

Steyning Parish Council



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MEETING OF FULL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 17th JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM

IN THE STEYNING CENTRE

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

Clerk: John Fullbrook

Members of the Public: {Also present; WSCC Cllr Barling, Neighbourhood Wardens}

Meeting commenced 7.30 pm

MINUTES

FULL/19/31 APOLOGIES

ACTIONS

31.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Trundle, Ray and Bissett-Powell.

FULL/19/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

32.1 There were declarations of interest from Cllrs S. Sullivan as live adjacent the MPF and serve on the Steyning Community Orchard.

FULL/19/33 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

33.1.1 *Q – Steyning First, the banner under which 8 Councillors serve, is registered as a minor party. There is disquiet in the Town as to the party's intentions and to why each councillor from this party and two of the new independent members are all nominated by the same person who lives in Twickenham and has no links with Steyning. How many other members does this minor party have? Could the Chairman or perhaps the independent candidates themselves please satisfy the electorate that they intend to act independently and in the best of interests of the Steyning residents?*

33.1.2 *A – Cllr Cree said that Mr Comber who is a resident of Steyning was a friend and that's why he nominated him. He explained that he had lived in Steyning all his life and that if people came in to see him work in the committees, they would soon understand that he was entirely independent. The Steyning first name merely suggests that Steyning should come first. Cllr Campbell also replied that there were no other members of the party and that the two officers who were mentioned were members of his family and lived in Twickenham*

33.2.1 *Q – I wanted to know who Daniel Higgs and Susan Higgs were and Mr Campbell has answered that now.*



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
Deputy Clerk: Hazel Roxby

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33.3.1

Q - At the first full council meeting Cllr Campbell proposed a completely new set of standing orders together with his own personal choices of numeric details. This included order 7 (a) regarding special resolutions which is aimed to ensure early changes or reversals to previous council decisions are kept to a minimum to ensure cohesion and stability. Previously this figure was 10 out of 15 councillors and consequently it was rarely used. The new number of 8 allows for only needing those councillors who are within the Steyning First party and possibly the two councillors who were nominated by the same individual as those candidates, in contrast those other councillors cannot do likewise. So, this small change represents a reduction in the democratic decision making of this council. Would you confirm that this understanding is correct?

A – Cllr Campbell answered - The number was chosen in consultation with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The fundamental point the questioner appears to have forgotten is that duty of each councillor is to make an informed judgement themselves without being predetermined in any way given the evidence in front of them and whether they are a member of party or not should bear no relevance.

FULL/19/34
34.1

Q – At the first council meeting nearly an hour was spent discussing changes to Standing orders which necessitated an EOM in order to finish the business. On tonight's Agenda we have three items that were old or existing projects running over from the last Council and nothing new. Can the Chairman confirm what were the goals and aspirations of this Council leading into the next four years?

A - Chair said we are a new Council and will deal with each project old and new and will deal with them in as and when things happen.

FULL/19/35
35.1

Q - The 28th May Agenda for the Amenities committee included many items included associated with the Memorial playing field. Does the council agree with me that it would be in the interests of democratic openness and transparency to declare at this point that 5 out of 7 on that committee were proposed and seconded for election by the former Treasurer and Chair of the Friends of the Memorial Playing Field – a protest group? Secondly given this situation how does the Amenities committee go about ensuring public confidence that decisions of this committee will be made in the broader public interest rather than to serve the interests of the individual councillors or a third-party protest group?

35.2

A – Cllr Campbell replied - Every member of this council has a 'declaration of interests' form and every one of us has got our relationship with the MPF on that, and every Councillor must make their judgement on the evidence that they see and must be judged on their record. Cllr Cree added it was an insult to call the Friends of the 'Memorial playing fields' a protest group. Indeed, Mr Comber designed a Skatepark for the Sports Centre.

CLERK

FULL/19/36
36.1

Q – 'Friends of Memorial playing fields {FoMPF} were a protest group set up to protest group against the democratic will of the Steyning residents regarding the Skatepark and it is a registered fact.

