

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Thursday 19 May 2011 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Clymping

PRESENT Cllr James Baird in the Chair, Cllrs Chris Dearnley, Terry Hockley and Barry Shears, the Clerk and two members of the public

Apologies were received from Cllrs Abbot, Burrell and Reid and Cllrs Haymes and McIntyre (Arun DC)

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 May 2010 were received and signed as a true record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

We began the year with news that Ford Parish Council no longer wanted to proceed with a joint Village plan. This was timed with the Coalition Governments localism bill intentions for empowerment of communities to take control of local planning and to undertake Village Design Statements; Climping Parish council agreed it would no longer pursue the Village Plan idea and would instead commence a VDS, details of an approved format are currently emerging and work should hopefully commence shortly.

Traffic through our community has been a focus of the Parish Council. Some problems persist such as rat running on Horsemere Green Lane, speeding on Climping Street and general increased numbers. The Council continues to engage with the County Highways and supports measures to facilitate walking and cycling. We have seen continued degradation in infrastructure, following a second particularly cold winter; potholes that have been reported are being repaired. SID was deployed again this year, organised by Cllr Dearnley with assistance from PCSO Matthews; as usual, the feeling was that it helped in the battle for speed awareness and that our community would like to see our speed limits respected and enforced.

Crime levels remain low, but still present, our PCSO, Lee Matthews has been visible on the ground but is soon to be stretched over a much larger area; there is a need to remain vigilant and to report all crimes.

The Village Hall received support from the Parish Council during the year, a garden seat and plaque commemorating John Wooldridge and Tom Hoare's many years of dedication was funded and an event was held in their honour in the summer. The Council supported the application for new safety fencing and has been informed of pending works to the failing veranda and sewage system. Thank you to Cllr Bye for all his hard work with Village Hall matters and Cllr Abbott for attending meetings.

Cllrs Abbott, Burrell and Biss have been actively attending meetings on the Coastal Defence Strategy, which recommends "doing nothing" at Climping. The Strategy has been up to the High Court during the year and is currently having certain sensitivity tests undertaken to model the impacts of greater levels of seawater inundation. An updated version is due to be published shortly and the Council will be asked for its views before it is submitted for final approval. The Environment Agency has also begun work on the Lower Arun Strategy and formal consultation will commence shortly, the Parish Council will engage with the Agency in order to properly represent our Community.

I visited the Open Prison in October and was very impressed with the high standards of education and training as well as the well cared for facilities; I felt the Prison was being well run and integrated well into our community. I was very disappointed to hear of the New Year day riots, but not surprised that excessive alcohol appeared to be the catalyst, as this issue has long been an open secret. Works to repair the damage to buildings are at an advanced stage and no less than 2 internal inquiry results should be published shortly. The Parish Council has invited the Governor to attend a meeting once the inquiry results are available.

The Climping Newsletter reached its tenth anniversary during the year. This popular publication has been supported by the Council since the beginning and I hope for many more years to come; congratulations to all those involved on reaching this milestone.

The Village school had an unprecedented emergency evacuation when some fly tipping containing gas cylinders was set on fire close by. Thankfully no one was harmed in the incident, but it turned out to be the grand finale of a long run of dumping and burning of waste beside the School. The Police spoke with a number of local suspects and there have been no further incidents to date. However, litter and fly tipping remains an underlying blight on our beautiful green lanes, I and the Council remains committed to stamping it out.

A grant of £3,000 was paid to the School for maths educational material, the feeling was that although this was a large sum for a small council, the learning value for our small school was equally large, we are informed that the learning programme is very popular with both teachers and children. The Council continues to support our school and are interested in their green initiatives such as the electric car racing and wind power.

Some residents have been requesting allotments, which our community currently does not have, but we are progressing towards an agreement with Mrs Pat Stancomb at Bilsham Corner where we should secure around 20 plots for our Villagers for the next 25 years; this is a joint venture with Middleton and Ford Parish Councils.

