

## EBERNOE PARISH COUNCIL

The Ebernoe Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 in Holy Trinity Church, Ebernoe.

Present: Councillor Mrs A. Tyrrell (Chairman), Councillor Mr. J. Harvey, Councillor Mr I. Parkinson and Councillor Mr P. Simmonds.

In attendance: Mrs J Duncton (County Councillor), Mr G. Evans (District Councillor), Mrs H. Scott (Parish Clerk).

**184** One minutes silence observed in memory of recent bereavements within the parish.

**185 Apologies for absence received** – Councillor Mrs S. Kendell and Councillor Mrs S. Nyfield

**186 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 having previously been circulated, were approved and signed. Proposed by Councillor J Harvey and seconded by Councillor P. Simmonds

**187 Matters arising** – none

**188 Broadband Update** – Streels Lane and Colhook Common now connected to FTTP (Fibre To The Property) however parts of the parish including Balls Cross and Pipers Lane still remain at slow speeds. Openreach cannot advise when FTTP will be in place for unconnected properties and advise that interest should be registered on Openreach Community Partnership website. The Chairman advised that she thought this process had already taken place. Clerk to contact Patrick Benson on his return from holiday to investigate further.

**189 Update on BT Telephone Kiosk** – Telephone Kiosk is now in parish council ownership. Sub committee headed by Guy Goodwin to be set up to manage restoration work to the Kiosk. Chair proposed a budget of £500 to fund these works, this was seconded by Councillor J. Harvey. It was agreed that the kiosk to be used as information/exchange point.

**190 Update on request for a Memorial Seat** – an update on the reason's for the family request were outlined. Not all councillors were in agreement with the request and a long debate ensued. The outcome of the debate was a proposal for the family to support the cricket club and offer financial support. The cricket club could then agree on the quality and location of the seat and any ongoing maintenance matters.

**191 North East Parishes Group** – The group asked the parish council to support the setting up of a fighting fund re the inclusion of NE parishes in the South Downs National Park and to fight unsustainable housing developments. The parish council agreed unanimously that it was not able to support the fighting fund financially.

**192 Chairman's Report** – The proposed fete for 4<sup>th</sup> September has been cancelled however the bonfire/fireworks event planned to commemorate Remembrance Day will go ahead on Remembrance Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021. A contribution of £250 towards the cost of the fire works was agreed unanimously. An open air Carol service will be held on the green on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm with the traditional Carol service being held in Holy Trinity Church on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Work on the Welcome pack for new residents in Ebernoe will start later in the year.

### **193 County Councillors Report -**

It's a difficult time to give you many pieces of new information in my work at the County Council as a Councillor because the month of August is not a time of meetings except for Planning & Rights of way or any emergency. Of course things don't stop and Cabinet members, Officers and some of the Chairman have to keep their regular meetings going but for most of us that are not in position it's a time of catch up on life outside of Councils. That said of course things still come along that need your attention and in normal times with 11 Parish's I try and get to some of the events that take place like Garden Trails and Fetes. Some of the lunches in Parish's have also started up and I always enjoy meeting the residents at them. Some of them get about 60 joining to gather for a good meal and good chat with friends and neighbours.

In the way of updates it's a bit more of the same in as much as Children & Adult Services are still achieving good outcomes with new initiatives that will be of benefit to all.

In Childrens' Services we have refurbished 3 of our children homes in the Worthing area, to a very high standard and these will soon be occupied. They really are state of the art. 3 in the northern part i.e. 2 in Crawley and one in Cuckfield are now waiting to have the same treatment. That said OFSTED have already rated these 3 as outstanding and that's before their refurb starts so hopefully they now get the buildings they deserve.

Fire & Rescue is coping well although we are losing our Assistant Chief Fire Office Jon Lacey who I have know and worked with ever since I was on the County Council.

He is taking up the position of Chief Fire Officer in Suffolk and I am sure we all wish him well. Jon started some 25 years ago as a retained Fireman and has worked his way right through to Assistant Chief Fire

Officer.

There is quite a lot of investment in Schools going on but nothing to report especially in Petworth and around.

