

**UNADOPTED Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council  
Held in the Village Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**

**Present**

Cllr Cliff Archer	Cllr Andy Collins (Parish & District)
Cllr Geoffrey Hyde	Cllr Ina Littlefield
Cllr Jacky Sheppard	Cllr Jane Towers
Cllr Rachel Perri	Cllr Marie Gilby
Cllr Philip MacDougall (Chairman)	Cllr Stephanie Cecil

**In attendance** County Councillor Viral Parikh  
District Councillor Penny Plant  
District Councillor Jonathan Brown  
Forty residents  
Lisa Wilcock – Minutes Clerk

**Apologies** District Councillor Adrian Moss

### **Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and ran through the fire and safety and evacuation procedure to follow in case of emergency. Each member of the County, District and Parish Council were introduced to the members of the public.

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Minutes were adopted.

### **How the Parish Council is Financed – Cllr Philip MacDougall and Cllr Jane Towers.**

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining the sources of funding that the Parish receives each year. They are the annual Precept which is £45,255 which is collected by Chichester District Council via the Council Tax bill which pays for administration, play areas, street lights, bus shelters and offers grants to local organisations. The second is Section 106 payments which is a local government housing tax which is based on a site by site basis, the payment is agreed before the development is erected and the money gained have certain restrictions on them so cannot be spent on any project. The Section 106 is being phased out. Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL is a planning **charge**, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver **infrastructure** to support the development of their area. These payments can be 5 or 6 figures and the rules are far more flexible on how they can be spent. The New Homes Bonus is a grant paid by central government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. Grants can be obtained by putting forward a project to the Parish Council who will then apply to Chichester District Council but the Parish Council need people to come forward with ideas as there is £10500 available this year.

Questions were – do the developers pay up front before they go bust? That would then be put into the hands of the administrators but there is always an expected shortfall.

Can the grants be used for physical activities? – CIL has to be used for the infrastructure but other sources can be used for other activities.

### **Achievements – Cllr Cliff Archer and Cllr Andy Collins**

Open spaces – Broad Road play area, Pynham Meadows, Hawthorne Meadows. The Parish Council signed the transfer for Hawthorne Meadows and are now the owners of the site. The Council have maintained and repaired the play equipment in the Broad Road and new equipment has been installed. During the past year there have been 65 planning applications and the Parish Council study each one and make detailed responses on each one and represent the Parish at planning decision meetings where necessary. The Parish Council supports the Village Hall

and St Wilfreds . The Village Hall has had a lot of work done to it in the past year and there is now new cladding, new windows and a false door installed. St Wilfred's Church Hall is having work done to it and the cladding has been ripped off with new floors installed including a new disabled toilet plus new heaters. The car park is in a bad state and funds have been obtained to tarmac it.

Several drainage projects have been completed such as Whyte Cottage ditch being rebuilt, redigging of ditch at Wate Cottages and Broad Road where the ditch is dug out but the culvert is still to be done. The A259 railway to Height Villas needs to be jetted out.

The Parish Council were without a Clerk and RFO for 5 months but have a Locum Clerk now but it was a very difficult period without a Clerk so Cllr Cliff Archer was Acting Clerk and RFO.

Road signs with repeaters have been installed outside the school. The Parish are lucky to have very good District and County Councillors so things are being heard and actioned where necessary so a 'Ginger Group' is no longer necessary.

Harbour Conservancy, BABA27 achieves a lot during important consultations. A new Community noticeboard has been installed off Broad Road near the play area which the Parish provided and maintains. There are a further 3 noticeboards in the village. 3 defibrillators have been installed in the Parish plus 2 new benches including one at the Mill Pond in memory of Councillor Linda Wilkinson, who is a much missed long serving Councillor and former Chairman of the Parish Council. Three bus shelters are maintained by the Parish Council plus a new one has been installed at Broad Road.

Hawthorn Meadows is now owned by the Parish Council and it is now the Council responsibility to maintain it and look after it. Cllr Andy Collins showed a map of both Hawthorn and Pynham meadows detailing boundaries and what is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The current state of Hawthorn Meadows is poor and there is a quote to cut a pathway through but the Parish Council would like your ideas on how to use the land bearing in mind there are Pylons across the land. Once a decision has been made Chichester District Council can advise whether planning permission is needed or not. Cllr Andy Collins showed a map of Pynham Meadows with an area set aside for allotments, car park and a community orchard. The area is fenced off to stop people with caravans from entering.

Questions were – can the public go onto Pynham land? No, as it is not Parish Council owned land as yet and it is currently a hazardous area due to the overgrowth.

How can we access Hawthorn Meadow? You can access it through the estate at Broad Road.

There are currently 8 people on the allotment waiting list and residents need to decide on the land and how many allotments will be needed. There is some grant money available which is for the ongoing maintenance of the land including the installation of a wire fence. The Chairman thanked Cllr Cliff Archer for his hard work at the Parish Council during his time as Chairman.

