

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
17th April 2013 7.00pm
In the Main Hall at The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Present: Chairman Cllr R Bryan

Cllr R Adkins	Cllr R Dudman	Cllr M Hockley	Cllr C House	Cllr Mrs A Warman
Cllr M Dyer	Cllr B Goringe	Cllr N Hindmarch	Cllr Mrs J House	Cllr R Warman

In attendance: Clerk Mrs A Jacobs; County Councillor P Richardson and 39 Members of the public.

The Chairman asked for a minute's silence in memory of all those who have died during the last year and who gave a commitment to serve the public, including two local people, Brian Parsons a long serving member of Homewatch and editor of their magazine and Mr Fred Hutchings who was a previous Parish and District Councillor.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all those attending. He reminded those present that once the agenda items were completed there would be the opportunity for public questions and asked that the public waited for this.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr J Crow; Cllr G Willetts; Clare Gronow, Moors Valley; Ken Brooks and Mr and Mrs A Smith.

3. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 18th April, 2012 were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House seconded by Cllr M Dyer.

4. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Chairman's Report: Cllr R Bryan Chairman of the Council, gave his report a copy of which appears as Appendix A with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

6. Finance Report - Cllr R Warman, Chairman of Finance reported. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B.

7. Amenities Report – Cllr M Dyer, Chairman of Amenities reported. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix C.

8. Planning Report – Cllr N Hindmarch, Chairman of Planning reported. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix D.

9. Updates from the working Parties:-

Cllr C House gave a brief update from the Car Park Working Party: As previously mentioned due to the success of the various Clubs and organisations using the Village Hall complex car parking has become an issue at times. The Working Party have looked at several areas within the vicinity of the Village Hall and have settled for using part of the Scout compound. The Scouts wanted some clearance and this was donated by a local businessman. It looks to be the most cost efficient solution, but whether it will be within budget is still to be decided. The working party has spent a lot of time looking into the project. We still have costs to get and then a proposal will be put to full Council.

Cllr Mrs A Warman gave a brief update from the Allotments Working Party: A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix E.

10. Public Forum: The Chairman opened the meeting to the public.

1. Mr Kenworthy, St Ives Park – Moved to the Parish 20 years ago because of the sylvan setting and large plots. This Council has allowed backland development. His children play regularly on Horton Road Village Green.

He urged Councillors to remember when they were children and do more for children. This is a designated Village Green and therefore comes under the Commons Act and Enclosure Acts. The Council does very little for Youth. Chairman you stated that you had no takers for the Garden Share Project. Did the Councillors not put forward their gardens?

Chairman: We are only a consultee on planning applications so we have not allowed backland development in fact we have opposed a number of such applications Cllr Hindmarch and the planning committee have worked very hard at trying to maintain this area as it is. As previously said we have been working hard to try and get the Youth Club up and running but have been unable to get the County Council to provide a Youth Leader. We also put up the bunds in the field after the illegal encampment to protect the field for the Youth and Community.

2. Mr Richards Ashley Drive North – This is the only football field in Ashley Heath to play on. If you take this one away there is nowhere else for the children to go.

Chairman: The Allotment project is a process which we have to go through and your comments will be taken into account when the Full Council decide if they go ahead and where.

3. Cllr M Dyer: Cllr Warman you mentioned that Lord Normanton said he had no problem with the proposal, I understood he said it was an interesting proposal not that he agreed with it.
Cllr Mrs Warman responded that she had spoken to Lord Normanton's Agent, and that he had no problem with the proposal. Previously Lord Normanton had also been asked about the possibility of a skatepark on the site which he also had no problem with.
4. Mr Cod, Horton Road – I am a Magistrate and I have submitted a letter tonight. This was read out and questioned the legality of using a Village Green for this purpose. Mr Cod informed the meeting that the proposal is nothing to do with Lord Normanton, but he could see that it would perhaps be courteous to inform him. A car park on the green would be a breach of the 1857 Act and Commons Act. If this land is released for allotments it could in future be deregistered as a Village Green and then it would be lost forever. There are other areas in the Parish for allotments such as the Grange; Hospital site; Moors Valley or Avon Heath Country Park?

The Chairman thanked Mr Cod for all the effort and work he had put in on his presentation.

Cllr Mrs Warman: I have been working with EDDC and the Working Party to search for sites. The Chairman confirmed that the Council would keep looking for an appropriate site.

