

Steyning Parish Council



The Steyning Centre, Fletcher's Croft, Steyning,
West Sussex, BN44 3XZ

Telephone: 01903 812042

www.steyningpc.gov.uk

www.thesteyningcentre.co.uk

MEETING OF FULL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM

IN THE STEYNING CENTRE

Present: Cllrs Goldsmith (Chairman), Campbell, Cree, Hanson, Lloyd, Rudkin, Saunders, S Sullivan, G. Sullivan, Taylor, Trundle, Northam, Norcross, Alexander and Young.

Clerk: John Fullbrook

Members of the Public: 47 {Including District Cllr Platt and WSCC Cllr Barling}

Meeting commenced 7.30 pm

MINUTES (Non-Confidential)

FULL/19/128 APOLOGIES

128.1 No apologies for absence were received. All members present.

ACTIONS

FULL/19/129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

129.1 There were declarations of interest from Cllr S. Sullivan as is a committee member of the Steyning Community Orchard Group.

FULL/19/130 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

130.1. **Q** – Russell Barnes – ‘So disappointed with Steyning Parish Council over the last 7 months- in my opinion there is a lack of democratic process – especially involving the Neighbourhood plan process, but also this Council lacks openness and transparency with so many confidential sessions and with so many councillors not involving themselves in debates or discussions, not to mention a clear division amongst Councillors which appears to be helping to divide the Town, most worryingly Councillors behaviour towards other Councillors, to the Clerks office and even more concerning their behaviour towards members of the public as well, its so sad and unnecessary, there are some wonderful Councillors and it would be such a shame to see another year go by with more of the same. ... I think it's time certain Councillors put personal grievances to bed and moved forward in a positive way for the benefit of the wider community. The Community is already moving forward in a more positive direction and are proactively involved in a new group called the Steyning Forum, I notice we have one of our projects on the Agenda so it would be very positive to hear all the Councils on this item and if for once certain councillors could concentrate on what benefits their community rather than personal issues. Please work together to create a really positive culture for Steyning and to give us a Council we can trust’

130.2.1 **Q** – Phil Bowell – re Agenda item 6.9 – ‘To Earmark £5,000 for Neighbourhood Plan expenses – Could we have a clear understanding as to where this and the other items needing to be Earmarked to cover funding for other Agenda items, will be coming from, because it should not come from the Council's emergency reserves?’



