

# ROTHERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the Community

in Rotherfield, Town Row, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

## MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014 AT 19:30 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL ROOM, ROTHERFIELD VILLAGE HALL

### COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Cllr. D. Thomas (Chairman)	Cllr. Mrs. P. Halse-Adamson	Cllr. J. Kitchenham
Cllr. R. Harris (Vice Chairman)	Cllr. D. Hiles	Cllr. N. Wickenden
Cllr. P. Dixon	Cllr. R. Jaques	
Cllr. T. Gilbert		

### COUNCILLORS ABSENT

Cllr. L. Pike

### ALSO PRESENT.

- The Parish Clerk, Trevor Thorpe.
- Cllr. H. Merriman (WDC).
- Three candidates for co-option to fill the vacancy on the Council.
- Four Members of the public .

#### 1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s 85).

Apologies have been received, and were accepted, on behalf of Cllr. R. Standley (ESCC), PcsO Pearce-Martin, Cllr. A. Sharpe and Cllr. C. Clibbens.

#### 2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER INTERESTS.

The Chairman declared a personal interest in respect of item 7 a) as one of the candidates owns land bordering his property. The Chairman reminded the councillors that they should declare an interest if they became aware of one at any point in the meeting.

#### 3. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

Cllr. Merriman's report contained the following points:-

- 30mph bin sticker campaign in Station Road. Was pleased at the "Courier" coverage of this. Because of the campaign, a resident has offered a site that may be of use for Speedwatch/Police Speed monitoring and he will discuss this with our PcsO.
- Wealden D.C. is holding two events on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Hailsham and Uckfield respectively. This is to encourage candidates for the District Council elections next May. Clerk has received publicity material from WDC and will circulate.

Clerk delivered report on behalf of Cllr. Standley, this contained the following points:-

##### **Aircraft noise and frequency.**

- Has received a number of e-mails and phone calls with regard to aircraft noise and the belief from many residents that the number of flights over the north part of Wealden has increased. Levels of noise/concern vary from within Parishes and areas.
- Matter has been raised with Charles Hendry, who has also received significant amounts of complaints re the noise; this he has taken up with Gatwick, their stance being that the only changes are seasonal resulting from having a busy summer.
- Gatwick have been testing a new system for flights to the west of the airport but not the eastern side. The consultation was not well publicised and is not layman friendly. Without the (unconnected?) perceived additional flights and additional noise it is doubtful many residents would have known about the consultation.

Parish Council Website: [www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rotherfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)  
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- Anecdotally more flights over Wadhurst have been noticed and they appear to be lower than previous years. The radar map showing flights into and out of Gatwick shows position and height of flights and makes interesting watching ([www.flightradar24.com](http://www.flightradar24.com) ).  
The basic questions on this issue are-
  - Have there been more flights over the area than normal and are they at lower heights?
  - The narrowing of flights paths may mean fewer residents are affected but those that are will be more affected – is this fair?
  - Was the consultation flawed by lack of publicity and being very technical?
  - Is the 2nd runway, which Gatwick wish to have, going to double the problem – the 2nd runway is not part of the consultation?
  - Gatwick airport is a significant economic driver and expansion required for jobs etc.
  - More detailed information on the traffic flows over the last few years is needed and Charles Hendry MP will be asked to get this information.

I will be interested in the Parish's view on the subject.

### 30 mph Bin Stickers

- Huw and I were contacted by a resident of Station Road with regard to the speed of traffic. Is aware that the Parish speed watch team have been active in Station Road and whilst pointing this out also suggested that we deliver 30MPH bin stickers. Wealden DC had previously had a supply of these. Myself, Cllr. Merriman and the resident delivered them a couple of Saturdays ago. I have asked for more copies and WDC are checking with Sussex Police re: funding another supply; will be in touch with Clerk once I have more information and trust this initiative assists efforts in reducing speed in the Parish.

