



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Document Reference 2323

Minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Monday 27th November 2023 at 7:30pm in West Hoathly Village Hall

Members

Ken Allfree

Will Buckley

Martin Robinson (Vice
Chairman)

Bob Darvill

Peter Browne

Paul Brown

Claire Hilton

Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)

Amy Marshall*

* denotes absence

Also present:

Leanne Andrews (clerk)

Anita Emery (RFO)

County Cllr Garry Wall

There were 3 members of the public present. A member of the public introduced themselves as the owner of Philpots Farm and outlined their objections to application DM/23/1973 that is on the agenda. The member of the public explained how three sides of the permitter wall of the proposal are jointly owned and asbestos is present in the barn roof. Several highways concerns were also raised, including the increase in traffic and the concern that there is not much turning room at the site.

197) To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Amy Marshall and District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho.

198) To receive declarations of interest from Parish Councillors in respect of any matter on the agenda

There were none

199) To approve minutes of the Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on 30th October 2023 (Document Reference 2320)

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman

200) To receive the clerk's report

The Clerk's report was received

201) To receive Councillor reports

a) West Sussex County Councillor Report – Cllr Garry Wall

Financial planning for next year at WSCC is seriously challenging, budget planning is currently showing a 91 million deficit. There are no new funding sources.

£60 million HS2 allocated funds has been allocated to Highways Improvements.

An officer meeting is due to take place on Thursday 30th November to discuss the Community Highways Scheme application at the Fox junction.

b) Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Lorraine Carvalho

The following report was circulated to members via email

Cllr Lorraine Carvalho Report

Response by MSDC to GAL application

MSDC has recently issued a comprehensive response to the GAL application. In my query to whether this has been published and made available publicly, I have received the following response from MSDC:

The Response will be published on the Planning Inspectorate web site [Gatwick Airport Northern Runway | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk) in due course and will then be publicly available.

MSDC email 20.11.23

AONB Rebranding

On 22nd November 2023 all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were renamed as National Landscapes. This included a logo change to the one below.



High Weald
National
Landscape

The intention is to unite all 46 National Landscapes across England and Wales, raise the profile of the National Landscapes network and create greater understanding and awareness of the work of National Landscape Partnerships.

The High Weald has recently obtained funding to explore how it can become more inclusive and accessible. One very successful project has been the replacement of gates for stiles. The project will provide the gate for farmers and landowners to fit (although funding can be obtained if necessary for this as well). If any Parish Councillor is aware of any local Farmer or Landowner that would be interested in this project, please let me know or contact the High Weald directly.

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

On Monday (20th November) Mid Sussex District Council launched its statutory consultation on the proposed scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places for UK Parliamentary General Elections.

The proposed scheme is now available to view through the Council's [website](#) alongside some additional materials. There will also be a consultation response form to complete via this page.

I would encourage the Parish Council to review the proposed scheme and participate in the consultation to ensure suitable arrangements are being proposed which facilitate the ability for all members of the electorate to be able to vote.

Armed Forces Veterans Drop-In sessions and Breakfast Clubs

Plans are underway to set up a Veterans Drop-In and Breakfast Club in East Grinstead. Once this is established, I will be looking to set up a similar arrangement in Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill supported by Officers of MSALC and Lin Stockwell.

Update on Wildgoose Stables Application

MSDC are waiting to hear back from their Ecologist concerning various of concern primarily raised by Cllr Paul Brown and supported by myself.

c) Mid Sussex District Councillor Report- Cllr Paul Brown

District Cllr. Report from Paul Brown to WHPC 27th November 2023

West Hoathly Brickworks DM/23/0827. Another tranche of documents has been added to the MSDC planning portal. They are mainly covering responses by the applicant to matters raised by the Urban Designer, by the High Weald AONB and landscape advice from Place Services Ltd about the proposed Suitable Natural Green Space (SANG). Residents who have already made representation may shortly receive another letter from MSDC planning office. There is no need to make further representation, unless you wish to comment on the content of these new documents. Comments already made will be still taken into account.

I am a member of the 8 member cross-party Finance and Budget working group which has just met the third time at 4:30 today.

