



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, July 12th 2006, commencing at 7.30p.m.at Sompting Community Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting.

Attendance: Councillors: B. Mear (Chairman), K. Bashford, Mrs. J. Burns, Mrs. T. Clarke, T. Clarke, Ms. M. Shaw, Mrs. M. Sherriff, M. Thornton and J. Wales. Also in attendance District Councillor B. Boggis, Detective Inspector Simon Harsley, PCSOs Mandy Whittingham and Alison Beesley and members of the public.

95/06 Apologies. Cllr. Mrs. J. Turner

96/06 Urgent Matters The Chairman took as an urgent matter the issue of traffic problems in West Street. Several residents of the area were in attendance at the meeting after contacting the clerk regarding Parish Council support for their concerns. It was felt that the existing traffic calming measures were ineffective and residents reported that a front wall had recently been demolished and motorists were speeding through the village on the wrong side of the road, ignoring red-arrow traffic signs. Councillors asked the residents for their views on possible solutions and confirmed that the problem had been recognised for some time and that the Parish Council had been involved in traffic surveys in the area. All agreed that traffic problems on the A27 were a reason motorists from outside the village were using the road as a short-cut and that more lobbying about the problems of the A27 should be undertaken. It was agreed that a site meeting with Richard Speller, W.S.C.C. Assistant Highways Manager, would be arranged and W.S.C.C. would be asked if another traffic survey could be carried out. *Clerk to liaise with residents and Richard Speller and notify councillors of date. Members of the public then leave the meeting.*

97/06 Policing Matters D.I. Simon Harsley from Shoreham CID, Serious and Organised Crime Department, attended the meeting to address the Council regarding problems in the Lancing and Sompting area. He highlighted three types of criminal activity – cutting fuel pipes, garage break-ins and criminal damage to vehicles – which were particularly prevalent at the present time. D.I. Harsley reported that specific operations were underway to deal with this but hoped that the Council might be able to help, either financially or in publicising the problem. Council discussed the particular problem of garage compounds and how these were often a magnet for criminal activity as they were not well maintained and lighting was poor. Council agreed to put up leaflets on its noticeboards to publicise the need for care and security measures in garage areas and the numbers to contact if anything was known about those committing crimes.

Two other matters were raised with the officers: young people walking along the central reservation of the A27 instead of using the bridge, and the problem of motorbikes on the downs. PCSO Beesley confirmed that although the farmer had given verbal permission for the riders to use the field the PCSOs told the young people not to ride there as the permission was not in writing. The PCSOs also mentioned the growing problem now with mopeds and confirmed that ‘electric bikes’ could be ridden on the road and that neither insurance nor helmets were compulsory.

D.I. Harsley and PCSOs Whittingham and Beesley leave the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

98/06 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising: No matters were raised that did not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

99/06 Cokeham Brooks/Hamble Skatepark: Notes made by the Clerk at the public meeting of 24.6.06 were made available and an explanation given by the Clerk and Cllr. Ms. Shaw regarding the 'handover' of responsibility for the public meeting from Adur District Council to Sompting Parish Council. Cllr. Ms. Shaw gave additional background information regarding the design and building of the skatepark and its position in relation to local houses, noting the fact that when it was planned it was envisaged that the skatepark would be managed by the District Council. Councillors agreed that as the area was not being managed it would be necessary to work on a solution to issues raised by residents, such as noise from the hollow ramps and the gathering there of young people who were not skating. Ideas such as moving the ramps, filling them in, or moving the skatepark had been suggested.

Cllr. Mrs. Clarke was concerned that the views of local young people were taken into account and Cllr. Ms. Shaw confirmed that a youth shelter was wanted by the young people but not by local residents. Cllr. Clarke reminded Council that £3000 had been set aside for the shelter. Council agreed that the young people should be consulted, perhaps by involving some of the skaters and Boundstone Community College. It was agreed to contact Adur District Council before another public meeting was organised. *Clerk to write to Adur District Council for clarification regarding management of the area and the provision of a youth shelter.*