5. Mr Hawkins, Local Historian, was pleased to hear about all the detail of the Acts as he had been involved in investigating a similar issue for Ringwood Town Council when they turned Bickerley Green into a Village Green. When they wanted to build a pavilion they had to find additional land as it was not allowed on the Green. There is a lot of new legislation and his personal opinion was that we should protect and defend it.
6. Resident: I had an allotment with Ringwood Town Council. They will allow non- residents to have an allotment although there is a waiting list of about 5 years.
The Clerk will check this out with Ringwood Town Council.
7. Mr Ayles St Ives Park: I question the suitability of this site. The land here will not grow produce. I live less than 100m away and I cannot grow anything. I would like it minuted that the vast majority here would be against this site. There is a very good costing from another resident who estimates the project cost at £50,000 and EDDC estimate £15,000. I do not know if EDDC are working to the same standard but either way it is a lot of money when we hear about people not being able to afford their Council tax. I am not happy with the "delay" and I am convinced that this will not go through and ask that this is recorded.
The Chairman asked how many present were not electors, there were four, these people were asked not to vote. He then asked for a show of hands for anyone in favour of this project at Horton Road, no hands were raised but the legality of the straw poll was challenged. The Clerk confirmed that this was in order and as Parish Electors Councillors could vote. The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those not in favour of this project on this site with the exception of four people who wished to abstain and also the non-electors being excluded everyone else were against the project at this site. The conclusion was that there was a clear majority against this site being used for this purpose. The Clerk reminded the meeting that of course this was a snapshot as there were over 6,500 electors in the Parish.
8. Resident of Ashley Park It is very important to have an open space for safety. The Horton Road is already very busy. We want to encourage more young people into the Parish. This site is a legacy and this Council

should cherish it and protect it. Looking at the balance sheet the cost is a concern. I plead for future young people, it is a field and that is how it should stay.

9. Mr Walker, Whitfield Park – I believe West Moors is in discussion with Sturts Farm about a possible site. Have you contacted the Sheiling?
Cllr Mrs Warman confirmed it was on her list to contact them.
10. Mr Ellis, Horton Road – I have the biggest boundary with the site and can confirm it is impossible to grow anything on that land. I also have to get onto or off the Horton Road twice a day and it can take 15 minutes to do this. The entrance is near a bus stop and opposite a junction, children use this area and I would like to keep them safe.
11. Mrs Macree – I do not live near Horton Road but in all my years I have not seen anyone use it, does anyone? Another resident confirmed that every week lots of youths use it for football, and dog walkers as well.
12. Resident of St Ives Park – I live adjacent to the park and it is used. There were 8-10 children playing on it tonight.
13. Mr Slaughter – Have you had an answer from Wessex Water about the impact of the sewer pipe?
Cllr Mrs Warman responded that she had. The pipe is 9' down and would not impede any allotment.
14. Cllr Dyer: The quality of the land is a major issue, it is the same problem on the other side of the A31. You can throw lots of top soil at it and that helps for perhaps a year maybe but then it needs more, it is all ex-heathland. I have serious doubts that any suitable land could be found in this Parish.
15. Mr Hawkins, historian – If you want to read about the problems of growing here read William Webb. He purchased both sides of the old Roman road to form the Garden Estate. The whole first chapter is devoted to the work you would need to do. The only thing this land is good for is chicken farms.
16. A resident asked for better communication with residents and the Council. Could emails be collected or more information put on the website to keep residents informed. The Clerk was asked to investigate. An update will be given at the May full Council meeting.
17. Mr Ayles: You say you are prudent with money, but what would the Council deem to be imprudent?
Chairman: I can't answer that question as it would need to be discussed at full council.
The Chairman thanked the working party, especially Cllr Mrs Warman for all their work on this proposal.
18. Mr Milstead, Braeside Road: Why does it cost twice as much for a non-resident of Ringwood to be buried at Ringwood than anyone else? The Clerk gave a brief explanation that this was a national issue due partly because the residents of a Parish pay their Council tax to the Council which runs and maintains the burial ground. Non-residents are not paying in to this and they can therefore charge more to them. Burial land is in short supply if charges are not increased to non-residents there can be a surge in demand just because it is cheaper in that town the ground then fills up and residents have nowhere to go. Mr Hawkins passed a scale of charges to the Clerk, the Clerk will follow this up as she is not sure if there is a duty on a Council to make provision.
19. Mr Hawkins: The current burial ground area at Ringwood was previously allotment land.
20. Mr Cod: Are there any plans to get the speed limit reduced on Horton Road to 30mph?
Chairman: For the last few months we have been trying to get a crossing at Moors Valley and also dropped kerbs along the A31, there appears to be a cost issue preventing this.
Mr Cod: It does not cost a lot for a speed sign, what about some regular speed checks.
Mr Frecknall will talk to the Police to see what can be done. In the meantime a new national campaign I about to be launched: Community speed checks, you will need volunteers who will have to be trained but it is a way forward.
Cllr Mrs Warman advised that the Homewatch AGM is on Saturday afternoon and the Police will be present.
21. Mrs Macree asked if there could be some means of identifying the roundabouts for visitors, for example, Woolsbridge Roundabout.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20.45pm.

Chairman