

Streat Parish Meeting

Clerk & RFO Elizabeth Bennett

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Minutes of Streat Parish Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 8.00pm in Stonehealed Barn, Streat Lane.

Present: Tony Gedge (Chairman), Brian Clifford, Mike Sandercock (Committee Members) Liz Bennett (Clerk).

Villagers on electoral roll: Charlie Yeldham, Kate Leigh, Tim Leigh, Deborah Grubb, Alan Taylor, Margaret Brown, Stan Osborne, Colin Juniper, Mike Sewell, Melanie Lawson, Clive Lawson, Nick Briggs, Lesley Briggs, Richard Keys.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Tim Gaynor, Ray Whorlow, Carole Owen, Tess Houghton, Caroline Jannoun, George Swaine, Debbie Swaine, Ann Nicholls, Sue Sewell and Reg Lanaway.

2. Minutes of last Ordinary Meeting held on 10th October 2017.

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting were unanimously accepted as a true and fair record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

- a. **Rectory Barn.** The Chairman provided a brief background on this issue for the benefit of new residents. He then reported that at the last meeting he had been asked to contact the PCC to express the view that the money held in the Streat Barn Mission Fund should be retained for the benefit of Streat and Westmeston Churches. He was invited to attend a meeting where it was explained that some of the money is to be spent on providing a toilet and improved kitchen facilities at Streat Church, with a similar proposal for Westmeston. The PCC would not commit to ring-fencing the remaining funds to Streat and Westmeston.

Residents then commented as follows:

- the parish should not accept this position and should continue to pursue a promise of ring fencing.
- a member of the PCC Finance Committee explained that improving the facilities

at Streat and Westmeston churches will replace the facilities that were lost through the sale of the barn. There is no intention to spend the money elsewhere and it will be used to help maintain the fabric of the church buildings in the long run.

- at the time the funds were raised the parish consisted of just Streat and Westmeston, the three beacons parish now includes Ditchling. Was there a full disclosure at the time to the donors of the reversion of funds to the Church?

It was thought that the fund is held legally by the PCC and Streat PM has made clear their views. A further challenge to the PCC could be made in the future if appropriate.

- b. **V on the downs.** The proposed light show on the downs will not now take place due to lack of funding.
- c. **Bridleway adjacent to B2116.** The Chairman reported that this project is still proceeding, albeit slowly.

4. **General Data Protection Regulations.**

The Clerk reported that the new regulations taking effect from 25th May have several implications for Streat PM. Parish Meetings are treated in the same way as all other local authorities despite the minimal amount of personal data held.

- the Clerk will contact all residents on the mailing list to seek consent for their email address to be held for the purpose of circulating agendas, minutes, newsletters and other parish related information. If residents do not actively give consent then the Clerk will have to delete their email address.
- Streat Parish Meeting will have to register with the ICO (Information Commissioner) as a data handler, at a cost of £135 per annum.
- As a local authority, Streat PM is required to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO), who will ensure that the parish complies with the data protection regulations. The Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC) has notified us of a local company called Satswana who are prepared to act as the DPO. They will be working with many other parishes and it is hoped that we can learn from their experiences. The Clerk recommended that the parish appoint Satswana at a cost of £150 per annum at least for this first year. A DPO must be expert in the regulations and also be independent. It is hoped that in future years it might be possible to find a lower cost solution, possibly involving reciprocal arrangements with other parish meetings.

It was **resolved** to register with the ICO at a cost of £35 and to appoint Satswana as the DPO at a cost of £150 per annum.

5. Accounts for period 1st October 2017 to 31st March 2018.

The accounts for this period were included in the annual accounts presented during the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Update.

The Chairman reported that the plan was successful at examination and that the referendum is due to take place on April 19th. The plan is available to view on the South Downs National Park website and two hard copies are also available in the church. It is hoped that residents will turn out to vote.

7. Neighbourhood Watch.

A brief report was provided to the meeting of an incident that took place on Streat Lane. The police were called on 101 who were able to provide advice and support and managed to resolve the altercation over the phone. Residents were reminded of the value of the 101 number.

8. Planning Update.

The planning update was circulated and was noted.

9. Any other matters.

There was a discussion regarding the man who lives in the woods off Streat Lane each summer. The owner of the land is not known and so the police are unable to move him on. The man has not caused any problems over the years but it was agreed that the police and social services will be notified when he arrives so that they can monitor the situation.

The Chairman provided a brief update from the traffic group that was formed following the serious accident in Spatham Lane. Maria Caulfield MP established a petition to ask parliament to designate three local roads, including Streat Lane, as Quiet Lanes. This was done without reference to the traffic meeting or residents.

Some residents felt that the petition should have been supported, although Highways have expressly stated that they will not designate the lanes as Quiet Lanes.

Residents were able to sign the petition if they wished but Streat Parish Meeting had not been notified of its existence or been approached by Maria Caulfield MP.

In the meantime, Westmeston Parish Council have conducted a traffic survey and are exploring the possibility of introducing traffic calming measures. They are confident that these will not be so obstructive as to encourage traffic down Streat Lane.

Streat Parish Meeting could consider some signage, with the consent of Highways, if felt appropriate

10. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 9th or 16th October 2018 – to be confirmed.

11. Vote of Thanks

On behalf of all residents the Chairman was thanked for his dedication and hard work over the years as Chairman. It is hoped that he will still be attending meetings after he has stepped down.

Residents were reminded that a replacement for Tony will need to found before the October meeting.

MEETING CLOSED.

Draft minutes subject to confirmation.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....