South Downs National Park had a Planning meeting last week with applications in Owlesbury, Morestead, Petersfield and Shoreham so again nothing to affect us.

I continue to monitor and send in anything I see or Parish's let me know about the condition of roads which is of course mainly Potholes but overhanging vegetation is also a matter of concern at this time of the year. Works to commence on Church Road, Streels Lane on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Just a reminder that on Rights of Way's and roads obstructions that are from Private owners land are their responsibility as are the bollards that some residents decide to put on the verge outside of their property on County Highways land. Should anyone hit these obstructions with their vehicle it is with the Private owner to sort this out.

### **194 District Councillors Report –**

#### **Local Updates**

**Loxwood Claypit** Loxwood Claypits / Protreat application is for "a clay quarry and construction materials recycling facility (CMRF) for CD&E wastes including the use of an existing access from Loxwood Road, the extraction and exportation of clay and restoration using suitable recovered materials from the CMRF to nature conservation interest including woodland, waterbodies and wetland habitats"

Their application is published and live on WSCC website with the reference WSCC/030/21 Full application can be viewed here: <https://westsussex.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/WSCC/030/21>. Closing date for comments is 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Stop the Claypit group have published on their website guidance for those wanting to object on planning policy related aspects. This guidance can be found here [https://7100ec5d-d182-409f-9a8a-3cbf9d00046e.filesusr.com/ugd/149a10\\_96b5c1dcb7a041549c5a61fa61fc97c2.pdf](https://7100ec5d-d182-409f-9a8a-3cbf9d00046e.filesusr.com/ugd/149a10_96b5c1dcb7a041549c5a61fa61fc97c2.pdf)

#### **Lagoon 3**

Tony Whitty sent an email to Parishes to update on the current progress with the legal team now that enforcement has expired and has agreed to send out a time frame for this in due course.

On 7<sup>th</sup> July I attended the Planning Committee meeting and one agenda item was for committee members to note the report on Lagoon 3 <https://chichester.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s20422/13.0%20Crouchland%20Farm%20Enforcement%20Report.pdf>

I also took the opportunity to publicly raise questions that had been sent to me from Kirdford Parish and Plaistow and Ifold Parish. These also represented the questions many residents have raised with me. I felt it important that at this recorded public meeting that the communities' voices were heard. I was given a strict three minutes to speak and although tight managed to get all questions asked. Lagoon 3 was agenda item 13 and was heard at around 2pm so is some way into the recording which will be updated here <https://chichester.nucast.live/> (please note it was not there at the time of writing)

The questions I asked and answers (in red and transcribed to best ability from the audio recording) I received were as follows:

1) With reference to paragraph 6.1 of the report.....

6.1 A site visit on 24 May 2021 – three days after the expiry of the compliance period – showed that Lagoon 3 remains intact on site with no indications within the site that any works of compliance had been attempted or that they were imminent. The visit did however confirm that the Crouchland Farm site [under the management of Artemis] was compliant and that works required under the extant enforcement notices on land in its control had been carried out.

Q – Has CDC definitive proof that all the underground infrastructure has been removed as per the enforcement notice? Could this be shared with the district and parish councillors?

Answer - CDC stated that "If it is the pipe between the lagoon and the digestors we agree on the advice of the ecologists that it should remain in situ as it would be more harmful to bring it up than leave it where it was, but all other apparatus has been removed".

2) Now that the enforcement notice has expired could Kirdford and Plaistow and Ifold Parishes (and the communities they serve) be provided with a clear and concise timeline as to what happens, by when and by whom

Answer - CDC committed to put together an outline of the enforcement process to share with Parish

Councils and the wider community but could not give a specific time frame as there are a number of variables in-between and if it went to court that would be down to their time frame beyond the control of CDC.

3) If there are no assets of value with the current owner for enforcement, then what happens?

**Answer – The question was not understood, Council said they would return to it, but never did.**

4) What is the point at which CDC will take over responsibility for the site - it is not reasonable to let the site exist in the current state beyond a reasonable time frame. What is that time frame?