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
Deputy Clerk: Hazel Roxby

Email: clerk@steyningpc.gov.uk
Email: hazel.roxby@steyningpc.gov.uk

- 130.2.2** **A – Cllr Goldsmith – John would you like to explain that, - Clerk – Thank you, there have been two discussions already on this item, one at Full Council and then we took it to F&GP where it was discussed more fully. We agreed at F&GP to recommend to Full Council that £5000 be earmarked from Council reserves, where there are sufficient funds, and therefore we will not be touching Emergency reserves.**
- 130.3.1** **Q- Geoff Barnard from the Greening Group - I think it's clear from the throng outside, how strong the support is for the Parish Council to get behind the motions that Georgia Saunders has provided for us this evening, first for SPC to declare a climate emergency, the second to set up a working party to figure out what we expect we can do about it, and the third to give us official backing to create a plastic free community for Steyning, Bramber and Beeding. I'm pleased to say there is widespread support for these issues from the Group and its important to say that there has been a really good start made by this Council and also the support from District and County Councillors. Many of us are delighted with how ahead of the game we are with the SPC Neighbourhood plan on Climate Change -it being put front and central which is quite pioneering – which says Steyning will take active steps to ensure Steyning becomes a Climate smart community. Steyning needs to come together to work out what those steps are to be, so I very much hope there will be a consensus tonight to do just that – the ball is in your court.**
- 130.3.2** **A – Chairman – Thank you**
- 130.4.1** **Q – Mr Ashby- two things – pleased to report that the 'Welcome to Steyning' sign has now been put up over the weekend and Steyning in Bloom have planted it up already. There have been many positive comments already, one person commented though that it was quite tall but this did not reckon on the fact that there will also be 6 huge hanging baskets throughout the Spring and Summer and obviously it has to be tall to allow these to be hung at sufficient height. Can I appeal to the Council to support Steyning in Bloom to assist with more finances as I believe many other councils give up to 4 times as much as this one? Same money in today as we did in 1999.**
Second, – A disappointment as Peter Povey as rep. of Steyning Community minibus reported at beginning of the year that the over 70 drivers will instead of receiving free annual medical tests will now have to pay £90 each which amounts to an extra £450 a year they have to find. Council at the time said they were going to write to put the matter right which they did but sadly there was no reply and the Councillor nor Office chased it up. After research I took up the case and went to the practice Manager who after many chases replied that they were going to put their charges up to £140 from the first January, with the only concession being that they would keep it at £90 for the next two years. The Community minibus is one of the most important things this community has, to alleviate isolation and loneliness issues. Can I ask you again to support the community Minibus? (I have also asked Bramber and Beeding Parish Councils)
- 130.4.2** **A- Chairman – We are discussing budget; I am aware of it and I will make sure other members are made aware of it also. Cllr Cree – Rodney Goldsmith helped raise over a £1000 towards the Minibus at a recent Charity race night.**
- 130.5.1** **Q – Two meetings ago you asked the County Cllr the question about possible yellow lines installation at the end of Fletchers Croft and both times his reply was to give him a bigger job, and I notice it is on the Agenda again today – Have you discussed bigger jobs. – I can tell you there are several twittens, roads and footpath's that are not fit for purpose and need work in Steyning to prevent trips and falls, and while Cripps lane is running with water.**
- 130.5.2** **A – Chairman – I have got a note of these things because these footpaths and hedges are the responsibility of the County Council and we ask our Councillor to sort them out. If they are only going to be dealing with these things every other year then there are going to be problems.**
- 130.6.1** **Q – At the last meeting you asked our District Councillor about Electric Charging points and the response to his letter was really poor. They talked about there being different compatibility problems with different charging systems for different cars which is simply not true. Having done this Car Park, they did not put in any charging points. Get those electric charging points in and don't put up with those weak excuses. Could you look after Steyning first not 'Steyning First' first.**
- 130.6.2** **A – Cllr Lloyd – not a lot more to say because it will sound weak as this is what Horsham have said – Basically I cannot say more than that as I am as annoyed as everybody else that they have not been installed in this car park as they were supposed to do so, perhaps Council needs to write a strong letter. Cllr Cree – Mr Has had two chances to stand for an election if he feels so strongly about this, why hasn't he done so. Cllr S. Sullivan added that she felt Cllr Barling had always served Steyning well in**

terms of our Highways and always gives a prompt response. Regarding the Car Park it is hugely frustrating. We are constantly being fobbed off. Cllr Northam – I think the point is – you keep on doing the same thing, when are we going to learn it doesn't work.

130.7.1 **Q** – *I didn't give my name so thanks for that, I didn't stand as I knew a good candidate was already standing. If there is another vacancy I will do so.*

130.7.2 **A** – *Chairman – You making a note of these John - Make sure letters go out to Horsham DC re electric points and to Cllr Barling or the County Council*

CLERK

FULL/19/131 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

131.1 *The Chairman said – 'The Welcome sign really does look good and thanks very much. I intend bringing forward item 7 – Climate matters. To remind Steyning residents we have already completed a number of projects on this matter, Solar panels, and soon to be LED light installation at the Steyning Centre, recently employed recycling bins, on the allotments we are looking at restricting pesticides, water usage, bonfires, plastic use, plus we are in early stages of a tree planting project at Abbey road. Waterless urinals in the High street toilets, and streetlights going off at 12.15am'*

FULL/19/132 CLIMATE MATTERS

132.1 Council went on to discuss the factors involved in the three Climate emergency Motions. Cllr Saunders **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Hanson that Steyning Parish Council joins other Local Parish, District and County Councils in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing to the reduction of Steyning's Carbon footprint through significant measures by the year 2030. **Agreed**

132.2 Cllr Goldsmith **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S. Sullivan to set up a working party comprising Cllr Saunders, Northam, Alexander, Trundle and District Councillor Bob Platt with terms of reference to be brought back to full Council for approval and to make recommendations to the Full Council for the creation of a 10-year Action plan aimed at establishing a clear pathway towards the implementation of all agreed significant measures by 2030. **Agreed**

Cllr Saunders

132.3 Cllr Goldsmith **proposed, seconded** by Cllr to discuss and agree Steyning Parish Council's backing of the campaign to make Steyning, Bramber & Upper Beeding plastic free Communities. **Agreed**

FULL/19/133 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

133.1 Cllr Goldsmith **proposed**, Cllr G. Sullivan **seconded** the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. **Agreed**

133.2 **Minutes of 27th November meeting were not ready to be agreed**

FULL/19/134 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

134.1 Cllr Goldsmith suggested that as the Wardens were not in attendance, that Councillors and Residents read the full report as it is available on the Web Site

FULL/19/135 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BARLING {County Councillor representative}

135.1 WSCC Full Council meeting tomorrow (17th December) where a report from the Children's Commissioner will be read. The important theme will be in regards to governance.

