

ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of electors in the parish of Ansty and Staplefield held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.00 pm in Ansty Village Hall.

Chairman: Brad Williams (Chairman), Liz Bennett (Retiring Clerk), Laura Mann (New Clerk).

Electors present: Bob Birthwright, Crispin Salimbeni, Amanda Saunders, Mandi Graves, James Steadman, Jon Gilley, George Morley, Simon Stokes, Nuala Hampshire.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Maria Fielding and Heinrich Schmidt.
2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 3rd April 2023.
The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. Chairman's Report.
The Chairman delivered his report which is attached to these minutes.
4. Any other questions.
None received.

MEETING CLOSED

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

Chairman's Report

Additional Councillors. Following a Community Governance Review the Parish Council increased in size from 9 to 12 Councillors. This is because two new wards were created to cover the new developments at Rocky Lane. The Councillors representing these wards are Mandi Graves who represents Rocky Lane North and Amanda Saunders and Heinrich Schmidt who represent Rocky Lane North. The Community Governance Review also increased the Councillors representing the Ansty Ward from 4 to 5. The new Councillor representing Ansty is George Morley.

District Plan Review. The PC worked with Cuckfield Parish Council to support the exclusion of the Ansty Farms site from the District Plan. It has also supported residents in their opposition to the inclusion of the Sugworth Farms site and two developments in the centre of Ansty. The PC also rigorously opposed the planning application submitted by the developer for the Ansty Farms site.

Planning Applications. The Parish Council consider planning applications at each meeting. They pass their comments to MSDC who are the planning authority and who make the final decision on planning applications. Occasionally, the Parish Council helps residents with contentious applications. For example, this year it organised a public meeting at Staplefield regarding a contentious application from Southern Water for Integrated Wetlands.

Ansty Bus Shelter. The bus shelter in the centre of Ansty has been replaced using s106 money.

Staplefield Play Park. A Working Group was established to manage the refurbishment of the Play Park. This project has subsequently been put on hold whilst WSCC carry out extensive drainage works in Staplefield. Their work is not directly aimed at solving the excess water at the play park but should help reduce the amount of water flowing through the village and so may improve the situation at the park. The WSCC work is currently scheduled for early summer and once complete the Parish Council can assess the impact of the WSCC drainage work on the play park and consider whether any additional drainage is required at the park before commencing the refurbishment of the play park, hopefully towards the end of this year.

Staplefield Cricket and Pavilion. The Parish Council continue to support cricket at Staplefield and has not increased the hire costs of the pavilion and cricket facility since 2015. Following the exterior improvements to the pavilion completed in 2020, the Parish Council is now exploring the options for improving the interior of the pavilion to create an open flexible space. This work is likely to commence in the Autumn.

Staplefield Common. As the owners of Staplefield Common, the Parish Council carry out tree inspections and this year have spent £2100 on a tree survey and essential tree maintenance works.

Capital Grants. The Parish Council created a capital grants fund to help community projects. So far £20k was donated to the Haywards Heath Rugby Club to assist with the fit out of the ladies changing rooms. Additional applications are expected.

Traffic issues.

- Staplefield. The Parish Council supported a Traffic Regulation Order which saw the introduction of a 40mph "step down" area between the national speed limit and the 30mph zone in Staplefield.
- Cuckfield Road approach to Ansty Roundabout. The Parish Council is also working on a TRO which it is hoped will introduce traffic calming to the Cuckfield Road approach to the roundabout in the centre of Ansty.
- Deaks Lane. The Parish Council is hoping to erect "village gates" with signage aimed at reducing speeding in Deaks Lane.
- Mobile Speed Indicator Devices. The PC continues to support residents traffic concerns by managing the four SIDS around the parish.