

Rottingdean Parish Council

www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

DRAFT minutes of Rottingdean Annual Village meeting 19 April 2018

Item	<p>Parish Councillors present:</p> <p>Heather Butler, John Bryant, Jo Davies, Vicky Fenwick, Kieran Fitsall, Graham Sheppard, Bob Webzell.</p> <p>Parish Councillor Bob Webzell, Chairman of Rottingdean Parish Council, chaired the Annual Village Meeting which was attended by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 45 residents,• 7 of the 9 Parish Councillors for Rottingdean, and the Clerk to RPC.
1.	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The RPC Chair, Cllr Webzell introduced himself and said he was delighted to welcome over 50 people present in the Whiteway Community Centre that evening for the 23rd Annual Village Meeting hosted by RPC. He said the event is a key opportunity – alongside other channels of communication such as the parish council website – for councillors to feedback directly to residents on the range of activities and issues they had been involved in over the last 12 months. Councillors would be pleased to respond throughout the evening to questions and comments from the floor.</p> <p>Cllr Webzell said he was especially pleased to welcome new councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jo Davies, and• Vicky Fenwick. <p>Jo who had only just been co-opted is looking forward to working with RPC. Vicky had played a key role pulling together and editing the RPC Village Newsletter which had been circulated to all Rottingdean households earlier in the month and would be the basis of presentations during the evening.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Webzell said two councillors (Sue John and Anthony Delow) were very sorry not to be able to attend. A clash with a full Brighton & Hove Council meeting had meant that the 3 City Ward Councillors Lynda Hyde, Mary Mears and Joe Miller had sent their apologies for also not being able to attend in Rottingdean that evening.</p>
2.	<p>Formalities, & declarations of councillors' personal interests</p> <p>As there were no councillors present who reside outside the Parish, this item was dispensed with.</p> <p>Parish Cllrs' existing personal declarations of pecuniary interests are on the RPC website. There were no further declarations made.</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the last Village Meeting held in April 2017</p> <p>The minutes had been available on the parish council website during the year. They were signed as the record of the last Annual Village meeting.</p>
4.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>None that would not be covered as part of the evening's agenda.</p>

Rottingdean Parish Council

www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

5. 5.1	<p>Chairman's report</p> <p>Cllr Webzell added to his opening remarks saying that he had held the Chair for RPC for 6 years now. A period which had seen some effective partnership working with authorities including Natural England, South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), Lewes District Council (LDC) & the City Council (BHCC). He reflected that local groups especially contribute enormously to an ongoing effort to maintain & preserve the many amenities that Rottingdean has to offer.</p> <p>Cllr Webzell said he is indebted to loyal councillor colleagues who again this year have worked voluntarily to marshal available skills to best serve the residents of Rottingdean. Though he said, it was not always possible to please all of the people all of the time!</p> <p>Cllr Webzell reminded that this time next year would see local elections held for RPC and councillors to serve the next 4-year period up until May 2023.</p>
5.2	<p>Working structure of the Parish Council: Cllr Webzell explained that the 9 current parish councillors approach issues for the Village organised as small teams who work on an advisory basis to the main Council across:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parish Council strategy & communication• The Built Environment (transport & infrastructure improvement)• The Village Community (Village events: liaison with bodies including the Police & Community Safety LAT, Rottingdean groups, PARC, RPS etc.)• The Natural Environment (Beacon Hill Local Nature Reserve, Village pond, The Green & Seafront.)• Finance Cllr Bryant is the Responsible Finance Office (RFO); & a• Planning sub-committee chaired by Heather Butler. <p>Cllr Butler added that RPC meets and communicates with residents using many different channels and this year had seen a particular focus on the parish council website. Councillors welcome comments from those who use the site. On a show of hands at least half the audience had recently visited the RPC website for information.</p>
6.	<p>Strategy and communication</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr John who has led the development of a draft Neighbourhood Plan for Rottingdean, Cllr Webzell gave background explaining that in 2011, Central Government had given localities like Rottingdean opportunities to produce their own Plan which, on adoption, would make a formal addition to the policy framework guiding future development of the Parish. Cllr Webzell drew attention to the Village Newsletter which set out priorities seen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Maintaining the character and design features of Rottingdean</i>• <i>Protecting the environment and biodiversity</i>• <i>Improving air quality, encouraging take-up of cleaner transport solutions to help reduce private car use;</i>• <i>Employment & enterprise, and improving access,</i>