135.2 A 20mph speed limit Zone has been implemented in Upper Beeding and Cllr Barling would be happy to champion a similar Zone in Steyning if SPC agreed a Motion to do so

- 135.3** Lamp Posts – WSCC has an electric vehicle charging strategy, and Cllr Barling will look into this strategy in relation to the point raised earlier in this meeting
- 135.4** Highway Maintenance budget has been under pressure with many services curtailed, however some elements that were removed have been reinstated such as gritting routes.
- 135.5** Mouse Lane needing possible Gulley reprofiling and reduction in speed limit and Cllr Barling will be looking into these.
- 135.6** Quarry House corner to be cut and Chevron sign replaced. Cllr Hanson to take a picture and email Cllr Barling

FULL/19/136 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 136.1** Cllr Norcross reported on the ongoing process to approve the Youth service contract and associated MOU. Clerk to continue to pursue this matter with the Solicitors.
- 136.2** The Chairman suggested to move the HR Services item into Confidential session and it was suggested that Council vote on whether to take it into confidential session at the end of the meeting.

FULL/19/137 COMMUNITY MATTERS

- 137.1** Cllr Hanson **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Norcross to agree to support a trial period for the 'Happy to chat' bench promotion in the Bus shelter. **Agreed 7 For {S.A, L.T, J.N, S.N, D.H, T.L, Ge.Sa} . 6 Against {Sa.S, Ga.Su, P.C, R.G, T.R, T.C}, 2 Abstain {C.Y, K.T}**
- 137.2** Item on membership to the Inter- Parish Group was deferred to next meeting

FULL/19/138 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES / DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- 138.1** Cllr Tim Lloyd – (HDC) updated on Bin collections over the Xmas period with details available on HDC web site. Dog Bins emptying service to be digitised. Mouse Lane is due to be cleared by HDC when Cars are cleared. Recommend that Cllrs visit the Recycling Plant at Ford so that they are better informed about these issues.
- 138.2** Cllr Bob Platt – (HDC) updated the 'World at Horsham' scheme has been passed by HDC, plus there have been discussions to reduce Horsham's Carbon Footprint by 2030 and there are proposals to offer 'seed' funding to Parish Councils to support environmental projects.
- 138.3** Cllr Rodney Goldsmith – (LAT) update was part of Wardens report.
- 138.4** Cllr Rodney Goldsmith – (HALC/ SALC/NALC) - No Meeting to report
- 138.5** Cllr Chris Young – PPG - updated the Health Centre had coped well despite staffing issues, and increased workload, and had increased their appointment times from 10 minutes to 15minutes. Patient survey results are now available online and they have now appointed a new 'social prescriber'. They have asked that the Parish Council help with publicity to local businesses so that more become Dementia friendly. Full report on Web site.
- 138.6** Cllrs Cree and Rudkin – Joint Parishes Cemetery Committee - updated that Family that owned land adjacent Cemetery had now confirmed they would not be willing to sell

- 138.7** Cllr S. Sullivan – SCO - Updated Events and meetings have gone well
- 138.8** Cllr Hanson and Cree – Update on Soft Sands working party – Brief note was drafted for ‘Your Steyning’ to update residents but this has not been agreed as yet.

FULL/19/139 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

- 139.1** Cllr Goldsmith **proposed** to go into Confidential session , **seconded** by Cllr S. Sullivan.
Agreed 9 For, 4 Against, 2Abstain

FULL/19/140 HR SERVICES

- 140.1** To discuss the appointment of HR Services, with reference to the terms of their engagement and the Council's expectation of any outcomes – F&GP Committee has given RG and PC the delegated authority to instruct HR services. A meeting had already taken place and Cllr Campbell reported on this. Another meeting was planned for the New Year, this time to include an ‘HR services’ representative, Cllrs Lloyd, Campbell and Goldsmith and the Clerk.

FULL/19/141 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10:03 pm

Signed Date 20th January 2020

Chairman

Audio recording available at:

<https://archive.org/details/20191216steyningparishcouncilfullmeeting>