About 70 parishioners took part in a walk of our Village boundary, raising £700 for the school. There was an overwhelming feel good factor, both on a personal level and with a strong community sentiment, so much so that it is proposed to repeat the event this Autumn. I would like to thank Cllrs Dearnley and Abbott for their hard work in organising this event.

Our BT cables have been stolen on multiple occasions. This crime is not just a simple inconvenience, it is damaging to businesses and people who require the telephone lines for their security, safety, work and wellbeing. The disruption caused is dramatic and frustratingly slow to rectify. The Parish Council is supporting efforts to bring fibre optic high speed Broad Band to Climping to replace the burglar attractive copper wiring.

The Church Green has been the subject of much discussion and we are now at the advanced stages of a consensus on finding an agreed resolution. The unlawful car sales, abuse by travellers and overspill parking from the Rudford Estate were behind the initiative to restrict parking; we now have the support of the Church, WSxCC and it will be for the new Council to bring this matter to a conclusion. Thank you to all Councillors for your input to this especially Cllr Tospell for your help and patience in finding a solution.

I am saddened to report the demise of the Clymping Gap Partnership; the forum was set up to bring Littlehampton Town and Climping Parish closer together with the environment, countryside access and habitat improvements at the heart of its agenda. It is likely that the current economic downturn is the main cause for the windup and it is hoped that the organisation will be restarted as soon as better times return. Thank you to Cllrs Biss and Bye for all their efforts on this committee.

The Parish Council continued with its support for Mr Sennitt to monitor and maintain our Village ponds, which are currently in a healthy state. Voluntary work parties are always welcome to help with beach litter picking and with pond clearance.

Following the recent election, we say goodbye and thank you to Cllrs Tospell, Bye and Biss and a warm welcome to Cllrs Shears, Reid and Hockley.

With the imminent Environment Agency Strategy announcement, new houses at Bersted, Felpham and Lyminster; changes at the Prison, Allotments, Church Green Parking and Village Design Statement, 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 our 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

There was no report from a district councillor

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There was no report from the county councillor

6. JOINT DOWNLANDS COMMITTEE

There was no report on this matter.

7. VILLAGE HALL

In his absence Cllr Abbot sent a written report confirming that the veranda had been removed and made safe and a water leak fixed, that the Chairman of the Village Hall was remaining in office but that a new booking person had taken over with a representative of the stallball team agreeing to become vice chair. Mr Bye agreed to continue being secretary and treasurer. The hiring fees had not been increased except for cricket which was now £20 a game. However, money was still a big problem and it was agreed that more rental income was required and that there should be advertising around the parish. The positions of President and Vice President were left vacant.

8. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The members of the public thanked the parish councillors for all the work done in the last year.

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parish Council	Clymping	
Location	Clymping Village Hall, West Sussex	
Date/Time	Thursday, 19 May 2011 commencing at 19.30 hours	
Present Cllrs:	Terry Hockley	Also Present:
James Baird in the Chair	Barry Shears	Peter Bilbrough (Clerk)
Chris Dearnley		5 members of the public
ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
01/11	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllrs Abbot, Burrell and Reid and Cllrs Haymes and McIntyre (Arun DC)	
02/11	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Cllr Baird was elected chairman	
03/11	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN Cllr Dearnley was elected vice-chairman	
04/11	ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES Planning Group – all members Transport Group – Cllrs Burrell, Dearnley and Shears Downland Area representative – Cllr Baird with Cllr Hockley as a substitute Village Hall Representatives – Cllrs Abbot and Reid Viridor Liaison – a representative from the Transport Group Police Liaison – Cllr Burrell	
05/11	MATTERS OF URGENCY NOT ON THE AGENDA There were no matters of urgency	
06/11	MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 10 March 2011 The Minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2011 were confirmed.	
07/11	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising not covered in the Agenda	
08/11	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Baird declared an interest in the Village Hall and the planning applications.	
09/11	COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC One resident requested a contribution from the parish council of £350 for Clymping Fete funding which was agreed to.	
10/11	COMMENTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS No Councillors were present. It was agreed to ask them to send a report on what they had done for the last six weeks if they were not able to attend meetings.	Clerk
11/11	ADMINISTRATION (a) Village Hall There was nothing to be discussed on this standing item not covered in the Annual Assembly. (b) Parish Design Statement It was agreed to have a meeting in about three weeks to discuss this matter and the Clerk was asked to circulate members to check their availability. (c) Police Report The police statistics had been circulated and were noted by members. Members had a full discussion of police enforcement with the local PCSO. (d) Ford Prison	Clerk