Rottingdean Parish Council

www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Housing growth to match the needs of the community such as for smaller 2 to 3-bedroom units rather than large houses.</i> <p>Cllr Webzell said draft chapters of the Plan are nearing completion and he hoped the document could be shared with residents in a referendum before the end of 2018.</p>
7.	<p>Parish Council Finance & capital investment (projects)</p> <p>Cllr Bryant introducing himself said he has undertaken the formal Local Government role of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) for RPC for several years now – although not a professionally trained accountant. Cllr Bryant said his monthly reports are published on the website after each Parish Council meeting. http://www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk/financial_reports</p> <p>In addition to an overview in the Village Newsletter, Cllr Bryant had made available a further summary report circulated to attendees at the meeting. This financial report highlighted the total operational spend of the Council over the last 12 months (£12,093) and also the largest item of capital expenditure (£16,417) for the first two phases of work to install period-style lamp posts with LED street lighting in the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Cllr Bryant explained that the Reserves of RPC are healthy although currently inflated by the early payment by BHCC of half of the (total (£47,510) 2018/19 parish council tax precept supplemented by CTRS (Government Council Tax Reduction Scheme).</p> <p>Cllr Bryant explained that the Reserve shown of £157,906 includes budgets for around £100k for future planned improvements in the Village including refurbishment of the Park Road toilets & the Lower High St area.</p> <p>Cllr Bryant said the Parish Council had agreed to maintain the Parish precept for 2018/19 at the same level this year as last (£28.85p a year for a Band D property).</p> <p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</p> <p>In concluding his presentation, Cllr Bryant mentioned that when Rottingdean's Neighbourhood Plan is adopted this brings with it increased opportunity for the Parish to determine how Developer' contributions are spent. A City Council consultation is currently open on CIL.</p>
8.	<p>Built Environment (including traffic, air quality & parking)</p> <p>Cllr Bryant opened saying the concern for the Village about the volume of traffic on the A259 continues. He said that following the '<i>Big Petition</i>' requesting further studies are undertaken of the congestion, a multi-agency meeting of ESCC, BHCC, LDC and SDNPA went ahead last month in March. The response from the Chair of the Environment & Transport Committee of BHCC has suggested though that the highways authorities do not intend to further measure traffic volume/current congestion as a way of evidencing the need for sustainable future transport solutions. Cllr Bryant remarked RPC work to raise the undoubted problems of excessive traffic is likely to continue.</p>

Cllr Bryant said he appreciates the local community groups and individuals who also continue to bring the problems to the fore.

In terms of tackling **air pollution** in Rottingdean High Street, a working group involving RPC, the Ward Councillors and City' officers is continuing to research solutions aimed primarily at reducing stationary traffic in the Canyon thereby improving the air quality. He said monitoring results for the year ending December 2016 are published on the City Council website. While there had been some reduction to just below legal limits (40ug/l) due mainly to modern engines and new buses, results for 2017 are currently awaited. Consultants appointed by BHCC are using traffic modelling software to simulate the potential impact of various traffic management scenarios on the area. Residents will be kept informed of emerging options.

Speeding: Cllr Bryant said RPC is partaking in the local *Speedwatch* initiative & he had attended training for volunteers safely taking part in local speed checks using detector guns. As part of his training, he had taken part in a survey on the Falmer Road by Rottingdean Place at a peak commuter time which meant that the volume of traffic (some 400 vehicles an hour) had acted to restrain drivers from being able to speed. The survey nonetheless detected drivers - including Rottingdean residents- exceeding the maximum speed limits. Following other worrying monitoring results from a 2-week survey when RPC had used a *speed activation sign* from BHCC, Cllr Fitsall added that RPC is working to involve schools in designing speed awareness posters.

A resident suggested RPC consider obtaining electronic signs which nowadays detect, & light- up the actual speed and registration mark of individual vehicles.

