



Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday 13 April 2022

Present: Cllr Present: Present: Cllr John (Chair), Cllr Sheppard, Cllr Lawrence, Cllr Levins, Cllr Turnbull, Cllr Nixon, Cllr Poole, Cllr Cherrie.

Chris Hayes, Parish Clerk (Minutes)

52 Residents

1. Overview – Cllr Sue John (Chair). Cllr John Chair thanked people for coming to the meeting and for their interest and engagement with the St Aubyns exhibition, marking the beginning of a village-wide consultation process.
2. An introduction to the Councillors and the work of the Parish Council. Each Councillor introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their role within the Council and areas of work they were involved in.
3. Questions from the public:

Mike Hogan asked when the action would be taken to sort out the parking in Nevill Road. **Cllr John (Chair)** stated that although the Parish Council were aware of the problem the matter was not straightforward as the land was not adopted but owned by the Marquess of Abergavenny. **Cllr John (Chair)** offered to meet with Mr Hogan to discuss what might be done.

Lynda Hyde expressed concern that a number of new Parish Councillors had recently been appointed without an election. **Cllr John (Chair)** explained that a number of casual vacancies had arisen over the last 12 months. In each case a notice had been posted informing residents of their right to call for an election which required the support of at least ten residents. As no elections had been

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called the Council co-option process had been invoked and the vacancies advertised and filled according to Parish Council published policy.

Gary Fitzsargent expressed concern about the damage done to the green opposite Vicarage Terrace by parked cars and asked if it could be protected. **Cllr Sheppard** said the matter would be considered by the Council.

Christa Cooke asked if the Council could do something to stop vehicles parking in the turning area outside the Denes residential home to ensure constant access for emergency service vehicles; said that hedges were overhanging the pavement in a number of places in the village forcing pedestrians into the road; and asked what plans the Parish Council had to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **Cllr Sheppard** said that the yellow lines on the road adjacent to the Denes nursing home had recently been re-drawn and that vehicles parked illegally could be reported to the Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) action line that responded very quickly. On the matter of overhanging hedges **Cllr Sheppard** said that the Parish Council procedure was to write to the owner or tenant of the property concerned giving them 14 days to cut the hedge. If this was not done the matter would then be referred to Brighton and Hove City Council who would cut the hedge at the owner's or tenant's expense. **Cllr Sheppard** said that in most cases an initial letter was all that was needed and asked for details of the properties in question so that action could be taken. On the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, **Cllr Lawrence** said that members of the Parish Council had been discussing events with a number of community groups and that a programme of events would be published soon.

Sally Keen thanked Cllr Sheppard for acting very promptly to have an obsolete road sign that had collapsed on the pavement adjacent to the entrance of Margaret's Mews removed.

Roy Butler asked if double yellow lines could be placed at the junction of Chailey Avenue and Newlands Road West as parking was causing a safety hazard. **Cllr Sheppard** advised that the Parish Council had been focussing attention on Newlands Road because parking on both sides of the road meant room for only a single vehicle to travel along the road often resulted in motorists speeding to get through. As a result, a traffic regulation order (TRO) was to be introduced with yellow lines at alternating sides of the carriage way along Newlands Road to prevent this happening. **Cllr Sheppard** asked Mr Butler to let the Council know if there were still problems when the TRO was place.

Roger Levy asked if the Council could provide an update on plans to refurbish Park Road toilets and the West Street car park wall. **Cllr John (Chair)** said that plans to refurbish Park Road toilets had been beset with delays; first the pandemic, then the discovery of asbestos in the roof that needed to be removed and electrical mains had needed relocating and more recently the news that a

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steel beam was required to support the new structure. **Cllr John (Chair)** advised Mr Levy that the Parish Clerk was in regular contact with the relevant department within BHCC. **Cllr Sheppard** advised that the Parish Council had agreed with BHCC to replace the entire West Street car park wall and it was hoped that work would commence soon.

