

Apuldram Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Apuldram Parish Meeting held on 11th January 2024 which commenced at 7pm at the Education Centre, Dell Quay.

PRESENT: Matthew Higgs (Chairman), Harriet O Sullivan, John Welch, David Bagnall, Graham Pound and Marsha Jones

In Attendance: Jane Lataski, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Mother Jessica St Mary the Virgin Church and fourteen members of the public.

12.23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Sandi McCartney, Mark Moranne (Vice Chairman) and six members of the public.

13.23 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2023

On a proposal by Chairman, it was RESOLVED to agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2023; this was duly completed.

14.23 Election of additional member to the Chairman's Advisory Group

On a proposal by Graham Pound, it was RESOLVED to elect Helena Dupee as an additional member of the Chairman's Advisory Group.

15.23 Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Update and Speed Limit Reviews

15.23 (1) Appledram Lane South TRO - Helena Dupee reported the joint application for both Appledram Lane South and Dell Quay Road was submitted to West Sussex County Council in June 2023, by August West Sussex County Council had conducted an assessment and the application had been progressed to moderation. Speed data was gathered in September. The Highways Engineer has confirmed that the speed data meets the requirements. Consultation is due to take place shortly. If there are no adverse comments, then the scheme will be implemented in the financial year 2024/25.

15.23(2) Dell Quay Road TRO -Helena Dupee advised that additional speed data is not required for Dell Quay Road as the road meets the road characteristics of a 30mph speed limit.

The Chairman thanked Helena for the work conducted on this project so far.

15.23(3) A286 speed reduction - Residents confirmed that they supported the proposal by Birdham Parish Council to reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40pmh from Crouchers Hotel to the boundary of the existing 40mph zone and the existing 40pmh be reduced to 30pmh. It was noted that Birdham Parish Council were currently collecting the data for this project.

15.23(4) 20 is Plenty - Marsha Jones reported that the signage has been installed to remind people to go slower. It was noted that the signs have been damaged, however, they will be reinstated.

15.23(5) Speed Indicator Device (SID) on A286. Concern was expressed that the sign is faulty, it was agreed that the Chairman investigate the issue and the clerk to investigate the cost of a replacement device. It was noted that no one came forward to volunteer to maintain the device.

16.23 Footpaths

16.23(1) Extension of footpath 179 (Donnington to Appledram Lane South) the Chairman advised that residents of Donnington had expressed concern in relation to the location of the exit of footpath 179 and had requested that consideration be given to providing safer access to Church Lane and the onward footpaths. It was noted that the County Council owned the land, however, there is a tenant farmer, it was agreed to investigate this project further and to provide an update at the next parish meeting on 23rd May.

It was noted that the Clerk had contacted the Clerk to Donnington Parish Council who had agreed to raise this project and to consider assisting with funding of this project via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

16.23(2) Salterns Way Cycle Route extension to divert the access on Appledram Lane South
The Chairman highlighted the issues associated with the current entrance/exit on Appledram Lane South and proposed diverting the path to the junction on Appledram Lane South and Dell Quay Road. Concern was expressed about the potential safety issues with the access coming out nearer the busy junction. However, it was agreed to investigate this proposal and to report back to the next meeting on 23rd May.

17.23 Flooding in the parish

The landowner reported that work had been carried out on the Appledram Lane South unblocking road drainages and had succeed in unblocking the culvert, however, one drain is still not accessible due to the level of the water, the landowner advised that they were planning to carry out further works on the ditches to increase the capacity. The Chairman thanked the landowners for the work carried out. The landowner advised that Church Road and the church carpark are lower than Appledram Lane (South), however the water from church carpark appears to be running round the front of Rymans, along the road and then into the pond.

A resident expressed concern that her elderly parents who have health issues and live on Church Road are stranded in their property and the resident was concerned that emergency services would not be able to access the property if required. She advised that West Sussex County have been notified of the issues, the County Council have advised that the work required is on the priority list. Mother Jessica expressed concern that the Church is inaccessible, a funeral with a full burial is due to take place in 10 days; this has also been raised with West Sussex County Council. It was agreed that subject to permission from the family the Clerk write to the Chichester Observer expressing concern about the issues associated with the funeral.

