

HEYSHOTT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: Annual Parish Meeting of Heyshott
Held on: Wednesday 19 April 2023 beginning at 7.00 pm
At: Cobden Hall

Present: Fiona Mackay, Vice- Chairman of the Parish Council, was Chairman of the meeting
Jane Crawford, Parish Clerk, took the minutes

In attendance: County Councillor Tom Richardson (part), Nick Sherwin and Jane Riley

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Jane Constanduros, Anthea Philip, Laura Parry, Penny Masterton and Father Jong. District Councillor Francis Hobbs did not attend as the election was due in May.

1. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 8 APRIL 2022.** The Minutes had been previously agreed by HPC and it was agreed that the FM should sign them.
2. **THE PARISH COUNCIL**
 - a. **Chairman's report** (published in the Parish Magazine). The report had appeared twice in the magazine and apologies had been received.
 - b. **Thanks to former members:** HPC wanted to give personal thanks to Simon and say how sad they had been when he resigned. He had done a great deal for HPC. Chris Cummins who had been a member for a couple of years was standing down. He had been an active HPC representative of the Playground Committee for which he was thanked.
 - c. **HPC Budget 2023-2024.** HPC had precepted for £7,000 mainly because of expected expenditure on mowing the common, cricket ground and village clearance. The ditches also needed to be done which would probably be 3 days work at £375 per day.
 - d. **Highways: flooding, potholes.**

Flooding: Hoyle Lane ditches were particularly urgent as there had been flooding and there was also a blocked drain. The ditches North of Foundry urgently needed clearing. A WSCC engineer was due to make a site visit.

Potholes: Tom Richardson said that potholes should be reported on WSCC website "report a pothole". It was better to have multiple reports rather than none. The new jet patcher machine which made proper repairs had the A286 out to Graffham on its list. The road was also due for a full surface dressing. Generally WSCC was trying to do up the lanes which were suffering while Midhurst had been closed due to the fire.
3. **SOUTH DOWNS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW: Discuss Parish Priorities Statement.** Lots of help and input from parishioners would be needed to get this report underway.
4. **TO INVITE PARISHIONERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS BY HPC.** Suggestions might be forthcoming when the parish priorities were discussed.

5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

a. **St James Church:** Nick Sherwin, Churchwarden.

Father Jong was sorry not to attend, but a baby had arrived the previous Saturday. NS would like to sing his praises with feedback from 18 months in the job:

- Although he was running 3 churches, Heyshott still had 4 services per month.
- He had transformed congregations of 100 people on Palm Sunday and at Easter.
- He undertook pastoral visits to hospital and to people's homes
- He was a really good preacher – please go and hear him.
- He spearheaded the Ukraine appeal when £20,500 was raised.
- He expanded the membership of the Parochial Church Council

He was young and energetic and very likely destined for bigger things so please support him as much as you can.

Income had expanded from £25,000 to £30,000 and NS said they were incredibly grateful for HPC £500 towards the cost of mowing which totalled £3,000.

New heating and lighting was due in June. Downside was the cost but he thanked Andrew Ferrier for chairing the St James building trust.

b. **The Murray Downland Trust:** Nick Sherwin

- Philip Jackson was holding the annual event in aid of the Trust at Cocking on 13 May.
- The Trust was planning for expansion in the next year for 5 reserves.
- Tree pipits were found nesting next to Woodlark – the only site on the Downs where this happened.
- There had been a hiatus with the Escarpment as they were awaiting a new lease without which grazing could not happen. Discussions were ongoing with Cowdray as the lease only had 2 years to run.
- Work parties to do clearance had been arranged. There was no adverse effect with some of them being rained off this year.
- There were not many villagers who were members and it would be great if they could get new members (£30 pa) as a demonstration of support for the Trust.
- Please pass the word around.

Wildlife issues: Best heathland site for nightjars in Sussex and a walk was being arranged; it was the only West Sussex site with all 6 reptiles and a reptile group would be coming in September.

