



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 11th July 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, P. Holt, B. Mear, Ms. M. Shaw, Mrs. M. Sherriff, M. Thornton, Mrs. J. Turner and J. Wales. Also present were two members of the public from the Rectory Farm area.

244.07 Apologies: None

245.07 Declarations of interest: Cllr. Mear declared an interest in planning application ADC0401/07.

246.07 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 13th June 2007 were signed as a true record after the following corrections were made: (i) **235.07** – The Planning Committee had also requested that a noticeboard be provided (ii) **243.07** – one name was needed in regard to the Penfold Memorial Charity.

247.07 Urgent matters: Cllr. Clarke raised the issue of the road markings on the A259 by Brooklands Park. These had been put in place by West Sussex Highways Dept. and had been causing considerable traffic congestion, particularly at peak times. Cllr. Clarke had written to Richard Speller at W.S.C.C. about the matter and had received a reply in which W.S.C.C. justified the new markings on the basis of the proposed scheme to reduce the speed limit to 30 m.p.h.on the A259 between Lancing and Worthing. W.S.C.C. had further pointed out that the matter had been discussed at the County Local Committee. Cllr. Clarke asked for the Parish Council's support in making representations to the County Council on the matter which he believed also led to pollution from the static traffic and further pressure on the A27 and consequently on traffic passing through Sompting village.

248.07 Opportunity for public participation: Residents from Rectory Farm reported on two main problems. The first was with vandalism, damage to property, intimidation by 'youths' and assault. They felt that lighting was not repaired when necessary and this did not help the late-night problems. The problems had been reported to the police but as they often took place late at night the PCSOs were unable to assist and other police personnel were often not available. The second problem identified was that of cars racing up and down the road and also, as people were not using their garages, cars left blocking the road which could result in difficulties for emergency vehicles trying to access homes.

Councillors expressed sympathy with the residents' problems and said that they would pass on their concerns to the local PCSOs; they suggested that contact should be made with Adur District Council's Tenants and Leaseholders officers at the Housing Department and that the residents consider forming a Residents Association to put forward their views. It was agreed to put an invitation to join a Residents Association in the next edition of the Sompting Signpost and Cllr. Ms. Shaw offered to find out if any local youth projects were working with the young people in the area concerned.

249.07 Policing Matters: PCSO Sean Trebble had written to the Council as neither he nor his colleague were able to attend the meeting. He suggested that the Parish Council might be interested in taking responsibility for parking in the parish at some future date as parking attendants were no longer to be a part of the police operation. The chairman raised the issue of knife crime that had been in the news and councillors discussed whether or not this was a problem locally.

250.07 Finance: Council received the report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended March 31st. Councillors expressed concern at the complexity of the financial accounting required of the Parish and discussed whether or not an accountant should be employed. The Clerk reported difficulties she had recently experienced with the Bank's call centres and Council asked about on-line banking as an alternative.

251.07 Members' Code of Conduct: (i) New Code of Conduct – Council decided to defer this item until the September meeting to allow time for all councillors to study the relevant documentation. (ii) Council discussed where the copies of past Declarations of Interest were held and whether or not they could in future be entered into a book for this purpose; a model sheet for future declarations to be drawn up for the September meeting

252.07 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations: This item also deferred until the September meeting of the Council

253.07 Report of the Planning Committee:

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

ADC/0341/07	63 Hillrise Avenue, conservatory to rear
ADC/0351/07	19 Berriedale Drive, single storey infill extension
ADC/0378/07	Boundstone Community College, Erection of canopy
ADC/0379/07	Land to rear of 22 Steepdown Road, 2 new dwellings
ADC/0382/07	9 Grafton Drive, conservatory
ADC/0384/07	49 Greentrees Crescent, conservatory
ADC/0388/07	4 Steepdown Road, single storey rear extension
ADC/0401/07	Land at 60 to 66 Busticle Lane, amendment of condition 6
ADC/0402/07	12 Cokeham Lane, rooms in roof

With regard to the following application,

ADC/0406/07 Land at rear of 25 Cokeham Lane, new dwelling

The Committee had **NO OBJECTION** but requested that the planned bungalow had flint to all walls to match the existing listed dwelling.

The Committee made the following comments about the remaining Sompting applications:

ADC/0363/07 21 Halewick Lane, demolition of bungalow and erection of 4 houses
OBJECTION. The Committee believed this would be an over-development and out-of-keeping with the area. The dwellings themselves would be too small for the space available. There would be inadequate parking facilities and the development would be too near a busy road for easy access.