Parking

Cllr Fitsall spoke of the range of inconsiderate parking incidents which councillors are aware increasingly affect the Village. He said he is aware nationally of a growing incidence of commuter parking in suburbs which is being seen now around the Brighton area. While some additional double yellow lines have this year been implemented (Court Ord Road, by The Plough, and in Dean Court Road) he said painting DYs everywhere isn't a solution. He advised that when there is illegal parking, the City Council *Parking Hotline (0345 603 5469 select option 2 or use the on-line form on BHCC website)* may be used to request additional parking enforcement patrols. He added that some additional signage at the Woodingdean junction had helped reduce numbers of large HGVs driving through Rottingdean.

	<p>Cllr Fitsall also encouraged residents to report traffic issues including inconsiderate driving and abandoned vehicles using the <i>Operation Crackdown</i> facility http://www.operationcrackdown.org/.</p> <p>National Clean Air Day on 21 June 2018: Cllr Fitsall informed BHCC are preparing awareness-raising literature which will highlight everyday behaviours that can help reduce air pollution. He intends to contact local schools too to explore ideas for young people being involved in raising awareness of the issues.</p> <p>RPC investment in Parish infrastructure</p> <p>Cllr Bryant updated that work is continuing to take forward with the City Council the larger schemes envisaged by RPC to improve the Village (especially the Lower High St area) and facilities such as the public toilets in Park Road. In addition to these major projects RPC is supporting improvements such as cycle facilities, signage and enhancements to facilities in the Beacon Hill Nature Reserve.</p> <p><i>Residents also said that better visitor signage is a priority. For example, a centrally-located sign post with directions for Rottingdean's many amenities & environmental/historic places of interest.</i></p> <p><i>There was considerable discussion by several residents on the growing problem of residential roads in Rottingdean & Saltdean being used to park for free and take the bus. Or simply to leave vehicles for long periods.</i></p> <p><i>One resident warned however that there could be a risk of Rottingdean becoming like other parts of Brighton where universal parking restriction mean residents permits need to be obtained.</i></p> <p><i>A resident suggested scope to be explored around blocking the highway as a way of reducing the numbers of vehicles speeding through Rottingdean roads.</i></p> <p>Cllr Webzell informed that an aspiration of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is to see 'Park and Ride' schemes for this area.</p>
9.	<p>Planning</p> <p>Cllr Butler was introduced as the Chair of the planning sub-committee. She added to the Newsletter article emphasising planning in <i>Rottingdean is probably one of the most contentious areas of work. "One of those subjects like religion and politics that is best not discussed as it's bound to cause offence to someone!"</i></p>

	<p>As the Planning Sub Committee for the Parish Council we review all plans for developments and decide as a group whether there are grounds for objection. The role is an advisory one as decisions remain for BHCC. With regard to the two sites within the Parish where large-scale developments are planned: -</p> <p>Meadow Vale – this development proposal of 45 houses is to be examined by an Inspector at a local Inquiry later this month in Hove Town Hall. The Deans Preservation Group have carried out extensive ecology surveys. RPC will also raise the importance of a strategic gap between the villages and the cumulative impact of more dwellings on infrastructure and traffic issues. DPG are asking for as much public representation as possible at the 4-day inquiry which opens on 24 April 2018.</p> <p>St Aubyns – Councillors see a need to develop the brownfield site as it is increasingly becoming an eyesore at the centre of the Village. The draft plans propose building on part of the field with around 60% left open for common usage and funds for the upkeep of the field, Chapel & the Pavilion. No date is known yet for the St Aubyns applications to be determined.</p> <p>Various residents responded:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• it's important to get to grips with the road system before any more planning consents are given• asking whether the LPA gives account to water shortages and flooding risks;• the vacant St Aubyns site may have been a missed opportunity to press for a bespoke medical centre in the Village & urged councillors to continue efforts in this area.
10.	<p>The Village Community</p> <p>Cllr Graham Sheppard introduced himself. He emphasised that numerous dealings with residents highlight that all appreciate that we are fortunate to live in Rottingdean and to benefit from clubs, societies, pubs, churches, schools. In encouraging a positive and inclusive community RPC has awarded grants of around £3k to a range of community groups including The Friends of Beacon Hill, & <i>Visit Rottingdean</i>.</p> <p>Cllr Sheppard highlighted active joint working with the Local Action Team, Rottingdean Preservation Society, PARC, the Whiteway Centre, <i>Rottingdean in Bloom</i>, as well as schools and Neighbourhood Watch (NW). He said NW co-ordinators are currently needed for Gorham Avenue, Lenham Road West, Little Crescent, Park Crescent, Park Road, Romney Road, Newlands Road, Eley Crescent, Eley Drive & Royles Close.</p>

Rottingdean Parish Council

www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Sheppard stressed RPC is supporting the preservation of GP services at the Meadow Parade Surgery and are liaising with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Practice and the community group set up to raise awareness of this issue.