### Re-Painting yellow lines/ speed roundels

- I undertook to chase the work on these at the last meeting. Clerk has been in touch with Highways and duplicating the work is more likely to confuse rather than give clarity. Happy to push from my end if a firm date for the work is not forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

## 4. TO RECEIVE POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS REPORT

The following report was submitted by the Clerk on behalf of PcsO Pearce-Martin.

- **Hi Visibility Patrols.** Have continued to visit the village regularly to carry out “hi viz” patrols and the 1 hour parking bay has been without trouble apart from one vehicle overstaying –this was given a warning card.
- **Parking on Pavement opposite Church.** Has looked at this - there are always vehicles (one in particular) which are parked on the pavement at this location. However, as long as there is enough room to get past with a pram or wheelchair, there is no offence of obstructing the highway. In addition, vehicles are allowed to park long term in one location as long as they are taxed, MOT'd and insured.
- **St Peters Mead.** There have been a number of complaints about anti-social behaviour. Site meeting held at the location to speak with those concerned with issue – Wealden Housing Officer also attended.  
Since this meeting, there have been no more complaints; regular patrols are undertaken in St Peters Mead.
- **Street Meeting.** One street meeting held outside the General Stores – no attendees.
- **Speeding.** Have now had training on the SL700 speed camera 100 vehicle checks undertaken in South Street and on the B2100. These are carried out in an unmarked car; 100 cars have their speed noted, average speed then calculated. Results as follows:-
  - South Street : 34mph average heading out of Rotherfield

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- South Street : 31mph average heading towards Rotherfield
- B2100 – in layby at top of the hill heading out of Rotherfield towards Crowborough: Result: 35 mph average.

Will be repeating these checks regularly and can now train other Community Speedwatch volunteers.

- There have been a number of burglaries and attempted burglaries in nearby Mayfield so please can I ask everyone to be vigilant with home security and to report any suspicious vehicles or strangers in the village.

Forthcoming street meetings:-

- 11th September 6pm Court Meadow near South St/Mayfield Road junction.
- 9th October 6pm Hornshurst Road near North St. Junction.

Pcso requested if the Council wished for parking/speeding remain the priority areas, it was confirmed that this was the case - CLERK to advise Pcso and thank her for her efforts.

Clerk reported that Pcso, together with a colleague from Crowborough, had undertaken a site visit last Saturday in Limekiln Forest with nearby resident and an owner of one of the plots in the woods, this to discuss and view at first hand the sites of the various issues there. Report to be given at the September Highways Committee meeting regarding this issue.

The Councillors are impressed with the energy that our new Pcso is bringing to the role and pleased with the success she is having. Cllr. Harris reported that he was aware of the St Peter's Mead issues and that Pcso's actions appeared to have resolved these.

Chairman is to attend WDALC annual meeting next week in Crowborough at which the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner will be present. He will bring to her attention the council's appreciation for the excellent work being done by our PCSO and how our community benefits from this local policing policy.

**5. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014 FOR APPROVAL AS A TRUE RECORD AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.**

Copies of the draft minutes had been previously circulated to Members. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th July 2014 be confirmed as a true record and the Chairman signed them.

**6. UPDATE FROM CLERK REGARDING MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.**

Numbers relate to agenda of July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**7 k)** Follow up action arising from resolution yet to take place.

**15.** Standing Order/Code of Conduct update. To be carried forward to next agenda, Clerk has not had time to deal with this.

**7. TO CONSIDER INFORMATION AND MAKE DECISIONS IF REQUIRED REGARDING ACTION FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-**

**a) Candidates for co-option to fill vacancy on the Parish Council.**

Information circulated prior to meeting.

