

## **ANSTY AND STAPLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

The minutes of Annual Parish Meeting **Annual Parish Meeting** held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 7.00 pm in Ansty Village Hall.

**Present:** Brad Williams (Chairman), Bob Birthwright, James Steadman, Nuala Hampshire, Maria Fielding, Crispin Salimbeni, Simon Stokes, Dhana Mahendran.

1. Apologies for absence.  
None received.
2. Minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 8th April 2019.  
The minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.
3. Chairman's Report.  
The Chairman delivered his report on Parish Council activities in the last year. The report is attached to these minutes.
4. Any other questions.  
None received.

Meeting Closed  
Draft minutes subject to confirmation.

## **Chairman's Report at the Annual Parish Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

### **1. District Plan Review**

The PC worked with Cuckfield Parish Council to help form the SCAG campaign group to oppose the inclusion of the Cuckstye site for 1600 houses in the District Plan Review. Whilst SCAG operates independently of the Parish Councils, the Parish Councils have supported their work, which includes:

- 3 public meetings to gain support for the campaign, including a Question Time debate with local politicians and Mims Davies MP. At this meeting MSDC announced that they would not be taking the Cuckstye site forward into the draft District Plan Review.
- A media campaign on ITV and in the local press
- Obtaining advice from Campaign for Protection of Rural England
- Engaging planning experts to assist with a response to the District Plan Review regulation 18 consultation.

The Parish Council also objected to the inclusion of the three smaller sites in the District Plan Review at Sugworth Farm, Challoners and Bolney Road.

This work will continue over the next year as the District Plan goes to a further round of consultation and inspection.

### **2. Other Planning Matters**

The Parish Council provides comments on all planning applications in the parish. It has robustly opposed the work at Cuckfield Golf Course and submitted a response to the appeal.

### **3. Community Governance Review**

The Parish Council requested a Community Governance Review because it was unhappy at the proposed distribution of 9 Councillors across 7 wards that was originally announced following the Boundary Commission Review. The CGR was successful and has resulted in 12 Councillors across 5 wards in the parish, thus ensuring that all areas of this large parish are represented. This new arrangement will take place after the PC elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### **4. Jubilee Grants**

The PC awarded £550 worth of grants to local communities to assist with the Jubilee celebrations and helped communities access a further £400

from the MSDC Jubilee grant scheme.

## 5. Highways.

### a. **Speeding in Staplefield**

In response to requests from Staplefield residents the Parish Council has requested a Traffic Regulation Order from WSCC to create a 40mph buffer zone between the national speed limit and the 30mph speed limit. It is hoped that this will encourage traffic to slow down as it approaches the villages. This work is ongoing and WSCC are still investigating this option.

### b. **Deaks Lane road issues**

The Parish Council is working with WSCC Highways and Deaks Lane to address a number of issues in the lane, including poor drainage.

### c. **Bus Shelters and salt bins in Rocky Lane.**

The Parish Council has installed two new bus shelters on Rocky Lane and provided additional salt bins.

### d. **Widening of the entrance to Cedar Avenue.**

The Parish Council is assisting Cedar Avenue residents' campaign to get the entrance to their road widened. This has been promised by WSCC for over 10 years now. The PC invited the local WSCC Councillor to a meeting to try and get this project moving. The project is complex and involves the moving of utility supplies but should finally happen in 2025.

## 6. Parish Council assets and maintenance

The PC has ongoing responsibility for Staplefield Common, the pavilion, Staplefield Play Park, 44 streetlights in the parish, the management of Ansty Rec, noticeboards, and 4 Speed Indicator Devices.

The play park is inspected once a quarter by playground specialists and is visually checked for any obvious issues each week by the pavilion caretaker. The trees on Staplefield Common are inspected every two years. The grass, including the cricket square, is regularly cut along with other public areas such as Ansty Green and the area around the village sign in Brook Street.

The Parish Council is hoping to work with MSDC on some improvements at Ansty Rec and on some new bus shelters at Ansty in the next year.