	The Clerk reminded members that the Governor would be coming at 7pm on the next Parish Council evening and that he would circulate a series of questions to be asked of her.	Clerk
12/11	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>(a) Clerks Salary It was agreed that the Clerks salary for 2011/12 be maintained at £3516 but that the expenses be increased from £150 to £300.</p> <p>(b) Payment of accounts It was agreed that the following accounts be ratified or paid: Weller – Works to Village Hall £900.00 SALC – subscription £236.25 Aon – Insurance £674.76 Village Fete – donation to support for £350.00</p> <p>(c) Audit It was agreed that the council was satisfied with the annual accounts, that systems were in place to ensure that funds were properly managed and that the public were properly advised of their rights to inspect the same in accordance with the requirements of the audit form. The chairman was authorised to sign the accounts to that effect.</p>	Clerk
13/11	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>(a) Planning Applications CM3/11/L Hand Rail at Church House, Church Lane, Clymping Members had no objection to this proposal.</p> <p>CM4/11 – Renewal for change of use of piggery, The Street, Clymping Members had no objection to this proposal.</p> <p>(b) Liquor Licence re Boat House Café, Ferry Road Members had no objection to this application.</p>	Clerk
14/11	<p>HIGHWAYS</p> <p>(a) Highways and Transport Group The Clerk reported that he had had to press for a response to the issues raised at the March meeting and answers had only just been forthcoming. They were (a) HGV Sign in Horsemere Green Lane – referred to traffic engineer to assess (b) Erosion of Church Lane – The road will be assessed and in the meantime regularly inspected (c) Pothole in A259 – repaired. It was agreed that Cllr Shears would make contact with WSCC to progress matters face to face. Members noted an email from Mr Shorrocks about the need for traffic calming in Clymping Street. Members understood that this letter is to be put into the newsletter to get the view of the local residents and it was also agreed that Cllr Shears will raise this matter with WSCC highways personally. It was agreed to respond to Mr Shorrocks to this effect. The chairman reported that the headwall had collapsed at the culvert in Ferry Road and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact WSCC about this.</p>	Shears Clerk Clerk
15/11	<p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>(a) Church Green Members agreed to set up a site visit with Cllr Coleman, a relevant WSCC officer and a representative of the church to decide on a course of action once and for all.</p> <p>(b) Allotments Cllr Baird reported that the Agreement had been prepared but while the parish council was keen to proceed it was agreed to raise issues with Ford Parish</p>	Clerk Clerk

	<p>Council over insurance and planning permission. In the meantime the Clerk was authorised, in consultation with members, to take such action as may be necessary between meetings.</p> <p>(c) Lower Tidal River Arun Strategy The Clerk reported that the comments from the parish council at the drop-in session and in correspondence had been acknowledged by the Environment Agency and that matters would be progressing over the summer.</p>	
16/10	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>(a) Former Councillors It was agreed to write to former councillors Biss, Bye and TossPELL to thank them for their service on the council.</p> <p>(b) Dates of meetings It was agreed to put on the Agenda for the next meeting a question on the dates of future parish council meetings.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
Dated	7 July 2010	
Signed by Chairman		