Candidates were as follows:

- Keith Curtis

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- Adrian Martin
- Francis Whittington

Each candidate was given the opportunity for a 2' presentation to the Councillors followed by a brief Q & A session. It was RESOLVED that the selection vote be by show of hands and the Chairman requested that it be recorded. Voting was as follows:-

Candidate name	Councillors voting	Total Votes
Keith Curtis	Cllr. Dixon	1
Adrian Martin	Cllrs. Harris and Hiles	2
Francis Whittington	Cllrs. Thomas, Gilbert, Halse-Adamson, Jaques, Kitchenham and Wickenden	6

Francis Whittington had an overall majority of votes cast and was appointed by Co-option as a Councillor. There was a brief adjournment whilst the Acceptance of Office document was signed and Cllr. Whittington then took his seat at the meeting. CLERK to update and publish new contact list for Council and advise WDC of Cllr. Whittington's appointment.

The Councillors expressed the wish that the unsuccessful candidates should consider standing for the Council in the May 2015 elections; it was considered that both had much to bring to the Council.

**b) Aircraft noise issues raised by Parishioners; information regarding Gatwick consultations.**

Cllr. Standley's report under item 3 summarises the main issues, Clerk summarised issue regarding consultations undertaken by Gatwick as follows:-

- Gatwick Flight Path Consultation Autumn 2012 – Parish Council responded to this expressing wish that solution chosen avoided overflying of the Ashdown Forest to reduce the impact of Nitrogen deposits.
- Gatwick London Airspace Consultation. October 2013 – comment deadline 21st January 2014.
- Gatwick Local Area Consultation. May 2014 – comment deadline 15th August 2014.

Enquiries of other local councils indicate that they only became aware of the last two consultations when they were brought to their attention by Parishioners; the consultations do not appear to have been circulated. It is understood that Wealden District Council have raised this as a concerns with Gatwick; Clerk has also written to Gatwick asking them to clarify how the consultation was circulated, their response is awaited. The Chairman allowed the two members of the public present to address the meeting with their concerns for a period of up to 2'. Key points raised were as follows:-

**Sheriff's Lane resident:-**

- The Parish could be faced with an “onslaught” of flights should the decision be made to introduce a narrower band of approach to Gatwick that passed over it.
- It is a fear the Parish could be sidelined if it did not act to make its views known.
- There had been a lack of information about when a trial of new approach patterns was to taken place.

**Eridge Green resident:-**

- Eridge Green and Boar's Head residents had noticed an increase in flight activity.
- Frant and Withyham Councils, together with West Kent Parishes, had been more proactive regarding these issues – there is a High Weald Councils Aviation Group that is active regarding this issue.

**Actions to be taken were discussed, key points/views are as follows:-**

- Parish Council should take a more active interest in this matter.
- Council should investigate joining with other Councils locally to share knowledge and make clear that changes to flight paths may not be acceptable. We should support/liaise with our

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neighbours so as not to be vulnerable to being an “easy picking” should it be decided to move the flightpaths again.

- Diagram included in most recent consultation showed Rotherfield just outside the main zone potentially affected.
- We should not take a view that the problem can just be shifted elsewhere.
- The reality is that it is a benefit in living near to Gatwick, arguably, we are part of the problem – do we take flights for our holidays?
- Some areas of the Parish have not noticed any change or increase in noise from aircraft.
- Consultations have been poorly handled by Gatwick.

RESOLVED that following action be taken:-

CLERK to investigate/liaise with the High Weald Councils Aviation Group to establish what information they have to share and actions they are taking; also liaise with neighbouring Parishes. Add item to September to report and discuss further action.

Cllr. Merriman will pass on information received via our local MP regarding the issue.

**c) East Sussex Waste and Minerals Sites Plan – Response from Parish Council.**

Information circulated to Councillors, 5<sup>th</sup> September deadline for comments. It was considered that this 174-page consultation was too complex to give proper consideration. Only area mentioned in vicinity is just outside the Parish in Jarvis Brook. RESOLVED CLERK to respond to consultation expressing concern at complexity and view that future consultation should be more targeted to specific areas likely to be affected.

