



SOMPTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 14th November 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, T. Smith, M. Thornton and J. Wales. Also present was District Cllr. B. Boggis and PCSOs Marc Granger and Vanessa

297.07 Apologies: were received from Cllr. Mrs. J. Turner

298.07 Declarations of interest: Cllrs. T. Clarke and Mrs. T. Clarke declared an interest in planning application ADC/0655/07.

299.07 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 12th September 2007 were signed as a true record after the following corrections;

(i) item 283.07 to be changed to state that the names of the winners of the 'Best Kept Garden' competition should be recorded in the minutes – the winning gardens for the competition in 2007 were as follows:-

First place:	32 Halewick Lane
Second place:	6 Cokeham Road
Joint third place:	39 Ullswater Road, 29 Trent Close and 3 The Downs
'Highly commended':	10 Western Road North and 22 Ullswater Road

(ii) item 288.07. This item had not been listed on the agenda for the meeting of November 14th 2007 as had been stated in the minutes

300.07 Urgent matters: Cllr. Smith requested that members debate the issue of post office closures. It had been announced that the only post office in Sompting, at Bowness Avenue, was to be closed. Cllr. Smith pointed out that should members wish to oppose the closure it would be necessary to argue the case using the criteria the post office had used to make their decision. District Cllr. Boggis gave further details of the public meeting to be held on 16.11.07 starting at 12.30 p.m. Members were asked to attend the meeting and join the march from the post office to Lancing.

Resolved: That Sompting Parish Council opposes the closure of Bowness Avenue Post Office (*Clerk to write to the Post Office stating the Council's reasons for their opposition*)

301.07 Public participation: No members of the public wished to speak

302.07 Policing Matters: PCSO Marc Granger gave a report on local policing matters (a) four men claiming to be police officers had been involved in 'distraction' burglaries in the district (b) the issue of bus stop markings at the Ball Tree Inn was still being pursued with the Highways Department (c) there had been several handbag snatches in the Lancing/Sompting area and police had a good description of the person responsible (d) there had been several incidents of criminal damage in the area of Dankton Lane and in alleyways near Avon Close and Whitestyles school.

PCSO Granger also reported that there had been a strengthening of police numbers in the area. A new PCSO would be starting work in Sompting on the following Monday and there was a new neighbourhood specialist police officer based at Lancing, Sergeant Antony Leadbeatter.

Cllr. Mear asked PCSO Granger to investigate illegal parking on the 'Rec.' outside Whitestyles School and the removal of 'bars' from the side of 'Rec.' Cllr. Mrs. Clarke expressed concern at the number of young people riding bicycles without lights. PCSO Granger explained that they were not able to issue a fixed penalty if the young person is under sixteen but that they always warn the young person of the dangers of their action and give talks in school to younger children. PCSO Granger asked members to report to him any incidents of verge parking as fixed penalties could be issued for this offence.

303.07 Members' Code of Conduct: The Clerk reported that she had been preparing new documentation to register interest under the new code and had been assisted by Adur District Council's Democratic Services Manager. Members would receive the new documents for signature with their agenda for the meeting in December.

304.07 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations: As there had not been time to fully prepare the new documents, this item was deferred.

305.07 Report of the Planning Committee:

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

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| ADC/0605/07 | 1 The Parade, fascia sign |
| ADC/0627/07 | 22 Blacksmiths Crescent, extension of outbuilding |
| ADC/0651/07 | 25 Ambleside Road, front porch and dormer extension |
| ADC/0655/07 | 148 Abbey Road, demolition and two new bungalows |
| ADC/0661/07 | 34 Greentrees Crescent, replacement garage |
| ADC/0666/07 | 1 Whitestyles Road, single-storey extension |
| ADC/0669/07 | 29 Hillside Road, rear extension |

The Committee made the following comments about the remaining applications:

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| ADC/0629/07 | Westcroft, West Street | half-tile hang house |
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NO OBJECTION but subject to the work being in keeping with other properties in the conservation area

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| ADC/0640/07 | 44 Cokeham Lane, conversion of Victorian villa |
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The Committee **STRONGLY OBJECTED** to this development. As in their previous objection to plans for this site, it was felt that there would be access problems and to be an over-development of a small site. The Committee were very concerned about the demolition of an historically significant building and the impact on the flint wall.