ADC/0334/07 57 Boundstone Lane, demolition of 57 & 59 Boundstone Lane and erection of 13 flats.

The Committee **OBJECTED** to this application on the grounds that it would be an over-development and out-of-keeping with the area. They felt that more family homes were needed and this would be an unwelcome development as there were no blocks of flats on this side of the road. There would be inadequate parking and access would be near to the busy mini-roundabout. The development would also overlook neighbouring properties.

Resolved: To accept the report of the Planning Committee

254.07 Report of Amenities Committee: (a) Cllr. Ms. Shaw gave a verbal report from the first meeting of the Amenities Committee that had taken place the previous week. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated before the September meeting of Council. Cllr. Ms. Shaw reported that a surveyor, Robert Bird, had been asked to view the Community Centre and give an estimate of the cost for a full structural survey of the building, and possibly also the public toilets on the recreation ground. The likely cost was about £850 and Council agreed that this could go ahead as the expenditure had been included in the budget. (b) Council discussed the issue of taking responsibility for the lease of Sompting Community Centre and it was agreed that if this should proceed, all councillors would need to be involved and the Parish Council would work in partnership with Sompting Community Association (c) subject to the decision on (b) it was agreed that the public toilets should also be considered as part of the Council's building plans.

Resolved: That, after successful negotiations with Adur District Council, and taking into account the views of Sompting Community Association, the Council would take on the lease of Sompting Community Centre subject to (i) approval of the terms of the lease and (ii) a satisfactory independent structural survey (prop. Cllr. Mear, seconded Cllr. Mrs. Clarke)

255.07 Sompting Festival: Cllr. Clarke, Chairman of the Festival Group, had circulated a letter he had drafted to Adur District Council to express the concerns felt by the Festival organisers regarding the actions taken by District Council staff in regard to Sompting Festival banners. Cllr. Clarke, on behalf of the Festival Group, asked Council to comment on the letter and to decide whether or not to forward it to Adur District Council from the Parish Council. Council discussed the letter and agreed some small changes to the text. It was decided to consult District Councillor Boggis in the first instance about seeking a resolution of the matter.

Resolved: To contact District Councillor Brian Boggis about the issue of Sompting Festival publicity banners.

256.07 Parish Newsletter: Ideas for the next edition of 'Sompting Signpost' were requested as a matter of some urgency with the copy deadline of July 13th. Councillors offered a number of contributions.

257.07 Sompting in Bloom/Best kept garden competition. A number of lists had already been received. Cllrs. Clarke and Mrs. Clarke would take photographs during the summer period.

258.07 Report of the Clerk:

The account balance as at 30th June was confirmed as £66,958.52. The following accounts were submitted for approval:

V. Garland - Clerk's pay and allowances to 31 st July 2007	£497.50
Houseproud – Noticeboards and bus shelters	£111.50
Houseproud – Planter maintenance (summer schedule)	£144.00
Sussex Association of Local Councils –purchase of model copy of Standing orders and financial regulations	£14.98
Community Safety Day grant	£250.00

The Clerk was asked to withhold payment for planter maintenance during June and to request a detailed breakdown of work carried out.

Council assets: The Clerk was asked

- To investigate whether or not replacement seats could be provided in the bus shelter at the top of Halewick Lane
- To obtain prices for wooden bus shelters from suppliers
- To contact West Sussex County Council regarding the spraying of the crazy-paving on the corner of Cokeham Road
- To arrange for 'Highways and footpaths' to be an item on the agenda at monthly meetings.

Correspondence:

- The Clerk was requested to contact Mike Tristram regarding speed limits around Beggars Bush and to offer Council support.
- Council agreed to donate £100 to Victim Support and to ask the organisation to have a stall at next year's Sompting Festival in order to publicise their work.

259.07 Reports of District or County Councillors: None. The Clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Vilna Woolhead to ask her if she would be able to attend a future meeting of Council.

260.07 Reports of representatives to other organisations: Cllr. Ms. Shaw had attended a meeting of Adur in Partnership and reported that the Site Allocations Planning process was 'on hold'; also that small grants were available to community groups from the County Local Committee.

261.07 Other matters: Cllr. Bashford reported that Lancing and Sompting CAB was now a limited company.

The meeting closed at 10.20p.m.