**d) Wealden District Council - Consultation re: Draft Housing Strategy 2014-16.**

Carried forward from July meeting, 29<sup>th</sup> September deadline for comments. RESOLVED that Cllrs. Wickenden, Kitchenham and Hiles form a working group to put together a response to be discussed and agreed at the 16<sup>th</sup> September Planning and Building Committee meeting. CLERK to add to agenda.

**e) Request for grant support from the Kent Sussex and Surrey Air ambulance.**

Letter requesting grant support circulated to Councillors prior to meeting RESOLVED to grant £250 to this worthwhile cause, CLERK to note and add to list for cheque issue at September meeting.

**f) Defibrillator – update regarding progress with grant and process for purchase and installation.**

Application agreed at October 2013 PCM has finally been agreed by British Heart Foundation for purchase of a Defibrillator for installation outside Village Hall subject to £400 contribution from PC. RESOLVED CLERK to make formal approach to Hall regarding site for this and confirming Council's responsibility for installation in entrance to hall but accessible to public; also liaise with BHF, Ambulance Service and First Responders regarding installation process, cabinet and training for use. Information to be passed to Cllr. Gilbert in time for Hall meeting next Tuesday.

**g) Clerks Holiday dates for 2014/15.**

RESOLVED that following dates agreed:-

- 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (3 days).
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (5 days)

**2015/16**

- 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (4 days)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015, return to work 24<sup>th</sup> August (15 Days).

**h) Adoption of updated Standing Orders based on the SALC/SLCC model set.**

To be carried forward to September agenda.

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**i) Review expansion plans for the Parish Cemetery, resurface/extension of paths and investigation of water main thought to cross lower field.**

RESOLVED that in view of likely cost of repairing and extending paths in Cemetery that this will need to be put out to tender. CLERK to draw up tender letter for the following:-

- i. Repairing existing path
- ii. Extending to Wall of Remembrance.
- iii. Extending to bottom of existing burial area.
- iv. Extending to bottom of lower field.

Paths to be 1.8m width, quotes to be itemised as above so that the option to undertake only part of the work may easily be made. Quotes to be considered at October Council meeting.

Coppards, Hailsham Roadways and M.J. White to be invited to tender.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Wickenden investigate further the route of the water main believed to run across or below lower field and report to Council.

**j) Postponement to later date of the surfacing work proposed in Chant Lane due to forthcoming work to install water meters that is to be undertaken by South East Water.**

RESOLVED in view of the work planned, and to avoid new surfacing being disturbed by it, work to surface be deferred until spring. CLERK to notify Coppards and Lane residents; also contact South East Water enquiring if Council may take over reinstatement after their water meter work subject to contribution from them toward the surface improvements.

**8. TO RECEIVE & ADOPT MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS, & MATTERS ARISING.**

- 5<sup>th</sup> August – Planning and Building Committee
- 19<sup>th</sup> August – Recreation and Burial Committee
- 26<sup>th</sup> August – Planning and Building Committee

Draft minutes of the above meetings have been circulated to the Councillors and it was RESOLVED that they be adopted by the Full Council.

**9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS**

• **Other committees and sub-committees.**

None/

• **Councillor “Have Your Say” session and arrangements for the next session.**

No August session due to holidays, next session to be hosted by Chair and Vice Chair in Memorial Institute on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

• **Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.**

Cllrs. Wickenden and Thomas represented the Parish Council at the Rotherfield Royal British Legion event in the Village Hall on August 4<sup>th</sup> to mark the date that Britain entered World War I. The event was well attended and involved the reading of soldier’s poems and letters, singing popular songs, lighting candles and dedicating the new British Legion Standard. It was a very moving occasion.

• **Clerk’s report and issues.**

None.

**10. TO RECEIVE FINANCE INFORMATION**

These items were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting:-

- Bank Reconciliation as at end of July 2014 and review of expenditure against Budget to date. It was RESOLVED that these be approved and the Chairman signed them.
- Approval of Payments.

