



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - EAST PRESTON

27th April 2015

The Annual Parish Meeting at East Preston duly convened and held this day at the East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston.

Present:

Parish Councillors Joop Duijf (in the Chair), Mrs. Judith Akhurst, Mrs Carol Ellis, Robert Ellis, Glyn Mathias, Michael Taggart and Mrs Hazel Tester

District Councillors Ricky Bower and Terry Chapman (both East Preston with Kingston Ward) and Mike Clayden (Rustington West)

Members of the Public:

Mr Richard Akhurst, Mr David Beale, Mrs Sue Johnson (Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club), Mr Paul Kelly, Mr John Kimmer, Mr Gary Lane, Mrs Dorothy Lee, Mr Graham Lewis and Mr Cecil Mauger

Clerk to the Council: Simon Cross

Apologies:

Councillors Peter Dallimore, Petrina Kingham, Elizabeth Linton and Peter Vincent; County Councillor Peter Evans; Mrs Linda Denton

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Joop Duijf, opened the meeting at 19:00, and thanked and welcomed those attending.

APM2015/01 - To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2014

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Hazel Tester. There were no objections.

These Minutes had previously been noted by the Parish Council at its meeting held on 12th May 2014, Parish Council Minute 293/14.

APM2015/02 - To receive the Annual Report of the East Preston Parish Council

Cllr Duijf read the following Annual Report, which was distributed to all attendees upon arrival:

“The parish year 2014/15 gave birth to several major undertakings by the Council.

“Our Neighbourhood Plan passed a number of hurdles with flying colours and in March was ‘made’ by Arun District Council and so became law. Hopefully all concerned take notice of this and the village will see the benefit of a long route of hard work by the volunteers involved.

“The Christmas event at the end of last year was a great success despite the weather and shortly after it was decided to organise the next one for which preparations are already underway.

“Roundstone Level Crossing is an issue which will never disappear. Driver behaviour certainly does not help the situation so maybe something everyone could improve upon. We undertook an external independent survey how to improve the crossing. The results are being discussed and will be presented to West Sussex County Council for consideration.

“The hard work of the Flooding Working Party has resulted in major works in Two Acres and Sea Lane. Also much clarity has been achieved in locating our ancient drainage system.

“With your help we have cleaned the beach twice and will continue to do so and thanks to those who have participated.

“We participated in a trial by Arun to introduce an additional dog warden and hopefully to reduce the poo left by those who forget to pick it up. To assist in this we supply poo bags for those who have forgotten to do so. Sadly, some people think they are only for them and take them all.

“We held a Civic Service in St Mary’s church to thank many people for their work and contribution to the village.

“Discussions with our tenants - East Preston Cricket Club, Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club and the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation - have been taking place on an (ir) regular basis.

“Did you know we support the Festival Committee by paying its insurance premium?

“On a monthly basis there is a Business Breakfast meeting which is successful and appreciated by our local businesses.

“Sadly not everything undertaken goes smoothly.

“So far efforts to improve beach access for everybody have taken longer than we would have hoped.

“The Village’s Youth Club more or less lost its home and funding; however, we are hopeful to have more success in the coming year.

“Amenities committee has decided to start a three year renovation plan for the Warren Recreation Ground starting with the northern boundary. The Play Ground will also benefit from some improvements. In discussion is how to improve our toilets and make them more accessible.

“A new initiative “Keeping Your Child Safe Online” was very successful and will be held again. Hopefully parents and grandparents will want to participate in future presentations.

“Our Planning Committee is probably the most visited by you. In the past week we have been successful in persuading Arun District Council to serve a so-called Article 4 notice on 3 The Street; this will, for the time being, prevent the owner of this valued heritage property from demolishing it without full Planning Permission.

“Financially, the council is secure. However, to ensure we had the money necessary to undertake projects during the new financial year, it was necessary to increase the precept, our portion of your Council Tax. Money will be taken from reserves too to undertake projects.

“We would like to see more of you at our monthly Full Council meetings to support or criticize us what we are doing.

“I am sure I have forgotten many activities we organise, look after etc.

“It is always a pleasure to see many people using the facilities the village has to offer.

“I would like to thank all our councillors, the Office Crew, who are always there to assist you and the councillors for a year’s hard work.

“I also would like to see more of you during the next year just being at our meetings and giving some help when we need. We are always looking for you with special in-depth knowledge which could benefit our rural village life that so many of you love.

“To keep it that way we need your help. Just a few councillors and staff cannot achieve that on their own. Please contact the Council Office if you would like to get more involved. Thank you.”

APM2015/03 - To consider Resolutions of which written notice have been given.

No resolutions had been received or were presented.

APM2015/04 – Public question time.

Mrs Lee thanked the current council for a good four years of work and expressed her hope this standard may continue. She also thanked the Flooding Working Party led by Cllr Mrs Akhurst for the “fantastic job” Regarding the Roundstone Level Crossing, Mrs Lee said there had been problems there “since the year dot” and the only real solution would be a bridge which she accepted would not happen in her lifetime. Having reviewed the proposal from the council’s traffic management consultants, Mrs Lee felt those mainly affected would be Angmering residents; as such, was the council seeking a financial contribution to the report from Angmering Parish Council? Mrs Lee added the village flowers were beautiful this year. Mrs Lee ended by wishing all continuing and new councillors the best for the next four years.

Mr Akhurst said the Chairman had mentioned the council’s intentions to improve beach access and the public toilets and said there were lots of people in the village “anxious” to see these improvements. However, such projects take time and there are not always quick solutions in these matters. Mr Akhurst assured the council of his continued support for these projects.