I have made representation to Gatwick Airport DCO Consultation citing east-west travel impact on this parish and the impact of airport expansion on climate change. I have also made representation to the WSCC Draft Active Travel Consultation.
Cllr. Paul Brown

202) Planning applications

a) To consider planning applications received from the Local Authority

It was agreed to consider DM/23/1973 prior to the other applications

DM/23/1973 Philpots Manor School, Hook Lane, West Hoathly

Conversion of two existing barns (used as equestrian stables) to create two detached dwellings, together with associated car parking, landscaping and amenity space (Revised plans and Planning Statement received 30.10.2023. Sustainability Statement received 30.10.2023)

After considering the updated application and associated new information available from Officers, Fire Service and Environmental Health Officer, also the correspondence from neighbours, the Parish Council **object**. The development of

the two detached houses would adversely impact on adjacent properties and conflicts with Mid Sussex District Plan Policy DP15

2 members of the public left the meeting.

DM/23/2213 / DM23/2214 - Old Coombe House Station Road Sharpthorne

Installation of new side hung timber garage doors to detached garage in the setting of a Listed Building, following removal of existing garage doors. Amended Plans received 03.11.2023

Listed Building Consent

The Parish Council had **no objections**

DM/23/2790 1 Cleveland Cottages, Ardingly Road, West Hoathly

Installation of 2m high acoustic fence along the east side of the boundary, running parallel to the road and set back approximately 2m from the road, behind an existing roadside hedge (to be retained). The fence will include a gate.

The Parish Council had **no objections**

DM/23/2491- Duckyls Farm Centre, Selsfield Road, West Hoathly

Change of use from agricultural building to office space. partially demolish the unstable structures to the front and insert new doors and windows.

The Parish Council had **no objections**

DM/23/2707 / DM/23/2714- 1 Peckhams, North Lane, West Hoathly

Listed Building Consent

Refurbishment and repair of a Listed Building, including reinstatement of porch

The Parish Council had **no objections**

203) To review the Financial Statements

- a) To approve the **Parish Council** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
 - b) To note the **Parish Council** combined bank rec and year to date accounts
- The Parish Council Financial Statements were noted.

- c) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** bank reconciliations against corresponding bank statements
- d) To note the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** combined bank rec and year to date accounts

The Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall Financial Statements were noted

204) To ratify and approve the payments for November 2023

a) To approve the **Parish Council** expenditure as itemised on the schedule

Two additional payments was presented for November-

1. £150.00 – Gary Coxhall

2. £262.50- Derek Shurvell

The payments of £5,594.33 for November were unanimously ratified and approved.

b) To approve the **Trustees of West Hoathly Village Hall** expenditure as itemised on the schedule

The payments of £1,215.05 for November were unanimously ratified and approved

205) To note the Interim Audit Report

The interim audit report was noted. The Clerk & RFO were thanked for their work to ensure a clean audit report.

206) To consider a grant request of £650 from St Margaret's Church to come out of the Jubilee/Coronation fund that the Parish Council holds on trust

The Chairman explained how as requested by the Council, the Jubilee/Coronation planning group held a meeting to gain the wider view of the committee. The majority of the committee were in favour of using the funds for the 'Big Picnic' event that is being arranged by St Margaret's Church.

Considering this additional information the Parish Council voted on the grant request, 7 were in favour, 1 was against.

It was therefore agreed to grant £650 from the Jubilee/Coronation fund to St Margarets Church for the 'Big Picnic' event.

207) To consider a motion proposed by Cllr Paul Brown that West Hoathly Parish Council agrees to urge Metrobus, Division Member and West Sussex County Council to engage with this Council and work towards implementing changes to provide a viable and sustainable bus service 84 (supporting paper supplied)

The supporting paper was circulated to councillors with the agenda. Cllr Brown provided more detail on the proposal and explained why it had been put forward as a formal motion.

Following discussion Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock proposed an amendment to the motion to include.

or

To permanently reinstate a 'hail and ride' bus service between Dunnings Mill and Turners Hill (Sopers), in both directions.

With this amendment the motion was unanimously agreed. (see appendix 1)

County Cllr Garry Wall agreed to support the motion.

208) To receive an update from the Bluebell Woods working group meeting held on Monday 6th November

An update was received, and it was noted that the meeting notes had been circulated via email.

209) To receive Committee Reports

- a) To note Minutes of Meetings taken place
 - i) Asset & Highways 13th November 2023 (document reference 2320)

The meeting minutes were noted

210) To receive reports from external meetings attended by councillors

Cllr Martin Robinson and Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock attended the MSALC AGM on the 14th November. Douglas Denham St Pinnock was re-elected as Chair and Martin Sheldon was elected at Vice Chair.

211) To receive correspondence

The Clerk read out an email that had been received from the potential new owner of St Dunstan's Chapel.

