

ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
16th April 2014 7.00pm
In the Main Hall at The Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards

Present: Chairman Cllr M Dyer

Cllr R Bryan	Cllr M Hockley	Cllr C House	Cllr Mrs A Warman
Cllr B Goringe		Cllr Mrs J House	Cllr R Warman

In attendance: Clerk Mrs A Jacobs; and 15 Members of the public.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all those attending.

2. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr R Adkins; Cllr J Crow; Cllr N Hindmarch; Cllr G Willetts; County Councillor P Richardson and Ken Brooks. Cllr R Bryan would be arriving late.

3. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 17th April, 2013 were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mrs J House seconded by Cllr B Goringe.

4. Matters Arising:

Min: 10.18 – Burial Fees The Clerk reported that an article had been compiled and placed in the last newsletter explaining about the burial ground and fees at Ringwood. The Council had previously subsidised burial fees from 1933-1963 after which due to escalating costs it ceased. The Council had tried previously to source land but had stopped searching back in the late 1960's.

Min: 10.20 – Speed checks – Mr Frecknall the Chairman of Homewatch reported that following the Homewatch AGM last Saturday three volunteers had now come forward but 5 more are needed. Advertising on the parish noticeboards and newsletter was suggested.

5. Chairman's Report: Cllr M Dyer gave his report:

- A productive meeting had been held by the Council with Wessex Water and a good relationship seems to have formed. They were most helpful and supportive.
- Speeding: I have reported three speeding incidents to the Police recently
- The Council was pleased to have contributed to the Police bike and has a good relationship with the local Officers. The new PC is very helpful
- We have completed the new gym
- The EDDC Core Strategy is now completed with the only major development in the Parish being the Hospital site. A care village had been approved but permission has now lapsed and we are waiting for a further application. Concerns now are for wildlife and access
- Urban areas are expected to contribute to the housing requirements
- Cllr Mrs A Warman is on Planning at EDDC and I am the Chairman of the EDDC Committee however I must remain neutral.
- We also got action at long last re dropped kerbs along the A31, it was a real fight but achieved in the end.
- Issues this year appear to be Horton Road parking and speeding.
- Following the District boundary review, the Parish can request a boundary review and this will be on the next full Council agenda.
- The viability of the Youth Club is a cause for concern as attendance is once more patchy
- We are also concerned about the Navitus Bay Windfarm, you may not think that this will affect us but the route of cable runs and links into substations will certainly impact on the Parish.
- My thanks to County Councillor Peter Richardson; Peter Walker for his work on the footpaths; Terrafirma Maintenance; the Police and the Dog Warden for their service this year. Also thanks go to the Clerk Mrs Ann Jacobs.

- My final word goes to the Memorial garden which we assisted financially this year, it is a peaceful and restful place to go at times of need

6. Finance Report: Cllr R Warman reported:

Expenditure is contained and some of the underspend will go into the forthcoming year. The budget was set when upheaval was anticipated following the Localism Act and we were told more work was coming our way from higher up. So far it hasn't arrived but this has meant our accounts show an £11,163 underspend. This is a little misleading as we still have £5,050 to pay for the kerbs, administration costs of the Clerks revised pension. We can now pay her pension by Direct debit which means we no longer pay NI. This combined with other measures has resulted in a saving of approximately £3,100. Repairs to the playground are also due so not yet shown. Some of our savings have been achieved by alterations to working patterns. My thanks to the Clerk but also to Councillors who gave holiday cover saving the Council on paid cover.

Grants and donations: We have supported the two CAB's; Greyfriars minibus; Age Concern; The Friday Friends and Brightside Clubs. The VHMC also received a substantial grant and the Scouts received £6,500 (gift aided) for new flooring.

I would remind you that unlike a private individual the Parish Council investments are not covered by the FSCS. It is possible to get a small % of interest but our priority is security therefore interest received is very small

The Chairman asked the floor for any questions. There were none.

7. Planning Report: Cllr Mrs J House gave her report a copy of which appears as appendix A with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman asked the floor for questions:-

(7.20pm Cllr R Bryan arrived late due to traffic problems.)

A resident noticed that on the last two meetings there were more apologies than Councillors attending was there an issue?

