

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Thursday 27 May 2010 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Clymping

PRESENT Cllr James Baird in the Chair, also Cllrs Graham Abbott, Henry Burrell, Phillip Bye, Chris Dearnley and Lara TossPELL. Also present were the Clerk and Cllrs Christina Coleman and Stephen Haymes together with six members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr David Biss for part of the meeting (he arriving for item 5 onwards)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2009 were received and signed as a true record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council year began in May 2009 with some new faces – Cllrs Mrs TossPELL and Cllr Abbot. 2009 saw the Government withdraw from its plans for an Eco-Town at Ford and, within the grip of a recession; there has been restricted house building over our entire region. Viridor opened their MRF at Ford and we have started to see the big blue lorries arriving although to date the local road network seems to have coped with the increased use. Traffic levels running through our community are still a cause for concern and measures to facilitate walking and cycling are always welcomed. We have seen degradation in infrastructure, especially following the coldest winter for many ears, with potholes appearing and not being repaired.

Increased crime has affected both residents and businesses, which is regrettable and possibly linked to the economic downturn. We have a new PCSO, Lee Matthews, and an interested local police force, so with improved vigilance and reporting of crimes we will hopefully see a reduction going forward.

December brought us another very successful Christmas Tree festival at our church and a large part of our village were involved. Cllr Mrs TossPELL presented a sea-side themed tree on behalf of the Parish Council. The New Year came in with a splash as a dozen or so brave souls, led by Cllr Dearnley courageously dipped into the sea in aid of St Mary's School.

The Environment Agency unveiled their proposals to abandon sea defences at Clymping. The subject has stimulated much local interest and concern. We now await the Agency's response to the consultation with the preferred strategy option being announced this summer. I thank all councillors but especially Cllr Burrell for their input.

The parking and car sales in front of our ancient church has been a long running issue and is inching towards a resolution, with an alternative car park recently being granted planning permission. Hopefully works to control parking will soon take place. The South Downs National Park finally came into existence on 1 April after many years of public inquiry so we now look forward to the positives that the designation will bring.

Following a £44,000 grant from WSCC leader fund, West Beach has seen the opening of improved visitor facilities. With the recent improvements at East and Clymping beaches, coupled with the new "longest bench" both locals and visitors can get pleasure from our seaside more. Thank you to Cllrs Biss and Bye for all their help with the Clymping Gap Group.

Our village continues to perform well as the hub of our community, the various sports teams are thriving and are well supported. We saw the retirement of Tom Hoare as a trustee after many years of input and on 25 July the Hall will be hosting a BBQ and evening dance to thank both Tom and John Wooldridge for their years of dedication.

We look forward now to the open gardens week-end which, if past years are anything to go by, should be a tremendous community event, so thank you to all those who have organised or are taking part in it. With the Environment Agency strategy announcement, new houses at Bersted, Feltham and Lyminster; whispers of prison expansion, West Bank regeneration and the looming cuts in public spending; I'm sure your Parish Council will have plenty of issues to address on your behalf. I would like to thank our whole council and clerk for all their input over the past and coming year.

3. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported on the statement of accounts which was noted by the meeting.

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Haymes felt that the relationship with Arun DC was very good and that the parish was regularly consulted on matters of interest to it. He advised members of cut-backs within Arun but felt these would not affect front-line services or planning enforcement. The Mayoral charity this year would be Help the Heroes. The Housing department will start on “raise the roof” project for housing within the district with five key priorities. He advised that there will be changes in the on-street parking with Arun DC taking over the enforcement itself. He also reported that the LDF has been on hold for some time and that as yet it was not known how the new government proposals for changing planning arrangements would operate.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs Coleman reported that recently it has been fairly quiet recently for WSCC because of the election period. The Council Tax rate was 2.5% and a financial saving review is going on, although it is hoped this will not affect front-line services. She thanked CAFÉ, all the local councils and local MPs for winning the Ford Eco-Town argument and also mentioned the success of the campaign to save the hospitals. A new leader of WSCC has been elected as the previous one had been elected MP for Crawley. She had recently visited the Clymping caravan park and a lot of residents told her that they had not seen a policeman for a long time. Therefore she had asked our local PCSO to visit them. The MRF has been a great success and she was not aware of any major problems with regard to its operation. She also acknowledged the granting of planning permission for a cars park on the Rudford Estate which she hoped would lead to the stopping of car parking on the green outside the Church.

6. JOINT DOWNLANDS COMMITTEE

Cllr Biss reported that over the last year there had been no particular issues affecting the parish and that the last meeting was about the visitor centre.

7. VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Bye reported that there had been a successful football season and this had led to an improvement in the ground. Much of this work had been done to comply with Sussex County football rules. He said it was five years since the Hall was last decorated and due to difficulties with volunteers the Committee were looking at bringing in a professional team to do it. The Committee are trying to improve facilities outside as well and are working hard to keep the car park well illuminated for safety reasons. On 25 July there will be a barn dance and celebration for Tom Hoare and John Wooldridge and there will be a bench (provided by the parish council) to commemorate them. Fencing on the Church Lane frontage will be provided to 10ft and an application for grant monies has been submitted.

8. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One person asked about the possible housing on the West Bank but was told that this was a tentative proposal at the moment.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parish Council Location	Clymping	
Date/Time	Clymping Village Hall, West Sussex	
	Thursday, 27 May 2010 commencing at 19.30 hours	
Present Cllrs:	Phillip Bye	Also Present:
James Baird in the Chair	Chris Dearnley	Peter Bilbrough (Clerk)
Graham Abbot	Lara TossPELL	6 members of the public
David Biss		Cllr Stephen Haymes (Arun DC)
Henry Burrell		Cllr Mrs Christina Coleman (WSSC)
ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
01/10	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were no apologies.	
02/10	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Cllr Baird was elected chairman	
03/10	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN Cllr Biss was elected vice-chairman	
04/10	ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES Planning Group – all members Transport Group – Cllrs Biss, Burrell and Dearnley Downland Area representative – Cllr Biss with Cllr Baird as a substitute Village Hall Representatives – Cllr Mrs TossPELL and Cllr Dearnley Clymping Gap representative – Cllr Bye Viridor Liaison – Cllr Bye Police Liaison – Cllr Bye	
05/10	MATTERS OF URGENCY NOT ON THE AGENDA There were no matters of urgency	
06/10	MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15 APRIL 2010 The Minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2010 were confirmed.	
07/10	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising not covered in the Agenda	
08/10	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Baird and Bye declared an interest in the Village Hall.	
09/10	COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC A resident complained about signs near Rudford Estate (which Cllr Biss agreed to take up with Arun DC) and the lack of proper warning to HGVs at Ford Lane not to go down and it was agreed to write to WSSC about signage.	Biss Clerk
10/10	COMMENTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Cllr Haymes invited members to meet with the local MP.	
11/10	ADMINISTRATION (a) Village Hall It was reported that meeting of the management committee is open to public and the next one will be on the last Friday in July. (b) Parish Plan The clerk referred to an email from Ford Parish Council confirming that they were withdrawing from the parish plan. Members were very disappointed at this decision. Cllr Dearnley agreed to review the raw data to see the feasibility of it being analysed. The Clerk was asked to contact the other parishes with plans about the success of the plans and their operation. (c) Police Report The police statistics had been circulated and were noted by members.	Dearnley Clerk

Signed by Chairman