Cllr Duijf closed the meeting at 19:13.

Chairman: *Cllr Joop Duijf*

Date: 18th April 2016

[Clerk's note: the following report from the Flooding Working Party was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting and to members of the public as they arrived at the meeting, but no mention was made of the report during the meeting.]

Flood Working Party : Report to Annual Parish Council - April 2015

Since the last meeting, the Flood Working Party (FWP) has continued to record this Council's Operation Watershed funded works, and to monitor the 2012 flooded areas caused by lack of cleansing and maintenance.

1. Operation Watershed Active Communities Fund works

Sea Lane : value £37,194.65 : contractor - Drainline

The improvement works to Sea Lane's gulleys and surface water pipe extends from Seafield Road northwards to The Street, and include the existing piperun in Oakley Gardens which links Sea Road to Sea Lane.

A comparison of EEG's CCTV survey (19.11.2013) to WSCC's/Drainline's priced spreadsheets identified duplications and discrepancies and resulted in savings which provided funds for additional works in Sea Lane. Amendments to the works were suggested at the FWP's meeting with West Sussex County Council on 23rd October (in the Parish Office) which was attended by Jonathan Ullmer, David Billingham (WSCC Drainage), Joe Mogre (Drainline, WSCC's specialist lining contractor), Sue Furlong (WSCC) and Cllr. Joop Duijf (Chairman of EPPC).

Jonathan Ullmer said that he would consider the FWP's suggestions and make a decision when the works were in progress. He advised that £1,125 would be contributed towards the works, and Sue Furlong agreed that £400 would be given for the lining of the section of Landbuild's (new pipe across the entrance to Tamarisk Way) which is part of the 2013 Sea Lane outfall works. Jonathan Ullmer decisions are awaited.

The works started on 9th February 2015 and were expected to complete on Saturday, 25th April, but Drainline has advised that further works have been identified and these, together with other outstanding works eg. a buried manhole beneath garden paving, will be reported to WSCC Drainage for a decision.

Two Acres : value £26,957.60 ; contractor Balfour Beatty/Landbuild

The works included the installation of a gully at the Two Acres' entrance (Sea Road) and a connecting pipe into the east end of Two Acres' open ditch. At the other end of ditch, a pipe has been installed (beneath the tarmac) to take water from the ditch and to discharge it into Sea Lane's surface water system via new manholes. The piping and infilling of the ditch outside 21 Sea Lane is yet to be completed.

2. Flooding in Old Worthing Road

On 23rd November 2014, Old Worthing Road (east end) flooded across the road and pavement close to Roundstone Level Crossing. As Operation Watershed funding was ending on 31st March 2015 and the date and details of WSCC's works in this area were unknown, the FWP proposed to make a submission for investigative works. However, WSCC Highways provided details of their maintenance works and the proposed submission was withdrawn.

Residents of Cornerways (Old Worthing Road) monitor the location.

3. Arun District Council works

Sea Lane/Michel Grove/Myrtle Grove & Sea Lane Close : Arun raised the buried manhole spanning the highway and driveway of 17 Michel Grove, and later installed a connecting piperun northwards with manhole in the Myrtle Grove/Michel Grove section of the ditch.

Cllr. Terry Chapman (Arun District Councillor) has advised that Arun has also investigated the buried outfalls south of the Willowhayne Estate. Currently, the FWP has no details of these works.

4. Planning Applications

A recent Planning Application (EP/181/14, land adjacent to 1 The Way) highlighted the importance of the recording the known and “lost” ditches. Although the site is adjacent to an open ditch, the Application made no reference of it. Arun Planning had no knowledge of the ditch, and the FWP worked with the Case Officer and provided its latest version of the ditch map.

Currently, drainage details for single or multiple developments are not part of the Planning Application Form. This is a concern as planning decisions of town/parish, district and county councils’ are made without full knowledge of a site, and, if approved, can introduce a potential risk of flooding in areas previously unaffected. This is pertinent to areas like East Preston where drainage infrastructure is old, the majority of the properties have “combined” systems for foul and surface water, and drainage plans are incomplete.

5. East Preston Football Club, Roundstone Drive : Landowner - Arun DC)

At the beginning of 2015, East Preston Football Club had to abandon a football match while in progress due to the “disintegration” of a buried manhole cover in the pitch. A photograph of the internal chamber identified it as a south-north foul drain from East Preston Junior School. The FWP recorded the school’s drainage, and obtained a 1950 plan of the site’s drainage from WSCC, and this is available in the Parish Office.

6. Roundstone Crescent (east end)

The FWP is working with WSCC Highways in investigating the causes of the 2012 flooding of Roundstone Crescent (east end). It is hoped that the resolution of this will remove the standing water on the south side of Worthing Road at times of heavy rainfall.

7. The Flood working party is preparing a report on the 2012 flooding in East Preston and the subsequent works undertaken by WSCC to resolve the problems.

Continued thanks are due to Mr. Bob Barden, a Sea Lane resident, for his generosity of time and extensive knowledge of drainage to the benefit of the parish, this Council, and Arun District and West Sussex County Councils.

Thanks are also due to parishioners who have provided access to their properties to enable the WP to identify possible ditches or piped ditch runs, and similar thanks are due to the Angmering-on-Sea’s and Willowhayne Estates’ Management companies.

The WP is waiting to hear how the outstanding business of the FWP is to be handled.

Cllr. Judith Akhurst
27th April 2015