A – Chairman responded - When the Parish council at the time called for that democratic vote, they were fully aware that there were doubts as to whether it would go there. The Parish council were advised that there would be noise problems there, but the Council ignored this advice and carried on with their vote, and the council did not give the residents al the information.

36.2

Q – The FoMPF instigated a Town vote which was carried out incorrectly, and the decision could not be upheld and therefore the SPC (all the members agreed to approach HDC to have a proper vote and the democratic result of that was to build a Skatepark in the memorial playing fields.

A – Cllr Campbell said he had never been a Chairman of the FoMP. Chair' acknowledged what was said

36.3

A – Cllr Northam attempted to qualify the context of the statement made by Cllr Cree. He said that relating to Mr and Mrs Comber being anti skatepark, and the point that was made about receiving planning permission for the skatepark adjacent the Sports Centre. The examiner could not overturn all the objections as stated by Cllr Cree because the Landowner had said 'Which part of No do these people not understand – there will be no Skate park here'

A – Cllr S. Sullivan added - The Parish Council at the time explored building a small below ground Skate park at the MPF and that they would not proceed if there was going to be a noise issue and appointed a

CLERK

specialist to find that out but sack that contractor having received the news that it was indeed going to be too noisy

- 36.4 *Q – Russell Barnes asked for clarification on two topics. But before that stated with regards the NP Steering groups request for an open and reasonable discussion about how the Neighbourhood plan will progress under the new Council, despite best endeavours from the Steering group and contrary to Cllrs previous statement there have been no offers for this discussion to take place. I'm keen to continue with the tremendous work that has been undertaken so far, and do not fear, despite how it has been portrayed, which Councillors may join the group, however I am very concerned that some of the decisions made by Council lack justification and necessity and I question it and why shouldn't I because it is all about openness and transparency, but I prefer to draw a line under these issues. What is the Parish Councils direction for the neighbourhood plan moving forward? There are three clear options*

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

36.5

36.6

CLERK

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr **Proposed**, Cllr **seconded** the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. **Agreed**

36.7

Cllr **Proposed**, Cllr **seconded** the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings. **Agreed**
It was pointed out to me today that I missed out a point of order regarding Cllr Bissett-Powell's request to have public questions at the end of the meeting if there was time to do so – so if we could accept the minutes subject to this amendment please.

CLERK

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS

FULL/18/177.2 Confirmation from Enplan that change of planning consultant details acceptable to them – **Actioned**

36.8

FULL/18/178.1 Police station renovations - The Clerk updated that the building works have been put back because they had found collapsed drains, however handover date will be the 1st July with then internal fitting out to be completed by mid-July is the hope – we have been assured that the first to be reopened will be the Public facing service and they will let us know.

36.9

FULL/18/178.2 - SPC's involvement with Bramber PC's Neighbourhood plan discussions regarding proposed site at Clays field. Cllr Goldsmith updated that

36.10

- 36.11** FULL/18/178.7 Article 4 working party update – Cllr Goldsmith updated that
- 36.12**
- 36.13** FULL/18/179.1.2 Possible ATM installation on the Steyning High street – See Agenda item 16.1
- 36.14** FULL/18/179.5 External Auditors progress with signing off 2017/18 Accounts – Clerk updated that Council have at last received communication from the external auditors who stated they were completing their work on the 2017/18 audit taking all the matters raised into account as brought to their attention rather than as a formal objection. Clerk continues to help them with their enquiries and a full report will follow.
- 36.15** FULL/18/180.2 Neighbourhood Wardens contract and new MOU – Clerk updated that – Since last Full Council the Clerks of the three Parish councils and Chairs have met to go through amendments of the Wardens Contracts, Memorandum of understanding
- 36.16** (between the three councils) and Key performance indicators, associated with the service. There is certainly broad agreement on all sides but talks continue in terms of the finer details of the three documents. There is a determination to have a document that can be discussed and agreed at the next F&GP meeting on the 9th July, but in the meantime Horsham have sent a letter asking for agreement to pay for the service which is being provided and has been since the 1st April 2019 in the unlikely event of service termination. Because, it's not on this evenings Agenda we cannot agree this yet but it can go onto the Agenda at F&GP on the 9th July.
- 36.17** FULL/19/5.1 Statements to be loaded onto Web site attached to minutes - **Actioned**
- FULL/19/37** FULL/19/11.1 Working party to be convened to discuss at greater length any amendments to Policies - ongoing
- 37.1** FULL/19/12.1 Chair and Clerk to reassign in a way that is acceptable to all committee memberships – ongoing
- FULL/19/15.1 Asset and Land register adoption deferred - Ongoing
- FULL/19/13.1 Committee Terms of reference to be reviewed by Working practices group - Ongoing
- FULL/19/23.1 Steyning Parish Council Policies that were adopted en bloc to be reviewed by the Working practices Group - Ongoing
- FULL/19/24.1 & 24.10 Cllr Representation to be completed on SCO and Joint Parishes Cemetery committee – See Agenda item 13.
- FULL/19/26.1 SPC Insurance cover to be considered at F&GP committee - **Actioned**