Dark Night Skies: NS felt that possibly this should put on the Agenda as he had noticed Christmas fairy lights which were on long after the event and other lights too.

c. **The Cobden Hall Trust:** Penny Masterton had sent a report

- It had been an expensive year for the Cobden Hall Charity.
- The largest outlay was work on No 2 Black Horse Cottages. They were very sad to see the Dudmans leave after so many years, but extremely pleased that the new tenant, Anthea, had moved in. A new shower room and cooker had been added with the log burner and open fire and radiators making the cottage a lot warmer. All three cottages had been repainted and repaired outside.
- A lot of work has been done on the Hall itself, mainly rectifying the constant electrical faults. Following that they now had a new insurance valuation and the building was a safer place.
- The defibrillator had been installed.
- They now had a state-of-the-art Sound System with and a very large screen.
- The Jubilee celebrations were judged a huge success by everyone and the Charity contributed by paying the Unicorn for all the food produced.

- Film Nights had been introduced with an enjoyable opening for adults and children of The Lady and the Tramp.
- Winter Talks had been successful, in particular Philip Jackson the Sculptor and Terena Plowright talking about greening the countryside.
The Summer Show was judged a great success with record number of exhibits, everyone seeming to be pleased to be able to take part after the two years of lockdown.

- Christmas then gave us Marnie and Martin West's Xmas Show.
- She reminded parishioners about the village Scholarship Scheme whereby young people could apply for funds to help them in their plans for projects or travel.

PM thanked all the Committee for their help and support over the year, too many to mention really: Fiona in particular for running the Film nights with Martin; Peter with the help of Mark Wakeford on BHC and running the Bar at functions; Judith for being a Treasurer par excellence; Simon Hook for his computer science for the Summer Show; James for his research on the Scholarship Scheme and the very many more.

d. The Playground: Jane Riley reported

- The good news was that the lawnmower was working.
- The last equipment inspection had highlighted the low levels of the bark chippings. The plan was to remove half of the bark and replace it with safamulch safety surfacing. They would reuse the bark to top up the remaining area.
- They wanted some sort of climbing frame.
- The goal posts needed to be replaced which would cost £79.95.
- The swing seats needed to be replaced and they were hoping to replace one swing with a basket swing.
- The fund-raising event was to be held on 15 July 2023.
- A work party had been organised for 10 o'clock on Monday 8 May when they would deal with saplings that were growing up.
- The Ash trees had Ash die back.

e. **The Bonfire:** Laura Parry had sent a report:

The 2022 Bonfire turnout was down due to the horrendous - wet and cold - weather. However, despite this, and the increased costs of putting it on, they still had enough money to run this year's event which was all set-in place. Happily, the original car parking team had returned and as far as she knew there were no issues. They were looking forward to May Day this year - Monday 1st May (warming up for the Coronation the following Sunday).

6. **HM The King's Coronation:** Report on preparations FM

All was under Control.

- Forms saying whether bringing food or ordering food were being returned to the Unicorn.
- Entertainments included bouncy castle, face painting and craft table.
- The Road would closed.
- Monty was working on a revamp of the circular bench which would include carving suitable wording.
- They were looking for sponsorship for ice cream.
- The Cobden Hall were contributing, but not as much as last year.

Minutes agreed by HPC, but will be confirmed at next APM on 17 April 2024

7. **County Councillor:** Tom Richardson

New WSCC speed limits policy. TR was WSCC special adviser on road safety. Department of Transport guidelines on speed limits were very restrictive and WSCC had written its own guidelines which were deliberately common sense based. There were big changes where there would be a 20mph limit outside all schools. Rural lanes could become 40mph (rather than 60mph) and main roads down to 50mph. There was no budget for additional funding, but communities could raise funding themselves to get speed limits quicker. He was uncertain about costs, but new limit signs were £1,000; there would be repeater signs and terminal signs at junctions with other roads.

After the Midhurst fire which had closed the only road through the town, TR had managed to get all the signage for the diversions put in place speedily. Unfortunately it looked as though it would be at least six further weeks before the road would be re-opened.

The meeting chairman thanked TR for the time he spent helping the parish.

8. **Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 17 April 2024**

CONCLUSION: 8.20 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

Date.....