

Steyning Parish Council



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MEETING OF COMMUNITY COMMITTEE (via Zoom video conferencing platform)

HELD ON 29th September 2020 AT 7.30PM

Hosted by the Deputy Clerk

Present: Cllrs Hanson (Chair), S. Sullivan, Alexander, Lloyd, Campbell, and Goldsmith.

Clerk: John Fullbrook

Members of the Public: Eight, {Including Cllrs Cree and Young. The Deputy Clerk also in attendance and hosting the meeting}

Meeting started at: 7.32 pm

MINUTES

ACTION

C/20/35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

35.1 Apologies received from Cllr Norcross.

C/20/36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

36.1 Cllr S. Sullivan lives adjacent the MPF and is a committee member of the Steyning Community Orchard Group and has a building plot adjacent to the memorial playing field. Cllr Lloyd lives in Coxham lane so declared an interest in Agenda item 7.3

C/20/37 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

37.1 Cllr Hanson as Chairman stated for this meeting under Standing Order 3(e) and 3(h) that a written response will be given to resident's questions.

37.1.1 *Q - Roger Brown asked that certain items be moved up the Agenda so that residents in attendance could hear their relevant items.*

37.1.2 *A - Cllr Hanson responded that the Agenda would be followed but that there would be only a short time before the relevant items were heard*

37.2.1 *Q – Resident asked - What is the overall vision for the Abbey road project and how will residents be involved? What height will the hedge be permitted to grow to? , Who will maintain the hedge and at what frequency? What is the additional expenditure for this commitment?*

CLERK

37.2.2 *A – Cllr Hanson said that a written reply would be emailed to the resident in question as soon as possible. Also, there will be further information later in the meeting under Agenda item 8.1*

37.3.1 *Q – Cllr Goldsmith – Why are there no supporting papers for Agenda item 5?*

37.3.2 *A – Cllr Hanson said she did not send a supporting paper as it was a Chairman's statement without a need for a decision to be made*



Parish Clerk: John Fullbrook
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C/20/38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

38.1.1 To approve the Amenities minutes from the 23rd July 2020. Cllr Lloyd read out a statement on behalf of himself and the Vice Chairman for the Council, in response to two statements (27.1.2 & 27.2.3) contained within these minutes from Cllr Campbell; it being a rebuttal of the following text from that meeting- *'The majority on this Committee having previously indicated that they are predetermined that they are not willing to consider amendments proposed by the Chair under S.O. 10, and that they will always prefer the Clerk's version' and within 27.2.3 'This airbrushing of history is a serious abuse by a dominant voting faction'*. Cllr Lloyd stated that these statements were subjective and, in his view, and that of the Vice Chairman of the Council, an unwarranted slur on the integrity of the councillors to whom this statement is aimed and who had merely been exercising their democratic right of self-determination by voting as they felt fit. Cllr Campbell should not have assumed that Councillors were predetermined as there is no evidence to support this: merely voting against his version of the minutes in favour of the Clerks version does not mean there has been predetermination. The accusation of 'the airbrushing of history is a serious abuse by a dominant voting faction' is a contemptuous statement, it's a matter of public record that Cllr Campbell was a leading member of the dominant group in Council for nearly a year that saw this group voting en block in every major decision the council made during that time. I am sure that Cllr Campbell would defend this voting record as the councillors democratic right of self-determination and that in every split vote there is by necessity a majority that should not be defined as being a dominant faction and he would be right, as it was right in the decision that was made on the 23rd July. It's regrettable that this statement was made as there should be no place in this council or this committee for unsubstantiated allegations from councillor to councillor'

38.1.2 To approve the Amenities minutes from the 23rd July 2020. Cllr Campbell noted an error in the date within paragraph 27.2.3 where it had said 'the 26th May 2020' it should in fact read 'the 23rd of June 2020'. Cllr Campbell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S. Sullivan that this date error be amended. **Agreed.**