FULL/19/29.1 'Respect and remember' correspondence – update from Cllr Hanson

37.2

FULL/19/29.2 Possible assistance for 'Vintage Years' group following correspondence –
Actioned

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

To review the draft minutes from the two recent public open sessions, and to discuss issues raised by the correspondence received from the SPC Neighbourhood plan consultants.

In view of the issues raised at the Full Council EOM on Monday 3rd June, to discuss and agree the way forward with the Neighbourhood plan

Although the skatepark comes into the Neighbourhood plan, to discuss and agree the way forward to provide a skate park for the youth of Steyning

37.3

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

Neighbourhood Wardens report

(Full report is available on the web site)

FULL/19/38
38.1

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr David Barling

FULL/19/39
39.1

JOINT PARISH YOUTH COMMITTEE

Update from Clerk – As current clerk to this committee he has I am in the process of arranging the next meeting of the JPYC. Provisionally the 8th July at 6.30pm This will be our first proper opportunity to discuss session reports and key performance targets with the new supplier.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

To Confirm all Councillors are aware and agree to the Full Council and Committee meeting dates as per

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lloyd update from HDC –

FULL/19/40

40.1 Information is on SPC & HDC websites.

Cllr Platt reports from HDC – Sent his apologies for this meeting

Cllr Rodney Goldsmith – (LAT) update

FULL/19/41

41.1

Cllr Michael Bissett-Powell – SDNP update



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Cllr Rodney Goldsmith – (HALC/ SALC/NALC) update

**FULL/19/42
42.1**

Cllr Chris Young – Isolation and loneliness / PPG update

42.2

42.3

42.4

Cllrs Liz Trundle and/or Georgia Saunders – ‘Steyning Greening’ group update

42.5

REVIEW AND CONFIRM REPRESENTATIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES/GROUPS

Joint Parishes Cemetery committee – Two Reps.

29th July and 28th October with Yearly memorial service on the 8th September

42.6

Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr

Steyning Community Orchard – One rep.

Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr

COMMITTEE MINUTES, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning Committee –Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr , to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th April 2019 .**Agreed**

42.7

Planning Committee –Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr , to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2019.**Agreed**

Amenities Committee –Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr , to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2019.**Agreed**

Amenities Committee –Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr , to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th May 2019.**Agreed**

FULL/19/44

44.1

Premises Committee – Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr , to receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th June 2019. **Agreed**

44.2

Finance and General Purposes committee – To receive and adopt the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th April 2019. Cllr **proposed, seconded** by Cllr
Agreed

TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM REMAINING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR POSITIONS



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
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FULL/19/45 To discuss and agree to appoint Vacant Vice Chair positions in F&GP and Planning
43.1.1

43.1.2

43.2.1

43.2.2

43.3

ATM INSTALLATION

To discuss and agree questions to be posed to the Bank/s in regard to costs associated with possible ATM relocation, including installation and running costs – update from Cllr Goldsmith

43.4

FULL/19/44
44.1

CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
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First – letter from

FULL/19/45
45.1

FULL/19/46
46.1

FULL/19/47 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 15th July 2019 at 7.30pm**

Meeting closed at pm

Signed Date 15th July 2019

Chairman