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COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT THE STEYNING CENTRE

Present: Cllrs I Alexander (Chair), Norcross (Vice Chair), S Alexander, Bell, Hanson, Linfield, Sharp and Young.
Clerk: John Fullbrook
Members of the public: 0
Meeting Commenced : 7.32 pm

MINUTES

C/24/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE **ACTIONS**

55.1 Apologies received from Cllrs Lloyd.

C/24/56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

56.1 None

C/24/57 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR {in summary}

57.1 None

C/24/58 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS - To agree 3rd December draft minutes.

58.1 Cllr Norcross **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S Alexander to agree as a true and fair record, the draft minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 3rd December 2024. **Agreed**

C/24/59 MATTTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS - These items were taken as read.

59.1 Abbey Road Management Plan uploaded to Website **– Actioned**

59.2 Compost Bins to be installed @ Chandlers Way **– Actioned**

59.3 Clerk to approach Steyning Primary School for their involvement @ Chandlers Way – **Actioned**

59.4 Steyning and District Partnership approached for them to assist with SDNP grant application – **Actioned**

59.5 Messages to go out to 'Snow Angels' as appropriate – **Actioned /See item 61.1**

59.6 Black & white vintage sign to receive maintenance {Bostal Road} – **See item 61.2**

59.7 SPC to lobby for an improved local bus service **– Actioned, to Climate Action Group**

59.8 Community budget recommendation taken to F&GP / Full Council – **Actioned**

C/24/60 COMMUNITY MATTERS AND OPEN SPACE PROJECTS

60.1 **Abbey Road update concerning recent works, the proposed planting of a hedgerow and a request from the Steyning Community Orchard, plus their Wassail 2025 event briefing.** **CLERK**

With assistance from the Abbey Road lead conservation volunteer, Roger Brown, the Clerk had compiled a report {supporting paper} detailing the work carried out at the three most recent working parties, and he went on to outline the reasoning behind the two requests noted.

60.1.1 The first request was for the planting of a hedgerow, using some 150 hedging plants which had been donated from the national tree planting charity 'The Conservation volunteers', plus 20 Holly plants from the owner of Gatewick House and to build it as per illustrated plan. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Hanson that SPC agree to this hedge being constructed. **Agreed**

60.1.2 The Steyning Community Orchard (SCO} requested extending the existing planting plan for 12 trees {9 of which have already been planted, with final three going in on the 22nd February '25}, by adding 6 more (as per supporting paper plan). Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr S Alexander that SPC accept the plan to plant 6 more trees over the next two years. **Agreed** **CLERK**

60.1.3 The Wassail event which is organised by the SCO had been an extraordinary success this year with up to 250 attending at the MPF.

60.2 **Riparian responsibilities for the stream running through Abbey Road.** The Clerk sought to inform members of the responsibilities associated with owning land which a waterway such as Tanyard stream, running through Abbey Road, has for the Council. And especially in the light of recent flooding at the site {28th November}. The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust {OART} have agreed to meet with the Community Chair, Clerk and Abbey Road volunteer leader and deputy on the 25th March to further explain these responsibilities, and to clarify what SPC, working with OART, could conceivably take on, in terms of stream maintenance. The Clerk being keen to point out that there would need to be agreement from this committee on safe working practices for any future voluntary work associated with maintenance and habitat development in and adjacent the stream. **CLERK**

60.3 **Report about the recent Steyning Primary School presentation in regard to Chandlers Way Pocket Park project.** Following the agreement at the last meeting, the Clerk contacted the Primary school and with the Deputy Clerk met the Head Teacher. He was very taken with the Chandlers Way project proposal. A subsequent meeting with the schools Eco Committee, which included student representatives from each age range was arranged. This took place on the 30th January with a well-received PowerPoint presentation, and there followed a walking bus trip to the park through the town, with the Head Teacher and the entire group of about 25 children. The group met with Cllr Young at the Chandlers Way and there was a 'show-round', a Q&A session and time for them to play on the new equipment. A follow up meeting has already been arranged at the end of February to discuss the schools future involvement in the project. **CLERK**