Resolved: To accept the report of the Planning Committee

306.07 Report of Amenities Committee: Cllr. Ms. Shaw reported that the survey of the toilet block had not yet been carried out. Discussions had been held with officers of Adur District Council regarding Sompting Community Centre and it would appear that there might be an option to purchase the building rather than to lease it. SALC had recommended a solicitor (*Clerk to contact re. Cost and forward details to ADC*). The Committee had confirmed that they would oversee the editorial content for the Sompting Signpost and Ms. Shaw stressed the need for more people to be involved in writing or finding articles for the next edition.

307.07 Highways and Footpaths: (i) The Clerk reported on e-mail correspondence with a member of the public regarding access to the downs for horse-riders.
(ii) Cllr. Mrs. Clarke referred to the item of correspondence, an e-mail reply from West Sussex County Council regarding the traffic situation on the A259 near Brooklands. Cllr. Mrs. Clarke stated that she felt the problems on the road had not been resolved and that traffic was still brought to a standstill as far back as the railway bridge in Western Road during peak hours. Cllr. Clarke was concerned that there was insufficient evidence to back the claims made in the e-mail as comparison had been made between figures from 2005 and 2007 and that no proper traffic studies had been carried out before the changes were made; furthermore, he felt that there had been a detrimental effect on the minor roads in the Carnforth Road area. Cllr. Mrs. Clarke suggested that the WSCC officer be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the matter

308.07 Sompting Signpost: covered under item 306.07

309.07 Report of the Clerk: Council discussed progress with the programme of repairs and renovations and noted the work carried out on the Halewick Lane bus shelter, although it was thought that an instruction had been given for the roof to be painted black – the black and green colour scheme was to be used in future for the Inglecroft Parade shelter. Cllr. Mear had investigated the availability of polycarbonate to replace glass in the shelter and had brought along a sample. The Clerk was requested to (a) ask Artzbuilders to quote for the repair to the shelter using polycarbonate instead of glass and (b) to inform them of the change of position of the boards currently at the Marquis of Granby.

Cllr. Thornton raised the issue of tree planting and whether or not the Council should apply for the £50 grant under the 'Trees for Shade' scheme as detailed in the correspondence. Cllr. Smith reported that Whitestyles School may have some oak saplings which they had grown and suggested that the Council contact the school to see if a joint project could be organised to plant some trees in the area. It was suggested that trees could be planted around the 'Rec.' (*Clerk to contact WSCC*).

310.07 Reports of District or County Councillors: District Cllr. Boggis reported (i) that the three surgeries held so far in Lancing had seen increasing numbers each time they were held. (Cllr. Shaw repeated the Council's request that consideration be given to holding a surgery at Sompting Community Centre) (ii) the response to the post office closures announced earlier in the day and the protest meeting that had been organised at the post office in Bowness Avenue on Friday 16th at 12.30 p.m. (iii) thanks to those who had taken part in or supported the KWASH campaign and (iv) that a response regarding sites for banners in Sompting was still awaited.

311.07 Reports of representatives to other organisations: Cllr. Ms. Shaw reiterated the need for a representative to attend the meetings of Adur in Partnership and the Youth Service Management Committee as she was no longer able to do so.

312.07 Other matters: (a) The Clerk was asked to write a further letter to WSCC about the bus stop near to the Ball Tree Surgery as no response had yet been received (b) Cllr. Bashford asked if District Cllr. Boggis could provide any information about the new allotments which would appear to be planned for Halewick Lane (iii) Cllr. Mear reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day service at St. Mary's Church in his capacity as Chairman of the Council and suggested that in future the village logo be added to the wreath.
The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.