It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:-

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Payee Name	Cheque Ref	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
Trevor Thorpe	801804	£1,478.40	August salary
H M R C	801805	£491.75	August Tax and NI
Trevor Thorpe	801806	£70.63	August expenses/reimbursements
Trevor Thorpe	801806	£14.64	Traffic cones with VAT
Rotherfield Village Hall	801807	£34.20	July hall hire costs
Konica Minolta Ltd	801808	£23.35	Photocopier June - Aug
Rotherfield Sports Club	801809	£315.00	August pitch cutting
Sutcliffe Play Ltd	801810	£3,483.00	Balance of play equipment cost
The Tree Council	801811	£30.00	Tree Warden Forum fee
East Sussex County Council	801812	£385.54	New lanterns for 60 & 84
Pureprint Group Ltd	801813	£361.29	Print/post of Mark x newsletter
Wealden District Council	801814	£290.88	Dog bins April to June
PJI Contract Packers Ltd	801815	£477.00	Street sweeping/litter picking
Tollwood Garden Service	801816	£1,260.00	August grass cutting
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>£8,715.68</b>	

£5K is to be transferred from deposit to current account pending reimbursement by grant and Vat reclaim of £12k total purchase and installation cost of play canopy.

## 11. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE.

### GENERAL

- **Santander** – Information regarding “simplifying” our Direct Saver account to become “Business Everyday Saver” with interest rate reducing from 1% to 0.45%.
- **SALC** – Notice of AGM at Crowborough Community Centres. 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 10:00.
- **WDC** – Information regarding events to promote interest in becoming a Councillor at the May 2015 Elections.

### MAGAZINES AND CIRCULARS

- **Sussex Area Ramblers** – August 2014 “Now Open”
- **Spa Valley Railway** – “Spa Valley Starter” magazine autumn 2014.
- **CPRE** – “Countryside Voice” and “Fieldwork” magazines for summer 2014.

## 12. TO RECEIVE INSPECTION BOOK & REPORTS

## 13. TO RECEIVE DATES FOR FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- 9<sup>th</sup> September - Highways Lighting and Transport Committee
- 16<sup>th</sup> September – Planning and Building Committee
- 25<sup>th</sup> September – September Council Meeting (Mark Cross Village Hall).

All meetings start at 19:30 and are in the Parish Council Room, Rotherfield Village Hall other than as noted above.

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## 14. TO RECEIVE URGENT ISSUES FOR NOTING OR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDA

- Mobile phone issues in New Road Area. Clerk is collating information regarding this and liaising with Cllr. Standley for possible ESCC support in investigating/resolving issue. Any information from Cllrs. regarding network coverage in Village will be welcomed.
- Application submitted via District Ward Councillors for grant toward new notice board at Mark Church for community/church. Clerk has suggested this scheme to Eridge Hall as possible source of funds toward toilet refurbishment.
- Clerk is to obtain and forward details regarding new sports wall installed at Wolfe Rec. that may be of interest to the Parish Council.

Following items relating to Highways issues, CLERK to chase and add to Highways Committee agenda as appropriate:-

- Repairs to collapsed drain at foot of Station Road. This has been “coned” for several months.
- Tree issues raised in Spout Hill.
- Collapsed utility reinstatement at entrance to North Street by Stores.
- Road works/surfacing advised to take place in Catt’s Hill, Church Road, by Town Row Bridge and near Brecon Terrace, Church Road.
- Trees overgrowing Station Road causing hazard to buses and tall vehicles, and consequently to other road users. Considered that these are now beyond the scope of mere “trimming”.
- Suggestion that traffic signs should prioritise vehicles leaving village, particularly in Church Road, as it was considered that this would ease congestion,
- CLERK to add item to next Planning agenda to discuss “wasted space” that could be put to fruitful building space.

## 15. PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE CLERK IN THE MONTH AHEAD.

- Publish Standing Orders update for consideration by Councillors.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the meeting closed at 21:50

## 16. PUBLIC FORUM.

None

**Confirmed as a true record at the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 meeting of the Council**

.....Chairman.....Date