The Clerk highlighted that Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group had carried out [The Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands \(FLOW\) project](#) in 2020, the final report highlighted the issues and those responsible for the improvement works required.

The Clerk advised that West Itchenor Parish Council pay for additional gully clearance to take place. It was agreed that the Clerk request a quote.

It was noted that Chichester Climate Change Group are holding a public meeting with two presentations on Flooding and Drainage on 7th February 2024, at Quaker House Prior Road commencing at 2pm

18.23 D-Day Commemorative Event

Marsha Jones, Hilary Caine and Harriet O'Sullivan advised that in conjunction with Dell Quay Sailing Club they were at the early planning stage to provide for a commemorative event on 6th June 2024, including investigating the purchase of a gas fuelled beacon which if purchased would be lit a 9.15pm. The lighting of the beacon would be registered. We are currently investigating the possibility of a town crier to read the declaration at 8.15am. We are also looking at providing a display about the event and the association with D Day and the parish. The 6th of June is also designated Fish and Chip Day 2024 and are currently investigating the options available in relation to this.

Jane Lataski agreed to obtain confirmation from the Harbour Conservancy that it was acceptable to hold the event on the quay.

On a proposal by Hilary Caine, it was agreed to hold the event.

19.23 Finance

19.23(1) Overview of current financial year

It was noted that the Clerk was awaiting access to the bank account, no work had been carried out on the account for the current financial year when she commenced work for the parish in November. However, she had carried out the work required from April to October as of the 31st of October the reconciled accounts for the parish were £12,730.57 which included the designated reserves held in relation to Operation Watershed which amounted to £6,600.00. The Chairman's advisory group has tasked me with finding out further information in relation to the operation watershed funds held and this will be conducted at the earliest opportunity.

The clerk expressed concern that the budget set had exceeded the precept request by approximately 50% which meant that the parish were using the undesignated reserves to carryout project. In addition, there were a number of projects that had been carried out and no budget had been assigned to these projects, including the hedge cutting.

19.23(2) To approve the Budget and Precept for 2024/25. The clerk advised that the Precept had not been raised for the past three years and this could not continue. In addition, the proposed expenditure for 2023/24 was £6991.00, however, the Precept request was only £3750.00 which means that budget expenditure is using the reserves held by the parish meeting.

The Clerk advised that this cannot continue as the Parish Meetings are advised that they should hold as a bare minimum in the general reserves 50% of the precept for the year. Therefore, it is proposed that the precept request covers the entire cost of the budget expenditure.

The Clerk explained in detail the budget figures, there followed a discussion on the areas that could be reduced, however, following discussion on a proposal by the Chairman it was agreed that the expenditure budget for the coming year (2024/25) is £5957.64. This is reduction on the previous year proposed expenditure budget of £6991.00.

This would mean that the precept request submitted would be £5957.64, this would amount to £63.92 for a band D dwelling, a weekly increase of 42 pence per week.

On a proposal by Marsha Jones, it was RESOLVED to set the precept at £5957.64.

20.23 Speakers Segment

20.23 (1) Jane Lataski, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the education centre is part of the community and Jane hoped that the centre did not cause too much disruption, she advised that they work closely with the visiting schools to try and ensure that the disruption during the arrival and departure is kept to a minimum.

Although the Harbour has been referred to as an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) for many years it is now referred to as a National Landscape. The Harbour Conservancy duties include conserve and enhance the natural beauty and wildlife and protect the recreational interests of navigation, as well as being the Statutory Harbour Authority.

To enable the Conservancy to perform their duties they opted to provide an education service to help young people engage with nature and promote a sense of guardianship for the harbour and to provide first hand experiences including the animals that live in the harbour and associated streams. The education provide is linked to the national curriculum and the centre provide a high-quality experience for primary and secondary school children.

The Chairman thanked Jane for her presentation.

19.23 (2) Commodore Mark Moranne the History of Dell Quay - absent due to ill health.

21.23 Questions from the public (questions to be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting)

There were no questions from the members of the public.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.36pm

Signed: _____ Dated _____