

ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Ansty Village Hall on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7pm.

Present: Brad Williams (Chairman), Simon Stokes, Andrew Keiller, Bob Birthwright, Crispin Salimbeni, Jon Gilley, Gerard Conway.

Also present: Liz Bennett (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were accepted from Dhana Mahendran and Maria Fielding.

2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 16th April 2018.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman presented his report on Parish Council activities throughout the year which included the following points:

Road Safety. The Parish Council liaised with WSCC Highways and Sussex Police over road safety issues in the parish and are hoping for improved signage especially in Brook Street. Katy Bourne will be attending the Parish Council meeting on May 13th.

Mobile Speed Indicator Device. The Parish Council set up a crowdfund and have successfully raised enough money to purchase a mobile SID. This will be moved between four locations – Rocky Lane, Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street. We are seeking two volunteers in each area who can put up and take down the device. The Clerk will look after the spare batteries and keep the data that is collected from the device. We hope to have it up and running towards the end of May.

Burgess Hill Northern Arc. Representatives attended regular meetings at MSDC and are particularly concerned about the traffic that will arise from the development. We have met with other local parishes and representatives from MSDC and WSCC. We used FOI requests to ensure that we have all the available data and have a traffic consultant on standby to assist us if necessary. The main concern is the potential for increased traffic on the B2036 going north through the villages.

Brook Street phone box conversion. The Parish Council paid for the work that was commissioned by local residents. The phone box is now a mini book and toy exchange complete with folding chairs. The project was so successful that it has won a local award by the Sussex Association of Local Councils for the best phone box conversion.

New Parish Council website. The new website was launched at the end of the

summer. It has a news section and a page where the status of planning applications in the parish can easily be viewed.

Staplefield. We have assisted with the project to place a defibrillator in the phone box. New grass contractors were appointed last summer and have proved to be very successful. The trees on Staplefield Common have recently been surveyed and work will commence shortly to tidy up some of them. A programme of maintenance work at the pavilion will begin shortly.

Ansty. The pedestrian safety scheme devised by the PC and WSCC highways will be implemented in this financial year. The PC continues to support the Ansty Village Centre project.

Noticeboards. All the parish council notice boards have been replaced with smart new ones.

Planning. The Parish Council represented parish interests and responded to 143 planning applications over the year.

The precept in the financial year to March 31st 2019 was £59617 which worked out at £60 per average Band D household. The average parish council precept across Mid Sussex was £69 per average Band D household.

4. Any other questions.

The Chairman was asked whether the Parish Council think that the Neighbourhood Plan has been successful. The Neighbourhood Plan is referred to in decision notices and at appeals, so it does appear to carry some weight. The District Plan takes precedence over the Neighbourhood where there are conflicting policies and as long as they can prove a 5-year housing land supply.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy AS1: Housing Development conflicts with Policy DP6 in the District Plan. The conflict is that Policy AS1 allows developments of up to 10 dwellings anywhere in the Neighbourhood Plan area, whereas Policy DP6 only supports residential development of up to 10 units on sites which are contiguous with settlement built up area boundaries. The Neighbourhood Plan examiner insisted on the inclusion of policy AS1 and so the Parish Council is now quite happy that the District Plan provides a more restrictive policy through DP6.

MEETING CLOSED

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION.