

## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council Meeting**

**Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 6 July 2016**

**Present:** Cllrs Archer (Chairman), Collins (Vice Chairman), Hyde, Sheppard and Wilkinson

**In Attendance:** The Clerk, County Cllr Ms James

### **45.16 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs MacDougall, Cecil, Towers, Leighton and Littlefield.

### **46.16 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations if any:**

a) Cllr Sheppard expressed a Declaration of Interest as a resident of Pottery Lane.

b) There were no Dispensation requests.

### **47.16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 June 2016:**

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the 2 June 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **48.16 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29 June 2016:**

**Resolved that** the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 29 June 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **49.16 Consideration of Surface water drainage project proposals to be submitted to West Sussex County Council for Operation Watershed Active Communities Funding 2016/17 (Operation Watershed 3):**

The Chairman advised that it might be necessary to obtain further information regarding individual project proposals before final decision by Parish Council as to the projects to submit for Operation Watershed 3 funding. It was agreed that this information would be obtained by members of the Footpaths and Drainage Working Group in conjunction with the Clerk.

#### **Prior Leaze Lane, Hambrook**

It was reported that the problem of surface water draining into the front garden of a resident's property from Prior Leaze Lane was first identified about eighteen months ago. Rain water also puddled on the lane outside the property and splashed into the front garden when traffic passed along the road. A previous application for funding to effect a solution last year had been overlooked. The resident still had a copy of a quotation for the works which had been produced by B & M Plant Hire in 2015 which she gave to the Clerk. It was agreed that addressing this problem was long overdue and the support from both the Parish Councillors and County Councillor James was expressed.

Following a meeting held on 17 May 2016 at which surface water drainage problems in the Parish were discussed, County Councillor Sandra James reported she had spoken with the Highways Department.

They advised that they had been unable to provide a technical solution as when they visited the site it was dry and there was no evidence of the problem.

It was recognised that a proper technical solution with accompanying plan of works and costings are necessary before any recommendations or agreement about funding for the works can be made. Cllr Sandra James agreed to pursue this matter with the Highways department as well as to show them the quotation obtained in 2015 from B & M Plant Hire Ltd.

### **Ditch on North Side of Millennium Meadow**

It was reported that this ditch needed to be cleared. It had previously been cleared in 2015 and again in 2011 by the Highways Department and it was agreed to approach them in order to establish when the next clearance works were planned.

### **Harbour Way**

A presentation on the proposed works at Harbour way had been made by residents at the Parish Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016.

A quotation for the works was received. It was noted that it was not a recent quotation however it was advised that the costings were still valid.

Representatives of Harbour Way were asked whether written consent and permission to carry out the works had been obtained from all involved parties. It was noted that the tenant farmer had objected to pipework being located in the paddock although the landowner had given verbal agreement at some point to the works being undertaken. It was unclear whether all residents of Harbour Way were supportive of the proposed works. The Council clarified that unless a proper legal agreement had been obtained from all involved parties then it would be unable to consider supporting the project irrespective of any other constraints. The Clerk would obtain legal advice from SSALC and seek civil engineering advice on the proposed drainage solution.

It was noted that there was a very real concern expressed by a Member of the Council that proposed works might not provide the desired technical solution to the surface water flooding and might in fact actually accelerate the rate of drainage and exasperate the flooding problem. Cllr Ms James stated that she would only countersign a proposal if it was guaranteed that there would be no challenge by any resident of Harbour Way should the works fail to provide a solution or indeed worsen the situation. It was agreed that it would be necessary to obtain this as a formal legal agreement with the consent of all involved parties.

It was suggested that Operation Watershed Funding could be obtained for just the section of the works from under the road along which the affected footpath ran northwards through to the tidebank. Concern was expressed that it might be difficult to separate the areas which were flooding. The representatives from Harbour Way were not supportive of this approach.

### **White Cottage Ditch**

Works had been carried out to a section of this ditch already under previous Operation Watershed.

It was agreed to prepare a proposal for Operation Watershed 3 funding for a culvert to run part of the length of the ditch.

### **Pottery Lane, West Side**

Following the Operation Watershed meeting on 17 May 2016, the Parish Ditch Warden had approached the District Council to obtain plans to show drainage. The District Council agreed that they could not

tell how and where the water drained. A technical solution couldnot be obtained until there was water in the system.

Cllr Sandra James advised that the Parish Council could submit an application to Operation Watershed for an initial investigation.

### **Chidham Lane Tidebank**

It was agreed to submit a proposal for repointing the whole length of the Tidebank excluding the central section which was repointed when a new culvert was created under previous works. The Parish Council had one recent quotation for the repointing works and it was agreed to approach two additional contractors to obtain quotations.

### **Ditch adjacent to Footpath 258**

The ditch runs along a significant section of the Parish boundary with Southbourne Parish and adjacent to Footpath 258. The ditch then turns in a south westerly direction across fields on the eastern side of the Southbourne Parish towards the Ham Brook. Flooding of the ditch during periods of significant rainfall caused the footpath to become impassable. Once the Parish Council had acquired the proposed Open Space from Mildren Homes the ditch and adjacent footpath would form the western boundary of that site.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact Southbourne Parish Council to arrange a meeting to discuss a possible joint project to determine extent of drainage issues and problems and whether to seek funding for this through Operation Watershed 3.

### **50-16 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Parish Council Meeting 7pm on Thursday 7 July 2016 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