Cllr Mrs House responded that it was a small Committee and the absences were due to holiday, sickness and a business meeting. The Chairman pointed out that whilst not a Member of the Committee if not quorate he is able to attend in an emergency and we have always managed to be quorate so far.

8. Amenities Report: Cllr B Goringe gave his report a copy of which appears as appendix B with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman asked the floor for any questions. There were none.

9. Working Parties: Allotments - Cllr C House gave his report a copy of which appears as appendix C with these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman asked the floor for questions:-

1. A gentleman from Oaks Drive asked what the quality of the soil was like as most land around the Parish is ex heathland?

Cllr House: This will still need looking into as well as the access but we need commitment first. Obviously we will not want to spend unless the land quality is suitable.

10. Open Forum:

1. A resident pointed out that the newsletter quoted 1968 as being the last reference to burial land and it was rejected due to crossing the A31, there are roundabouts now. With the aging population of this community could it be looked into again. The Clerk will put on a future agenda once some research has been carried out. It was pointed out that it would need planning and anything within 400m of heath would not be permitted.

2. A resident from Struan Gardens pointed out that the website states that streets should be cleaned six times a year, whilst roads are being done pavements are neglected, is it a householder duty or the Council's as there are concerns over safety. Cllr Mrs Warman reported: DWP are now responsible and they struggle to do pavements even once per year budgets are really tight. Whilst part of me feels it wouldn't hurt the odd resident to do their part, some are not able to. Mr Thorne of Boundary Lane stated that after six attempts the pavement at Boundary Lane had been done by hand. In towns they have small machines why in this day and age are we doing it by shovel?
Residents were asked to report any pavement requiring cleaning to the Clerk for reporting to DWP.
Cllr R Warman: This is one of the issues I mentioned which is being passed down the line. Money is not available. There is a limited budget as the Government has capped at a certain level of Councils. There is rumour we will be capped at some point.
3. Mrs Tester asked who is responsible if I trip and break my leg on debris left on the pavement? The Clerk will report St Ives Park pavement for cleaning.
4. Mr P Walker: After a great deal of effort a deep clean has been carried out on the pavement between St Ives Park and Ashley Heath roundabout it was only 12" wide in parts before.
5. Mr Ford of Sandy Lane asked how the 38 bus service was going? Cllr Mrs Warman reported that whilst there was talk that the Saturday service would cease the service was heavily used. The bus company have been very co-operative even adjusting the service to stop at the school for children. The Clerk will ask Cllr Richardson if a decision on the Saturday service has been reached. Mr Ford asked the Council to keep the Public fully informed about the service to keep it used.
6. A new resident to Oaks Drive had noticed an increase in HGV's on Horton Road, they travel very close to pedestrians. The new Core strategy allows for development of the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate. Is there anything that can be done to get the Parish to raise concerns re future plans? The long term plan needs to take into account that this is a rural road. The Chairman responded: There is a liaison group, there is no weight limit on the road, we can try to flag this up.
Resident: In the past there has been talk about a cut through to the A31.
Cllr Mrs House: Azalea Roundabout was once on the plan as a link but I do not think that it is now possible as vehicles are much bigger.
Cllr Mrs Warman reported that a further 9 hectares of land had been added to the Woolsbridge Estate.
7. Mr R Ollis – If the proposed gravel extraction proposal takes place will this mean extra lorries using Horton Road?
Cllr C House: There is a possibility of this.
8. Mrs Macree: On Monday this week cars were parked both sides of the Horton Road outside of Moors Valley which was very dangerous.
Cllr Mrs Warman: This was because the overflow car park was too wet to use.
9. Mr Walker: The link to the A31 is now off the plan as there is now SSSI land between the A31 and Woolsbridge Industrial Estate.
The Chairman: There is no money, money comes from developers. We might try to change types of vehicles but getting new roads is very difficult and costly.
Cllr R Bryan: People do need to be aware of the potential impact of the proposed windfarm. The substation is to be at Grundy's farm which will mean decimation of land on the route to it from the bay as they lay pipes and this will impact on traffic. The Chairman: In the press the Government is reported as having second thoughts about the benefits.
Cllr Mrs House: Stressed that residents need to give the Parish Council their views on these and other issues such as Purple Haze, they also need to make direct representations themselves.

The Chairman thanked all for coming and closed the meeting at 8.05pm