## **Challenges**

**County Councillor Viral Pirkh** thanked the Parish Council for inviting him along to the meeting and he was taken aback and how proactive the Parish Council was and how much work they do. The A27 was going through a public consultation process and is being wrapped up now ready for publication of the draft proposal. The funding at schools was not compatible and the leader of the County Council has put pressure on MP's for better funding at our schools. The County Council had been promoting Social Care as more carers are needed in our area and it is a good career choice. The County Council are still encouraging everybody to take up the challenge to #PassOnPlastic and this could mean passing on the use of just one plastic item or (hopefully) more. Velo South is due to take place on Sunday, September 23, Vélo South will take 15,000 riders of all ability levels on a truly unforgettable journey through the stunning West Sussex countryside, starting and finishing on the iconic Goodwood motor circuit and featuring the magnificent rolling hills of the South Downs National Park. Loneliness and social isolation is an increasing problem, particularly among the elderly and vulnerable, but there are services and support available. West Sussex County

Council recognises the importance of tackling loneliness and it has commissioned the Royal Voluntary Service to provide support for local people.

**Planning** Cllr Andy Collins reported that the planning committee meet every 3 weeks so that they can keep up with responses within the time frame. The Neighbourhood Plan is dependent on the publication of the Chichester District Council Local Plan which is still to be published but certain sites were included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Greenacre Nursery now has permitted development, Chasewood Nursery, access to the site was dreadful and the planning committee has objected to it. Rhonic House (SAAB garage) the planning committee objected to planning on the site as the plans that were put forward were not right for the area and did not meet the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Harbour Way, there is an existing lawful development in place since 1937 which the council are checking the legality of. There were 100's of objections and District Councillor Andy Collins red carded the application so it has to now go to a full planning committee for a decision to be made.

Neighbourhood Plan drawings were displayed on the projector show currently settlement areas earmarked for the Neighbourhood Plan but until the Chichester District Council Local Plan is delivered there is some uncertainty.

**Footways** Cllr Jane Towers gave a report on footways. A working party of 5 members was set up to look at all concerns and a survey was given out for members of the public to fill in so that the group can put together a good case for the West Sussex County Council to see where the issue lies, surveys can be returned or filled in on line. Love West Sussex is a website where concerns can be highlighted such as pot holes, verges – anything you just need to upload a photograph of the area where there is a problem and the County Council will report back.

**We Keep Your Carpets Dry!** Cllr Cliff Archer said that the sea defence at Chidham Peninsular will need reporting on to keep tide back opposite the catch pond. Drainage at footpath 258 Broad Road at the far northern end with Hawthorn Road on the right - over the years the ditch has overgrown and now needs work which is likely to cost in excess of £10,000. Board Road culvert is being researched to see if work is necessary.

**District Councillor Penny Plant** – the main challenge is the increasing population in the last 10 years and people need somewhere to live. There is low housing per square mile in comparison to other local areas so development in the Chidham and Hambrook area is inevitable. That with good employment is a draw for people to come and live here. The District Council want to control where developments occur rather than developers deciding so the Local Plan will earmark areas for development and exclude other areas for development. Chichester District Council get a payment from developers from Section 106 and CIL every 6 months Chidham receive 25% of the money. More new homes means more money. All new developments must have a proportion of affordable housing but some developers try to resist and get out of the requirement. Chichester District Council recycle 45% of waste which is up from the 38% last year. They have invested in high tech collection vehicles with cameras on the side to keep them safe. The anti-litter campaign is in full flow which is attacking the issue of littering within the district. The Chichester District Council front desk are there to help with enquiries including citizen advice, wellbeing and a housing drop-in service.

**District Councillor Jonathan Brown** - the issue of the need to build new homes should be clearer when the housing numbers are published in November. The strategic gap that gave a clear indication of the where areas start and stop no longer has any legal weight but the areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) need to be protected but there is also a need to link the South Downs. There is a need to build quickly but the government does not do anything about land banking, so when building work is done slowly there is not a clear understanding of drainage issues and where pumps may be necessary. Community Land Trust (CLT) needs land available to it to give an opportunity for it to build. Different kinds of houses should be built to match current houses in the area – more terraced houses and 3 storey houses use less land and green space. Infrastructure needs improvements with the addition of more housing and the area might get what it needs such as a southern parish bridge over the railway. Southbourne Community have installed a tool shed so that trained residents can put things right. The District Council have been voting on a plastic free Chichester but this has been watered with no timelines or business promotion.

Questions were – Regarding the A259 developments, will it get our speed limit reduced? The speed limits are being actively pursued. Using bikes is very dangerous, cars park on cycle paths or the cycle paths are in poor condition in

some areas. CHEMROUTE is a local project which has been recently reopened to tackle the issue of cycle path links in the area.

The public were reminded of the survey that Cllr Jane Towers produced which had recently been sent out and there is an opportunity on there to write about cycle path concerns. The survey is also on the Parish Council website.

### **Your future – your ideas.**

Cllr Philip MacDougall said that there was potential funding available and a business plan was being put together but the Parish Council needed ideas from the public as to what they would like to see in the Parish. A flipchart was used and the public called out what they wanted to see in the business plan, as follows:-

- Community Shop
- New Village Hall or Community Centre – to be built on Hawthorne Meadow.
- Doctor and Dentist
- Stronger wifi – especially if the area is going to be developed.
- Community bus
- Better train service – new timetable has caused chaos on the roads.
- Pynham Meadow – MUGA, skate park.
- Microphone needed for these meetings.
- More dog poo bins in the area.
- Public loos.
- Bike lockaway cupboards at the station.
- Outdoor gym.
- Park and ride.

The Parish Council will put all these ideas forward to the business plan at the next business plan meeting. It was added that all these are already on the draft neighbourhood plan.

The Chairman thank Cllr Marie Gilby for the refreshments.

Meeting closed at 2120hrs.