Cllr Sheppard said he has worked with the Saltdean and Ovingdean communities to produce a self-help and contact sheet to support resilience in the community now published on the Parish Council website: <https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/24209/sitedata/2018/RESILIENCE-ROTTINGDEAN.pdf>

In promoting healthy lifestyles and to help ease some of the traffic issues RPC has supported the use of bikes by both residents and visitors and this has included installing bike storage racks on the seafront and in West Street Car Park. Additionally, RPC is working with BHCC to establish two Bike Share Hubs in Rottingdean.

Cllr Sheppard said over the last year RPC has:-

- promoted physical activity across the community and activities including gyms, football, table tennis, cricket, bowls, croquet, walking, running, basketball, tennis, cycling, keep fit groups;
- worked with City Clean to resolve the increasing issue of business waste bins sited in public areas;
- Liaised with BHCC and individuals regarding siting of benches. Some areas of the parish have sufficient seating and benches in other spaces such as the recreation ground and The Park are now needed;
- addressed issues around overgrowing trees slippery pavements;
- liaised with the family of Alfred Oakley who died last year and who was responsible for building the well in 1978. The family carried out maintenance on the well and have placed a lasting memorial with a plaque and planter on the head of the well;
- initiated an Accessibility Audit to assess and promote accessibility for people with mobility, sensory and cognitive needs;
- liaised with other community groups to work towards having a Christmas Tree on the Village Green in December.
- been directly involved in the project to establish a Clock / Tide Tower in the West Street Car Park and once built will take over the ownership and maintenance.

Cllr Sheppard reminded about the idea raised last year for the Village to commission a statue of Rudyard Kipling as an addition to the Parish. He said RPC has been asked to promote the **Saltdean Lido** crowdfunding campaign which to access some £4 million from the Heritage Lottery fund needs to match fund from the community £104,000.

Rottingdean Parish Council

www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

	<p>In concluding his presentation, Cllr Sheppard stressed volunteers are key to a strong community and thanked all those who give their time to facilitate the activities which are an integral part of Village life.</p> <p>Inviting comments from the floor, <i>Harold Williams informed that the Argus newspaper had an article on Michael Portillo featuring Saltdean Lido in a planned TV programme. Harold suggested that this opportunity is extended to include a cream tea in Rottingdean.</i></p> <p><i>Harold added that as he is to move away from Rottingdean, he is stepping down from his role organising the 200 Club and asked any volunteers for this monthly Village draw to contact him.</i></p> <p><i>Responding to a resident's question, Rowena RPS confirmed that the listed building consent application had been submitted for a lift to be installed at the Grange.</i></p>
11.	<p><i>Natural Environment & Seafront</i></p> <p>Adding to the Newsletter achievements including the Rampion telescope installed on the seafront, Cllr Webzell (Chair of the Beacon Hill Working Group) said two years of action culminated with the Beacon Hill Nature Reserve Declaration in September 2017 being signed by lawyers at BHCC. On this date the extension was legally integrated into the BHLNR and our Nature Reserve, now 44% bigger, received protection in law. Cllr Webzell added that – thanks to the sheer physical hard work of individuals in the Beacon Hill Working group - BHLNR had won Gold awards in the South and South East competition for the last 6 years. Though it had been decided not to enter this year as there seems little scope to address comments that judges had made in all previous years. He said there is a full Beacon Hill LNR Annual Report available on the website which covers all aspects of the wildlife found in the Reserve.</p> <p>Opening the floor to the audience: Harold Williams said that on behalf of the Village he extends a warm vote of thanks to all parish councillors commending all the meetings they attend each and every month.</p>
12.	<p><i>Date of next Village meeting</i></p> <p>In closing the meeting at 9pm, the Chair invited residents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• come along to the parish council monthly public meetings on the first working Monday of each calendar month and• consider themselves & other Village representatives for candidate nominations for the local elections to be held on 9 May 2019 <p>The date for next year's Village meeting will be Thursday 18 April 2019.</p>