Two email complaints regarding the bonfire event were circulated to councillors. The concerns were noted.

Emails from WSCC (Public path diversion applications), MSDC (Polling Place Review) and an email from a resident of Lindfield regarding Ash Dieback were noted.

212) To resolve in the light of the possible confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that in the public interest, the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw

The member of the public and County Cllr Garry Wall left the meeting.

213) To note the NJC backdated pay award for the Clerk and RFO

The backdated pay award for the Clerk & RFO was noted.

214) To note items of interest or items for inclusion at next meeting of the Parish Council

Date of next meeting 18th December 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:43

Chairman-----

Appendix 1

Public Transport Metrobus Service 84

West Hoathly Parish Council notes that the bus service serving residents in West Hoathly Parish which includes Sharpthorne and West Hoathly, (and also Turners Hill), does not provide, in the opinion of this Council, a sustainable or viable bus service. This bus service currently does not enable: -

a) a bus in the afternoon timed so that commuters can return home. The last bus departs from Crawley at 16:10 and the last bus departs from East Grinstead at 17:10, meaning the service is not suitable for commuting and employment.

b) connection with Crawley Down for medical centre, shops and connecting bus services 281 and 291 towards East Grinstead which would afford half-hourly connectivity from Crawley Down to East Grinstead.

c) setting down and picking up at points of interest along the attractive rural route serving both West Hoathly Parish residents and visitors from Crawley and East Grinstead. There are no bus stops along the route in the zone formerly designated as 'Hail and Ride', meaning that the service between Turners Hill and Saint Hill Green has not been publicised. Metrobus drivers cannot be relied upon to stop to pick-up or drop off at the following locations: -

Legsheath Lane for Weirwood Reservoir;
Grinstead Lane / Chilling Street for Tyes Cross;
Eight Acre & Duckyls Cottages for Stonelands;
Selsfield Common.

Therefore Council agrees to urge Metrobus, Division Member and West Sussex County Council to engage with this Council and work towards implementing the following changes to provide a viable and sustainable bus service 84.

- i) To provide an additional later service 84 bus from Crawley and from East Grinstead so that residents have a sustainable bus service.
- ii) To revert Service 84 to its previous route such that all service buses travel to and from Crawley and Three Bridges via A264 Copthorne Common Rd, B2028, Crawley Down War Memorial, Station Road and Grange Road, Turners Hill 'The Crown', Turners Hill Park, West Hoathly-Chapel Row, Sharpthorne, Saint Hill Green, Dunnings Road, Hurst Farm Road, Brooklands Way, Railway Approach terminating at East Grinstead King Street and commencing service in the Crawley direction at East Grinstead War Memorial.
- iii) To provide, advertise and promote four additional bus stops at Legsheath Lane for Weirwood Reservoir; Grinstead Lane / Chilling Street for Tyes Cross; 8 Acre & Duckyls Cottages for Stonelands; and at Selsfield Common.

or

To permanently reinstate a 'hail and ride' bus service between Dunnings Mill and Turners Hill (Sopers), in both directions.

END.

Informatives

Tulley's Farm had established a thriving farm shop in Turners Hill Road which has now closed. Service 84 route towards Three Bridges via Crawley Down and Copthorne Common Rd was redirected via Turners Hill Rd towards Worth Corner and Three Bridges. The important connection for both West Hoathly and Turners Hill residents to shops and medical centre at Crawley Down was lost.

In East Grinstead Town it is proposed that the Herontye Drive anticlockwise route is discontinued except for the morning and evening school services. All other services would terminate at King Street. This stopping place is adjacent to public conveniences and town centre cafes where the driver can take a rest break. The bus would then proceed via Cantalupe Rd to East Grinstead War Memorial as the starting point for all services. This was the former route.

The routing of morning and afternoon service 84 in East Grinstead, serving students attending Sackville and Imberhorne schools in East Grinstead would remain unchanged. Sackville school pupils are served by the Lewes Rd bus stop on the A22 near to the Toucan crossing. Imberhorne upper school pupils morning service should follow the same route as service 281 via Whitehall and Brooklands Way, and Gardenwood Road. For the evening pick-up service at Sackville school the bus would follow the War Memorial, Ship Street, Herontye Drive route to pick-up on Lewes Rd and then follow exactly the same route as the morning drop off service to Imberhorne continuing along Imberhorne Lane to Saint Hill Green (missing out Hurst Farm Rd and Dunnings Road) and then onwards towards Sharpthorne.

Cllr. Paul Brown
19th November 2023