100/06 New Parish Building: Notes made by the Clerk at the meeting with Richard Silver of CDA were circulated. Cllr. Ms. Shaw outlined developments to date and asked that Council determine their level of commitment to the project and whether they wanted to consider just a new pavilion/parish building or the new building in relation to the community centre as one project. Councillors raised concerns about the degree of commitment to the project once the initial design and planning work had started and Cllr. Clarke requested that confirmation be sought that there would be no further commitment of funding should the first stage lead to no further progress. Cllr. Thornton asked about the availability of funding from the Sompting Special Expenses. **Council resolved to proceed with the parish building project and to grant the sum of £3,700 needed to start work.** (see item 102.(d) below) *Clerk to write to CDA to ascertain funding commitment and to confirm decision above. Clerk to write to Adur District Council to ask about management of the community centre and rec.* Councillors further asked the Clerk to investigate what help might be available from NALC, particularly with regard to legal assistance.

Cllrs. Mrs. Burns and Cllr. Wales leave the meeting at 9.00p.m.

101/06 Sompting in Bloom: A list of candidates for the competition was circulated. Councillors were asked to look at gardens in Peverel N. and Cokeham S. and to submit addresses to Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Mrs. Clarke, who would take photographs to bring to the September Parish Council meeting.

102/06 Financial matters:

Council noted the report of the internal auditor on the accounts for 2005/6

Council noted that the accounts would now be available for public inspection prior to the external audit.

Council adopted the annual accounts for 2005/6 following the internal audit

Council granted the sum of £3,700 for work on a new parish building (see above)

103/06 Report of Planning Sub-Committee: Cllr. Clarke reported that the mast in Rectory Road had been refused planning permission. The following comments were made:

There was **NO OBJECTION** to planning applications **ADC/0158/06** (Rear conservatory, 71 Western Road) or **ADC/0198/06** (Single-storey rear extension, 28 Highview).

There was **NO OBJECTION** to application **ADC/0146/06** (2 front dormers, 44 Berriedale Drive) but Council would prefer a half-hipped roof that would be more in keeping with the area than a gable end.

There was an **OBJECTION** to application **ADC/0147/06** (detached three-bedroom house, 3 Arun Close). Council objected to the removal of mature trees and believed that taking down the garages would lead to parking problems in such a confined space and add to parking problems in the area.

104/06 Report of the clerk:

- a. **Members' Register of Interests.** Members were reminded that any change to the information held on the Register must be entered in the Register within 28 days of the change.
- b. **Accounts.** Council noted that the account balance as at 30th June 2006 was £49,022.50 including receipt of bank interest for June of £114.68.

The following accounts are submitted for approval:

V. Garland - Clerk's pay and allowances to 30 th June 2006	£483.33
Adur District Council - printing of Council papers April and stationery	£35.27
Adur District Council - printing of Council papers May	£16.74
Sompting Community Association – Hire of Centre 15.6.06	£15.00
Houseproud	£749.80
Clerk – ink cartridges	£39.67

Council asked the Clerk to check with Houseproud as to why the decision was made to plant bedding plants not shrubs and queried the quality and cost of the plants that had been put in the planters. Council agreed that the planters were looking very attractive at the present time but felt more height should be possible with taller plants/shrubs.

Cllr. Mrs. Allright left the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

- c. **Highways and Footpaths:** Councillors reported that the alleyways were still littered with rubbish and had dangerous overhanging shrubs and bushes, with broken glass in the area of the sub-station. *Clerk to write to Adur District Council and/or West Sussex County Council*
- d. **Trees, bulbs, planters:** *Clerk to write to Mike Tristram to thank him for his generous offer regarding trees.*
- e. **Noticeboards and bus shelters:** *Clerk to contact David Steadman about progress with regard to the bus shelter at Cokeham Lane/Busticle Lane and to chase up the promised wooden bollards.*
- f. **Correspondence:** Councillors responded to the Action Consultation from Action in Rural Sussex. Council agreed to grant £1000 to Lancing and Sompting CAB. Council agreed to write to local resident who had raised issue of mini motor-bikes on the downs and explain Council's position and action taken to date.

105/06 Report of representatives to other bodies: Cllr. Bashford reported on the meeting of the District Standards Committee. He noted the value of information given regarding the declaration of members' interests and the possible pitfalls and costs to an authority when there was a failure to declare, for example, when giving planning permission.

There being no other matters the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.