

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2023,
at Mannings Heath Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr N Bryant (Chairman), Cllr P Bullen, Cllr J Chaytor, Cllr D Harber, Cllr W Ingram, Cllr C Kenny, Cllr D Lawrence and Cllr T Nelson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Andy Beams (Locum Clerk), County Councillor Nigel Jupp and 14 members of the public.

193-22/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** District Councillor Toni Bradnum's apologies for absence.

194-22/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.

195-22/23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15th March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman.

196-22/23 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported on an eventful year since taking over as Chairman following the resignation of Owen Hydes, whose contribution to the council has been sorely missed., but he was pleased the other councillors had worked together effectively. The Chairman presented a gift on behalf of the council to Mr Hydes.

Mr Hydes thanked the Chairman for the kind remarks and thanked the council for the gift. He commented that the council had enjoyed a good reputation and was highly regarded by Horsham District Council for their work on planning matters. He had been proud of his service, and thanked all those that served the council, with special mentions to Cllr Nelson for his management of the finances and Cllr Harber for making the new playground a reality. He wished all councillors well and thanked them for their ongoing determination to serve the parish.

The Chairman informed those present that three of the current council had chosen not to stand again, and thanked Cllrs Nelson, Harber and Lawrence for their individual contributions, echoing Mr Hydes comments on the significance of the impact of Cllrs Nelson and Harber. He presented each with a bottle of wine as a mark of appreciation.

A new member was joining the council in May, Mr Bayley *from Lower Beeding, although no-one had stood for election from Manning Heath **, and he hoped a resident from that area may come forward to fill a vacancy by co-option. (**Noted that whilst Cllr Bayley's property is in Lower Beeding Parish his postal address Mannings Heath and is a 'Mannings Heath village resident'*)

Thanks were given to those who had cut back overhanging hedges, which Cllr Bullen reminded people were in the school safety zone, and the area was now able to be safely walked along.

Finally, the Chairman noted:

- Wicksteed had completed the repainting and minor repairs to the play equipment
- Work has started on the semi-detached cottage in Park Lane to comply with the planning permission granted
- There are two new defibrillator cabinets which will replace those at the White Horse and Black Horse pubs
- The new Parish Clerk, who is already a Clerk at another parish, starts in May. Once she is in post, dates for future meetings will be published

197-22-23

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

In the absence of Cllr Bradnum, there was no report from Horsham District Council. County Councillor Nigel Jupp, mindful of the restrictions in place during the pre-election period, made the following comments:

- During his six years as County Councillor, it had been a pleasure to work with Nuthurst Parish Council
- As volunteers, Parish Councillors are the bedrock of the democratic system in all towns and villages
- The role remains to represent parishioners and be available for them to talk to
- He wishes the new council well and looks forward to working with them.

Cllr Jupp ended by offering to answer any questions, but none were put to him.

198-22/23

PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman invited questions from the public, reminding those in attendance that each question is limited to 2 minutes in accordance with Standing Order 3(g).

A member of the public spoke, expressing concern for the future of the Parish Council following recent events leading to the resignation of the former Chairman and Clerk. He stated these resignations had been the consequence of a barrage of abuse received from a group of residents, and other councillors were not re-standing for the same reason. His primary concern was that with a reduced number of councillors, important projects worked on by the Parish Council would falter and sought assurances that these would be taken forward to completion.

The Chairman stated that he hoped the new council would continue with these projects, and other for the enhancement and improvement of the parish.

A second member of the public expressed thanks to Cllrs Harber and Ingram for taking time to meet with them and discuss the play equipment and planters. She hoped to see the matter further discussed at a future council meeting. She also thanked the council for arranging the painting of the equipment and the repair to the tyre swing.

199-22/23 PLANNING MATTERS

i. New Applications

Number	Applicant & Reason
<u>DC/23/0517</u> 22.03.2023	Erection of a single storey side extension with associated alterations St Andrews Church of England Primary School, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst, West Sussex, RH13 6LH It was agreed the Parish Council has no objections to the application.
<u>DC/23/0285</u> 24.02.2023	Erection of an outbuilding for storage purposes St Andrews Church of England Primary School, Nuthurst Street, Nuthurst, West Sussex, RH13 6LH It was agreed that the Parish Council objected to this application as the information contained was incomplete, it referred to a new building but made no reference to building regulations, made no reference to the existing shipping container (for which the temporary permission had expired in January 2023) and the impact within the conservation area had not been considered.

ii. PLANNING UPDATES

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** there were no Planning Updates.

200-22/23 FINANCE

- i) Cllr Nelson confirmed that the payments for the month were the normal monthly outgoings plus the payment to Wicksteed for the play equipment and the new batteries for the defibrillator.
- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the receipts totalling £5,149.96 for March 2023.
- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Nat West bank reconciliations for March 2023.

201-22/23 LOCAL ASSOCIATION, OTHER BODIES AND TRAINING REPORTS

Cllr Chaytor reported that the planned Older People's Forum had been cancelled and she was awaiting a rescheduled date.

202-22/23 CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENT/DECISIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the Clerk's announcements circulated as part of the agenda, including the completion of the 2022/23 financial year accounts in preparation for the internal audit.

203-22/23 HEALTH AND SAFETY SIGNAGE

It was noted that the most important area for the signs were at the playground. The original designs need to be amended and will include reference to a maximum age limit of 12, that parents are responsible for the safety of their own children, the site is used at the users own risk and requesting that children play safely.

It was emphasised that the instructions for the safe use of the equipment must be clear.

204-22/23 STORAGE OF RECORDS

The Chairman informed members that he was in possession of many boxes of historic Parish Council records, and that a storage place for them was needed. He suggested a lock & store facility be investigated.

The Locum Clerk suggested that West Sussex County Council would have an archive facility (he was familiar with the equivalent in East Sussex), where the records could be held free of charge. He further suggested that due to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the information held should be reviewed to see whether there were legitimate reasons for retaining it.

It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the Chairman find a lock & store facility in the short term, and that the new Clerk review the information held once in post.

205-22/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 17th May 2023 at Mannings Heath Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chairman of the Parish Council

Date