community Grant Fund.** In 2021 the Parish Council created a Community Grant Fund to help local communities impacted by the pandemic. Grants were awarded to Brook Street Residents Association, residents at Rocky Lane and the Ansty Village Centre.

**District Plan Review.** The PC was dismayed to see the inclusion of 1600 houses at Ansty in the draft District Plan. In conjunction with Cuckfield Parish Council it has set up a campaign to oppose this development.

**Reports from AVCT, AVHT and the sport and social club.** The AVC was built with significant public funding and so in future charities associated with the Ansty Village Centre will be asked to provide a report on their finances and activities for the year.

#### **4. Questions.**

There were no questions.

MEETING CLOSED

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION