



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 13th June 2007 commencing at 7.30p.m.at Sompting Community Centre, Loose Lane, Sompting.

Attendance: Councillors: K. Bashford, Mrs. J. Burns, Mrs. T. Clarke, T. Clarke, B. Mear, Ms. M. Shaw, Mrs. M. Sherriff, M. Thornton, and J. Wales. Also in attendance was Mr. Jeremy Cook, Head of Democratic and Legal Services Adur District Council

229.07 Apologies: were received from Cllrs. P. Holt and Mrs. J. Turner.

230.07 Declarations of interest: Cllr. Bashford declared an interest in planning applications ADC0283/07 and ADC/0328/07.

231.07 Minutes: The Clerk apologised to the Council for the incorrect numbering of the minutes from January 2007. The minutes of the meeting of May 9th 2007 were signed as a correct record.

232.07 Urgent matters: There were no urgent matters but the Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate Sompting Festival Group for the success of Sompting Festival which he felt had been better than 2006 and a remarkable achievement by those involved.

233.07 Visit of Monitoring Officer: Jeremy Cook, Head of Legal and Democratic Services at Adur District Council introduced himself and addressed the Council. He explained that he was the designated Monitoring Officer for all three councils and this involved ensuring that decisions made by the councils were legal and that councillors were aware of and understood the Code of Conduct. His role involved advising the Standards Committee but the Standards Board for England could be involved in any investigations if it was felt that the code of conduct had been breached. The Monitoring Officer could give advice to councillors if they thought the code had been breached but councillors themselves were responsible for taking action.

The Standards Board had recently produced a revised model Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer outlined the ten general principles of public life and the changes that the new Code had introduced. Members are obliged to sign up to the Code as part of their declarations of office and Sompting members will be required to make a decision as to whether or not to adopt paragraph 12(2), which is not a mandatory provision for parish councils.

The Chairman thanked the Monitoring Officer for his attendance and the Monitoring Officer then left the meeting.

234.07 Policing Matters: Members raised two issues of inconsiderate or dangerous parking in the areas of Inglecroft Parade and near to the Ball Tree Inn. *Clerk to contact PCSOs to ask them to investigate.* The Clerk reported that WSCC Highways Department had informed the Council that they would need to use the usual channel

for traffic restriction applications if they wished to apply to extend parking restrictions in the area of Cokeham Lane. *Clerk to write to WSCC Highways Department.*

235.07 Report of the Planning Committee:

The Chairman reported that the Committee had **NO OBJECTION** to the following applications:

ADC/0280/07	35 Alandale Road, single-storey rear extension
ADC/0283/07	34 Berriedale Drive, loft conversion with roof extension
ADC/0314/07	51 Upper Brighton Road, erection of close boarded fence

The Committee made the following comments about the remaining applications:

ADC/0311/07	57-59 Test Road, replacement front fascia sign. The Committee requested that the roller shutters were removed before the new sign was installed.
ADC/0328/07	16 Berriedale Drive, proposed roof conversion. The Committee's preference was for the roof to be half-hipped rather than a gable end. However, as this development would match the adjoining property and whilst no precedent was implied, the Committee did not object to this application.

Resolved: To accept the report of the Planning Committee

236.07 Finance:

- (i) To approve the grant of £3000 to Sompting Festival Group
- (ii) To reconsider a request for grant-aid for publication
- (iii) To receive the Annual Return for the year ended March 31st 2007
- (i) Council gave (retrospective) approval to the grant**
- (ii) Whilst the Council fully supported the objective of the publication they felt unable to give financial support**
- (iii) Council approved the Annual Return for 2006-7. Clerk to circulate the auditor's report for the July meeting.**

237.07 Sompting Festival: Cllr. Clarke, Chairman of the Festival Group, reported that the Festival had been a great success with good weather and many opportunities for families to enjoy themselves. The Group had been disappointed that banners they had put up to advertise the Festival had been removed by District Council officers who told the Group that the banners were not permitted under the District's policy on fly-posting. The Festival Group felt that this worked against the idea of encouraging a sense of community and support for community events and asked the Parish Council for its support.

Resolved: To contact Adur District Council to express concern at the action taken in relation to the Sompting Festival publicity banners.

238.07 Parish Newsletter: Members reported that one or two roads had not received their copies of the newsletter. *Clerk to contact publishers.*

239.07 Sompting in Bloom: Members discussed the changes in gardens brought about by a trend to drought-resistant planting and the need to recognise good design in low-maintenance planting. It was suggested that nominations were brought to the July Council meeting so that photographs could be taken during July and August.

Resolved: The title of the competition to be changed to 'Best-kept gardens'

240.07 Report of the Clerk:

The account balance as at 31st May was confirmed as £69,165.07. The following accounts were submitted for approval:

V. Garland - Clerk's pay and allowances to 30 th June 2007	£497.50
Houseproud – Noticeboards and bus shelters	£111.50
Houseproud – Planter maintenance (winter/summer schedule)	£128.00
Houseproud – vandalised trees at Busticle Lane	£ 16.50
Houseproud – Planters: Labour £132.00, Plants ££186.36 Total	£315.36
Zurich Insurance Company - renewal	£1167.62
Auditing Solutions Ltd. – internal audit	£105.75

The clerk confirmed that there was no waste facility at Lancing industrial estate and that householders did have to take their waste to either Shoreham or East Worthing. Councillors expressed their concern at the poor quality of plants in the planters and the fact that no work had yet started on repairs to the noticeboards and wooden bus shelters following the site visit.

Resolved: Alternative arrangements for maintenance of assets to be made

241.07 Reports of District or County Councillors: None

242.07 Reports of representatives to other organisations: The Clerk read a report from Cllr. Mrs. Turner from the Adur in Partnership meeting she had attended that had discussed fuel poverty, bus travel concerns and school reorganisation.

243.07 Other matters: Cllr. Sherriff asked that Members contact her if they were aware of anyone who could benefit from the Penfold Memorial charity.

Cllr. Clarke offered business sponsorship for some additional plants for the planters.

The meeting closed at 10.00p.m.