



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, March 14th 2007 commencing at 7.30pm.at Sompting Community Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting.

Attendance: Councillors: K. Bashford (*arrived 9.15 p.m. after earlier engagement*), Mrs. J. Burns, Mrs. T. Clarke, T. Clarke, B. Mear (Chairman), Ms. M. Shaw, Mrs. M. Sherriff, M. Thornton and J. Wales. Also in attendance was PCSO Marc Granger and members of the 'Save Our Sompting' Group.

185.07 Apologies were received from District Councillor B. Boggis, Peter Holt and Mrs. J. Turner.

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

187.07 Matters arising: considered under Clerk's report.

188.07 Items to be considered urgently: Cllr. T. Clarke raised the issue of traffic flows on the A27 at Lyons Farm; in particular, the westbound right-filter turn into the retail park to access two new stores. He considered that traffic using this right-hand turn could cause a traffic hold-up as the number of vehicles wanting to make the turn had been underestimated and it followed that drivers wanting to avoid any traffic delays might choose a route through Sompting Village. Cllr. Clarke had contacted the Highways Agency and Worthing Borough Council about the matter but felt that the reply stating that a demonstration of the likely traffic flows had been carried out was inadequate as it had been based on traffic using the garage and car showroom which were previously on the site.

Resolved: To write to the Highways Agency, West Sussex County Council and Worthing Borough Council as a matter of urgency.

189.07 Public participation: The meeting was adjourned to receive a report from the S.O.S. group. Council were invited to the forthcoming meeting on March 29th with Tim Loughton M.P. and County Councillor Vilna Woolhead to discuss the traffic problems in the village. *Clerk to liaise with S.O.S. regarding numbers of councillors wishing to attend.*

190.07 Policing matters: PCSO Marc Granger introduced himself as the officer for Cokeham Ward, with PCSO Sean Trebble responsible for Peverel. Telephone contact numbers for both officers are available on the Sussex Police website. One of the key issues locally had been problems with mini motor-bikes and some had been seized. Cllr. Ms. Shaw described the attempts being made locally by youth workers to regularise the use of the bikes with an organised track. PCSO Granger reported that there were now 6 PCSOs in Lancing and Sompting and this would mean more patrols and a more visible presence. Parking in Cokeham Road had been looked into and PCSOs were able to issue fixed penalty fines for parking offences. PCSO Granger agreed to check a white van that had been parked inappropriately in Lower Boundstone Lane and to report a situation in Halewick Lane with 'boy racers' to the traffic police. *Clerk to circulate contact numbers to councillors.*

191.07 Report of the Planning Sub-Committee:

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

| | |
|-------------|---|
| ADC/0139/07 | 100 Cokeham Lane, single-storey side/rear extension |
| ADC/0102/07 | 14 Cokeham Lane, pitched roof on garage and rebuilding front boundary |
| ADC/0118/07 | 24 Abbey Road, single-storey rear extension |
| ADC/0092/07 | 10 St. Lukes Close, single-storey rear extension |
| ADC/0094/07 | 118 Western Road, rear conservatory |
| ADC/0099/07 | La Grange, Dovecote, French doors with side lights |
| ADC/0101/07 | 32 Trent Close, garage and utility room |

With regard to the other Sompting applications the Council made the following comments:

ADC/0098/07 Boundstone Community College, 8 classroom block etc. The Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this development but felt it should not be at the expense of the mature trees in the grounds such as the oak

With regard to planning application ADC/0497/07 Boundstone Nursery, Council **objected** to the removal of the mature trees and felt that the planning application had not been for a running track (this being the reason given for the removal of the trees).

ADC/0061/07 The Smugglers, single-storey rear extension. **OBJECTION.** Council felt that this was an historic building within the conservation area and the development would be out-of-character. Furthermore, the extension would be up to a flint wall and the garden/terrace area at the back would be lost. There would also be the likelihood of increased parking and traffic problems in the village.

ADC/0097/07 16 Sedbury Road, rooms in roof. **OBJECTION.** Council felt that this development was over-large, over-powering and out-of-keeping. If approval were given Council suggested that the plans were amended to include a half-hipped roof.

ADC/0106/07 57-59 Test Road, roller shutters. Council **STRONGLY OBJECTED** as the shutters were out-of-keeping with the area and appeared to invite vandalism rather than to deter it. Planning Committee Chair would contact neighbours of the shop to canvas opinion.

ADC/0110/07 13 Tristram Close, single-storey front extension. **OBJECTION.** Council felt that this would detract from the street-scene as it would be the only development of its kind, would be out-of-keeping and un-neighbourly.

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

192.07 Finance: Members were unaware of any correspondence from Adur Playscheme requesting grant-aid. A grant of £30 was made to the St. Mary's Flower Festival.

193.07 Vacancy: Council confirmed the vacant seat in Cokeham South.

Resolved: To announce a vacancy for a councillor in Cokeham South.

(Clerk to advertise the vacancy and inform the press)

194.07 Parish Building Project: Information about the plans and inviting Members of the public to join the working group would be included in the newsletter. *Clerk to ask the printer if the newsletter could be printed earlier in May.* A report had been received from Adur District Council regarding the toilets on the Recreation Ground that noted the collapse of the drainage and the lack of a toilet for those with disabilities. The Council felt that there might be a case for repair rather than demolition. **Resolved: To organise a survey of the toilets**

Several building firms had quoted for work to create a parish office at the community centre. Negotiations were proceeding with Adur District Council regarding the lease.

Resolved: To accept the cheaper of the quotes when a new lease signed *(Clerk to contact the contractors to inform them of the situation).*

A stand at the Festival was suggested as one way to involve members of the public in the project. *(Clerk to investigate cost of display stands and to report back).*

195.07 Report of the clerk:

a) Accounts: The account balance as at 28th February was confirmed as £40,865.12. The following accounts were submitted for approval:

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| V. Garland - Clerk's pay and allowances to 31st January 2007 | £483.33 |
| Houseproud – Noticeboards and bus shelters | £111.50 |
| Houseproud – Planter maintenance (winter schedule/5 weeks) | £140.00 |

b) Parish Council Assets: A site visit had been undertaken to Parish Council 'assets' (planters, noticeboards and bus shelters) to examine the state of repair and propose remedial action where necessary. Members had before them a report from the visit and agreed the following:

- *To ask ADC to provide rubbish bins for the 'Rec'*
- *To investigate the wooden fence in Worthing and if possible arrange for a similar fence to be built around the planters*
- *To seal, repaint and repair the five wooden notice-boards and to repair the two wooden bus shelters*
- *To determine the cost of new notice-boards (Clerk to bring costs and sample designs to next meeting)*
- *To ask Boundstone Community College if they would consider building a notice-board and/or a bench, with the Council to pay for cost of materials*
- *To ask local historian to design map with pictures of the Sompting area surrounding.*

c) Correspondence:

Council noted the site allocations document received from Adur District Council and invited the Officer responsible for the project to speak at the next Council meeting.

196.07 Reports of District or County Councillors: None

197.07 Reports of representatives to other bodies: Cllr. Mear noted the change in the way that 'special expenses' were described in Council Tax bills for 2007/8. Cllr. Bashford reported that he had just returned from a meeting for CAB trustees and that concern had been expressed about the funding situation from 2008.

198.07 Other matters: Correspondence from residents had been received regarding rubbish left on the 'Rec'. *Clerk to reply and to press Adur District Council for more rubbish bins.* Other correspondence regarding the budget had been received. *Clerk to reply with copy of the press release.* No progress on provision of a bus stop at the Ball Tree Inn – *Clerk to contact Stagecoach.*

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.