CLERK

38.1.3 Cllr Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the 23rd July draft minutes from the Amenities meeting, including this amendment, are accepted as a true and fair record. **Agreed. 3 For {DH,SA, TL}, 3 Against {PC, SSu, RG}. Agreed with Chairman's casting vote.**

38.2 Cllr Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Hanson that the 7th July Premises draft minutes are accepted as a true and fair record. **Agreed. 3 For {DH,SA, TL}, 3 Abstained {PC, SSu, RG}.**

C/20/39 CHAIRMANS STATEMENT

39.1.1 *The Chair stated that she expected Councillors to confine their remarks to not more than two minutes and they may only speak once on each item unless they are moving a motion as per Standing orders. Given the wide remit of this new committee she proposed to broadly dividing tasks into three areas with then certain Councillors overseeing those areas. The three areas being a). Town, Highways, Lighting, Car Parks and Rights of Way. b). Premises owned or controlled by SPC and c). The MPF, other Village Greens, Open Spaces and the Allotments. She hoped to utilise the existing expertise from certain Councillors in the said areas, therefore forming 3 teams, to concentrate on and take matters relating to each forward, reporting back to the full Committee, so that informed decisions may be taken. The suggested teams could be 1). Town etc - Councillor Lloyd and Councillor Campbell. 2) Premises - Councillor Hanson and Councillor Goldsmith. 3). MPF etc - Councillor Alexander, Councillor S Sullivan, and Councillor Norcross. These she suggested were not working parties, but simply a mechanism to ensure progress is being made and tasks are more focused.*

C/20/40 FINANCE

40.1 The Income & Expenditure reports were discussed for the July and August 2020 period. Cllr Hanson **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the income and expenditure reports for July and August 2020 be accepted as a true record. **Agreed. 3 For, 1 Against, 2 Abstained**

		ACTION
C/20/41	MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND OTHER OPEN SPACE	
41.1.1	Abbey Road Village Green – Roger Brown reported on progress regarding the Abbey road biodiversity development scheme and put forward requests as per supporting papers. Simon and Roger to liaise regarding putting together an outline overall plan so that there could be a starting point for a proposed conservation group and working party to discuss options and make recommendations to put forward to committee. Cllr Goldsmith proposed, seconded by Cllr S. Sullivan that the conservation group could start work; that a full biological report for Abbey road be purchased (costed at 50% of £185 + VAT due to discount) and undertaken, and that the Clerk's office purchase some yellow rattle seed (costed at £50). Agreed	Roger Brown / Cllr Alexander CLERK
41.1.2	Cllr Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr Lloyd to form a working party to include Roger Brown, Steyning for Trees, other group representatives and any residents who have written in and want to be involved or shown concern regards the Abbey Road project together with Cllrs Alexander, S. Sullivan and Norcross to oversee the new outline conservation plan for Abbey Road village green and the work to be undertaken by the conservation group. Agreed, 3 For, 1 Against, 2 Abstained.	CLERK
41.2	Steyning Community Orchard – The Apple day was cancelled, but the SCO are going to be at the Farmers Market on Saturday 3 rd . Roger also reported on unfortunate malicious damage to the tree protective cages the previous week. The SCO will complete repairs.	
41.3	Allotments proposed water supply upgrade. Cllr Alexander proposed, seconded by Cllr Hanson that a working party be put together consisting representatives from the Allotment Association, Non-Allotment Association (plot holders), and all committee members were welcome, to agree a specification and once agreed to then gain quotes and move forward depending on budgetary constraints or at least put forward a plan for consideration for next year's budget discussions. Agreed 5 For, 1 Abstained	Cllr Alexander

No other items could be discussed as the meeting ran out of time

C/20/42 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 27th October 2020 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.02pm

Signed: Date: 27th October 2020

Chair

Recordings of this meeting can be found using the following links: -

Video - https://archive.org/details/2020-09-29-steyning-parish-council-community-committee_202009



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