60.4 **Progress on *MPF Interpretation Panel* and *MPF Planters* projects, and to consider support for further funding application to the South Downs National Park.** The Clerk updated members on the recent funding submission completed by the District Partnership on behalf of SPC's joint project. Unfortunately the application was not successful. However the Clerk believes that as the response did not disqualify a second attempt, and with some small amendments, added details to the drawings and if SPC were to gain further match funding from elsewhere, it may be possible to gain approval at a later stage, and will suggest the Partnership applies once more. **CLERK**

60.5 **This seasons project priorities and to consider any future project aspirations for this committee** The Clerk was asked to add future agenda items on Abbey Road Dog-mess signage, and the 80th Anniversary of the VE day, with for this item, the Chair to approach the District Partnership in the first instance, and then that it is taken to next Full Council – due to the timescale involved. **CLERK**

C/24/61 HIGHWAYS

61.1 **Report on Winter Plan and '*Snow Angels*' communications.** There has so far been only one Instance of snow and ice which required snow angels involvement, and the system seemed to work well. Other smaller icing occurrences have also prompted a positive response. The Chair suggested signs be placed on the bins to avoid being used as rubbish bins. **CLERK**

61.2 **To consider whether black & white vintage road sign at Bostal Road junction to receive SPC maintenance.** The sign is rusting and requires maintenance to bring it back to good order provided permission from WSCC is granted. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Sharp that a SPC Caretaker proceeds to complete the task by painting and restoring the sign**. Agreed** **CLERK**

61.3 **Steyning Bypass TRO to reduce speed to 50 and 40 miles per hour.** This SPC initiated Traffic Regulation Order has reached public consultation stage, and this fact has been publicised by SPC as well as WSCC. This application took 18 months of meetings, lobbying to WSCC highways Officers, and included crucial contributions from Cllr Linehan. It is hoped it passes this final stage of the process to enable improved safety for road and pedestrian users.

C/24/62 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

62.1 **To accept the I & E Reports**. Cllr I Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Sharp that the Community Income and Expenditure reports for November and December '24 be accepted as a true and fair record. **Agreed**

C/24/63 ONGOING MATTERS ARISING TO BE TAKEN TO THE NEXT MEETING

63.1	C/23/30.2	Mouse Lane Drainage W. Party to be reconvened. **- SPC are awaiting engineers reports from WSCC**	**CLERK**
63.2	C/23/43.9	Lost Woods project – Landowners to be encouraged to 'sign-up' with working party members to visit sites	**CLERK**
63.3	C/23/75.5	Parish-wide litter/dog bin provision to be investigated by Chairman and Clerk – **Chair and Clerk to communicate with HDC to better understand costs of additional installations**	**CLERK**
63.4	C/24/27.6	Clerk continues to seek MPF Concessionary Licence fee or potentially take vendor to small claims court. **It was noted Steyning Festival had succeeded in gained outstanding monies**	**CLERK**
63.5	C/24/ 49.2	Log seating, lockable gate, trees, hedge and trellis installed at Chandlers Way plus convene working party	**CLERK**
63.6	C/24/38.1	Forthcoming remembrance period to be marked by greater effort to dress town appropriately	**CLERK**
63.7	C/24/38.11	Clerk to bring back to this committee the digital screen transfer of ownership details when Received – **This has been delayed @ HDC due to 'Devolution' and office movements**	**CLERK**
63.8	C/24/38.12	Cycle crossing at Horsham Road / Bypass junction project proposal – **This item is now with the Climate Action group**	**CLERK**
63.9	C/24/38.12	Parish-wide disability awareness to be discussed – **This to be taken to Full Council**	**CLERK**
63.10	C/24/42.2	Fire Station bench to be removed when permissions given	**CLERK**

C/24/64 INFORMATION / CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

64.1 None

C/24/65 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 4th March 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

Meeting ended at 8.34 pm

Signed by the Chair: . . . . . Date: 4th March 2025

A recording of this meeting can be found using this link: https://youtu.be/589bw5f4_yU