



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, January 10th 2007 commencing at 7.30p.m.at Sompting Community Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting.

Attendance: Councillors: K. Bashford (Chairman), Mrs. J. Burns, Mrs. T. Clarke, T. Clarke, Ms. M. Shaw, Mrs. M. Sherriff, M. Thornton, Mrs. J. Turner and J. Wales. Also in attendance co-opted member P. Holt .

157.07 Apologies were received from Cllr. B. Mear and PCSO Joy Butterley

158.07 Minutes of the last meeting were signed as a correct record.

Matters arising: item taken later on the agenda

159.07 Items to be considered urgently: As members of the public were present, and wished to speak on two separate issues, the Chairman brought forward item 11, the report of the Planning Sub-Committee.

160.07 Public participation: The meeting was adjourned to receive an update from the 'SOS Group' and a deputation from the residents concerned about planning application no. ADC/0492/06. (a) SOS Group. A representative from the group informed the Council that the group had requested a meeting with Tim Loughton M.P. and County Councillor Vilna Woolhead. There had been a further car accident in the village, with several cars destroyed. The group were hoping that the local press would be able to run a story about the campaign. (b) Several residents living near the proposed development at 44 Cokeham Lane attended the meeting to explain their objections to the development and to ask the Council for their support. They felt strongly that the old house and the ancient flint wall were historical features of the area that should not be destroyed. There was a yew tree with a preservation order in the grounds and this could be damaged in the building works. Furthermore, the site was near a very busy junction and the proposed development would make the roads more hazardous for pedestrians.

161.07 Report of the Planning Sub-Committee: The Council took as the first item the planning application discussed previously **ADC/0492/06 44 Cokeham Lane, demolition of existing house and outbuilding and erection of 4 three-bedroom semi-detached houses with carport.** Council **STRONGLY OBJECTED** to this development that would involve the destruction of one of the last remaining historic buildings in the village, situated just outside a conservation area. Council supported the residents in their objections to this development and to the removal of a flint wall and large yew tree. They had further reservations about access to the car-port which could create a hazard for pedestrians near a dangerous junction along a road used by large numbers of schoolchildren.

Members of the public left the meeting at this point

The Committee had **NO OBJECTION** to the following planning applications:

ADC/048106 8 Burnside Crescent, rooms in roof
ADC/0491/06 20 Meadowview Road, single-storey rear extension
ADC/0498/06 3 The Abbots, enlargement of rear dormers
ADC/0413/07 10 Grafton Gardens, enlarged front porch
ADC/0416/07 52 Hillrise Avenue, single-storey rear extension

ADC/0497/06 Boundstone Nursery, new extended services centre
The Committee had no objection to this development but was surprised that the Parish Council was not consulted earlier before the application was made. The Committee **OBJECTED STRONGLY** to the removal of fifteen mature trees.

ADC/0502/06 1 St. Luke's Close, rooms in roof and rear extensions to roof.
The Committee felt this to be an over-development in the area, to be out-of-keeping with the neighbouring properties and over large.

The Chairman reported that development of the 'horses field' had been refused planning permission but the Co-op Store in Test Road had been given permission to fit shutters. Council asked the Chairman/Clerk to investigate whether or not the planning application for the shutters should have been considered by the District Council Planning Committee following the objection. *Chairman/Clerk to investigate*

Resolved: To accept the report of the Planning Sub-Committee

162.07 Matters arising from the minutes: The Clerk reported that the bulbs Had been planted in the grass verge but councillors were unable to see the site – the Clerk to confirm exact position. *The Clerk to ask Houseproud to report on the condition of the map board at the U.R.C. and to carry out any necessary repairs*

163.07 Policing Matters: Councillors reported on illegal parking by the Ball Tree bus shelter and the menace of frozen paintballs that had been shot from cars at passers-by. Information had been received regarding changes of personnel. *Clerk to contact the police about the parking problem outlined above.*

164.07 Parish Building Project: The Council considered a draft press release to publicise the project. This would ask for volunteers to join a working party that would consider how best to improve facilities in the village. An article would also be published in the next Adur Outlook. Discussion took place regarding the recruitment of new councillors and working towards 'quality council' status.

Resolved: To circulate the press release for further discussion at the next meeting.

Consideration was given to the cost of a youth shelter for the area. Shelters could cost £8000 but cheaper versions were available.

Resolved: To consider funding for a youth shelter at the Finance and General Purposes Committee

165.07 Halewick Lane Waste Transfer Station: Council discussed the situation since the closure at the end of December and the possible future uses for the site. District Councillor Brian Boggis pointed out that the local plan did not envisage any business development. However, Council understood that the County Council might have plans for light industry at the site in order to cover costs. Cllr. Mrs. Clarke proposed that the Council support a visitor centre and a mini-bike track (seconded Cllr. Ms. Shaw)

Resolved: That the Council support the idea of an amenity area at Halewick Lane, which could include a south downs visitor centre and a mini-bike track.

166.07 Finances: *Clerk to investigate moving the accounts to an on-line banking system*

167.06 Report of the clerk:

(a) From last meeting: It was reported that as Cllr. Mrs. Allright had moved house, she would not have received a letter sent to her old address. Council to contact Cllr. Mrs. Allright before the next meeting at her new address.

(b) Accounts: The account balance as at 31st December 2006 was £42,737.20 including bank interest of £84.41. The following accounts were submitted for approval:

V. Garland - Clerk's pay and allowances to 31 st December 2006	£483.33
Houseproud – Noticeboards and bus shelters	£111.50
Houseproud – Planter maintenance (winter schedule/5 weeks)	£140.00
Houseproud – bulbs planting	£ 45.00
Data protection – renewal of register entry	£ 35.00

(c) Bulb planting: *Clerk to confirm planting position of bulbs with Houseproud.*

(d) Notice Boards/Bus Shelters: Concern was expressed about the time it was taking for repairs to be carried out such as the repair to the shelter in Inglecroft Parade. *Clerk to contact Houseproud.*

As it was understood that the Parish Council were responsible for the maintenance of the bus shelter noticeboards, it may be appropriate for the Council to maintain the notices. *Clerk to contact ADC regarding maintenance arrangements.*

(e) Correspondence:

Requiring a response, decision, formal noting:

Letter from Tim Loughton M.P. to SOS (1)

Letter from 4-Sight (2)

Letter from Mr. P. Godley (3)

Received to date:

Adur District Council – agendas and minutes

Friends of Lodge Hill newsletter

WSCC Halewick Lane Waste Transfer site closure leaflets

Action in Rural Sussex newsletter

(3) Council felt that, although they would support in principle a crossing at Dankton Lane, efforts should be directed towards a bypass for the A27.

168.07 Reports of District or County Councillors: None

169.07 Reports of representatives to other bodies: Cllr. Ms. Shaw reported that the Community Association Committee would be meeting the following week. Cllr. Mrs. Sherriff asked Council to consider sponsorship later in the year for the Flower Festival in aid of the St. Mary's restoration fund. Cllr. Mrs. Turner asked Council to consider the issue of expenses for councillors attending meetings outside the area. *Clerk to make this an item for the next agenda*

170.07 Other matters: (i) District Councillor Boggis pointed out that he had attended the last meeting. (ii) Council confirmed that they were still pursuing the issue of the lease of Sompting Community Centre. (iii) *Clerk to follow up legislation regarding councillors aged under-21.*