Jeremy Sice suggested that the issue of most concern in the village was the number of cars passing through with resultant congestion, safety issues and pollution and asked where this was on the Parish Council's priority list. He asked if it would be possible to close the High Street or make it one way for at least part of the day or for a number of days each year. A number of other residents also raised the issue of village traffic and speeding. **Gareth Williams** expressed concern about cars speeding around the planter as they raced to catch the traffic lights. **Mike Sexton** said that the sheer volume of traffic was an issue, and that the planter was a problem. **Tom Cotcher** said that the planter was causing a hazard especially at the bottom of Park Road where cars turning out on the High Street were effectively doing so blind. He suggested a yellow hatched area would be safer. **Gary** if the Councillors were in touch with the schools as much of the traffic problem was caused by school drop-offs. **John Bustard** asked if there had been a traffic counter on Steyning Road. **Lynda Hyde** said that the queue of traffic behind the planter often meant that drivers could not see the zebra crossing. **Mike Haggard** said that the portable flashing speed sign could help with speeding traffic and asked if the car park at the Beacon Hub could be opened. It was also suggested that an article in the Rottingdean Village News could remind drivers to abide by the speeding limits.

The Councillors responded to these points in the following way:

Cllr John (Chair) acknowledged that the level of through traffic was a significant challenge but said that a re-direction or closure of the High Street was difficult as it was designated by the Highways Agency as a route through to the A259. **Cllr John (Chair)** said that that the Parish Council were part of a working group looking at High Street Traffic management and air quality with BHCC. **Cllr John (Chair)** added that the measures in the High Street were to be reviewed following the end of the temporary traffic order arrangements in October 2022. **Cllr Poole** said that the regular speed checks that were undertaken had shown that only a small percentage of drivers were exceeding the speed limit through the village and not enough to warrant police action. **Cllr Poole** added it would help if people recorded and reported incidents of speeding. On the traffic lights, **Cllr Poole** said that the Council had been considering seeking a change in the phasing of the lights to allow more traffic out of the High Street in each sequence. **Cllr Sheppard** said the traffic counter had shown an average of four thousand cars each day passing through the village in each direction and that the Council were working with BHCC to reduce through traffic and had instigated the new sign at

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Woodingdean that redirected HGV traffic going to Newhaven on to the A259. **Cllr Sheppard** said figures were not available for traffic volumes at drop-off times but that St Margaret's and OLOL schools both had a walk-to-school policy. **Cllr Cherrie** added that the Parish Council were working with BHCC on their Active Travel policy to look at what could be done to encourage non-vehicular travel. **Cllr Sheppard** said that the Parish Council had raised the issue of the zebra crossing visibility with BHCC and that a warning sign was ~~were~~ now in place on the approach to the crossing. **Cllr Turnbull** said that the opening of the Beacon Hub car park was under active consideration. **Cllr Sheppard** said that portable speeding signs were available from BHCC for a temporary placement

A resident welcomed the plan for a play area for under 6-year-olds on St Aubyns Field and asked if there were plans for facilities for older children. **Cllr Nixon** said that the play area for under 6-year-olds was a standard requirement for the new open space but that ideas for what else could be placed on the Field were welcome. He said that there were restrictions on what could happen to the Field with no development or commercial activities allowed and only a limited number of annual events were permitted.

Peter Litton asked if the St Aubyns offer could be explained and who would fund any plans put forward. **Cllr Nixon** said that the RPC had accepted the transfer of the Field, Chapel and Pavilion which had been a condition of the development planning consent and that work had been undertaken to understand the costs associated with it. This had shown that the maintenance grant of £350,000 to be provided by the developer could last for between 10 and 15 years depending on any investment made in enhancing the buildings. **Cllr Nixon** said that the Parish Council were already exploring future funding streams for the maintenance of the Field and buildings. **Cllr Nixon** added that there was also £54,000 to fund an artistic component on the site which was being considered. In response to a question about who was responsible for the maintenance of building after the refurbishment **Cllr Nixon** said the transfer agreement being worked on would require the developer to maintain the property prior to hand-over and remedy any defects for a period thereafter. **Cllr Poole** added that the Parish Council had taken on a surveyor to monitor the refurbishment work.

Cllr John (Chair) thanked everyone for attending and for their feedback and suggestions and reminded them that they could contact Councillors about issues at any time and offer suggestions.

The meeting closed at 9.pm.

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