**Answer- CDC spoke around the fact there is no obligation for them to take responsibility and all other options should be exhausted before discussions of accountability could be explored.**

5) If the contents of lagoon 3 are allowed to be spread locally - what is the annual limit allowed to be distributed on the land to comply with the nitrate levels and knowing this, how long would it take to empty the lagoon? - is this reasonable?

**Answer - This is not within CDC's remit, but rests with the EA.**

6) Who holds the liability for pollution?

**Answer - Liability rests with whoever is the landowner**

7) CDC have already confirmed with the help of the EA that the lagoon is not "contaminated" therefore, can the council confirm that any future owner will have an obligation to return the site to Agricultural land. \*\* we want this minuted\*\*

**Answer- The enforcement notice states it must be returned to previous state but cannot insist on farming it.**

8) In the meetings with the local Parishes and Ward councillors, CDC have confirmed that there will be no "backdoor" agreement with any would-be buyer of Lagoon 3, to permit building on the site in exchange for the site being cleared. - can we have that again confirmed and clearly minuted

**Answer - There is no trade off in planning terms.**

9) At two of our previous meetings with CDC and Multi Agency members I requested that the contents of Lagoon 3 be tested in order to reassure residents that the contents are not dangerous. I was informed that this was not necessary as the contents were unlikely to be hazardous yet the PROW around the lagoon remains closed and has done for several years. Can WSCC be asked to open these back up and if the reason they remain closed is because they believe the site remains a risk why not conduct a test to determine this once and for all and to allow residents access to these PROW? How much longer should residents expect the PROW to be closed?

**Answer- CDC already requested this, and it is a matter for them [WSCC] to decide. However, at this time WSCC would prefer the site to be cleared and then open of the PROW rather than open and then close again. WSCC will attend the next multi agency visit in order to assess the situation. The Parish Council can also write to request opening up, but likely to get the same response as CDC.**

#### **Churchfields Application, Wisborough Green**

To advise the applicant has withdrawn this application

#### **Land south of Townfield, Kirdford**

Ongoing and expected for determination in late August.

#### **Blackhall development, Loxwood (including shop)**

Currently in limbo due to issues impacting other developments in the community connected to the Hardham water integrity issues of demonstrating Water Neutrality. This is also what impacted the Wisborough Green Application

#### **CDC Updates**

##### **Local Plan**

A full update was sent to the Parish Clerk via email following the members meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

##### **Local Plan Newsletter**

A reminder that the residents can sign up to the Local Plan newsletter to be kept abreast of developments.

This can be done via this link [www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplannewsletter)

**Free trees** Residents can apply for free trees from Chichester District Council for themselves and their communities, as part of a scheme to increase tree planting across the district. This follows a successful pilot scheme which was launch in January of this year. Residents can find more information about the scheme,

along with guidance notes for anyone interested in applying for free trees, at Chichester District tree scheme. People can also contact the council's dedicated Tree Project Officer by emailing [treescheme@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:treescheme@chichester.gov.uk) or calling 01243 521161.

**District wide celebration of culture 2022.** A further £50,000 has been approved by Chichester District Council for the new district wide celebration of culture in 2022. Residents are being invited to suggest ideas for events that they would like to see as part of the celebration and to let the organisers know of anything planned by their groups or societies during 2022. Ideas and suggestions can be emailed to [chichester22@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:chichester22@chichester.gov.uk).

### **Financial hardship resulting from impact of Covid-19**

Chichester District Council is making further funding available to help economically vulnerable people in the district to pay their council tax. CDC's team will do everything they can to help you by explaining all the support that is available to you. The easiest way to contact them is by email at [benefits@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@chichester.gov.uk). You can also call 01243 534509, but please be aware that when lines are busy callers may have to wait longer than we would like. You can also visit this webpage to find out what support is available <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/helpwithfinances>

### **Surgeries**

With the lifting of all restrictions on the 19<sup>th</sup> July I will be returning after the summer to my regular surgeries. More details on this will follow however I will also be happy to offer online ones for anyone who would rather or needs to socially distance. In the meantime if you would like to contact me about anything please call me on 07958918056 or email [gbevans@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:gbevans@chichester.gov.uk) I am happy to come to you (socially distanced of course) or organise an online meeting/telephone call.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their support to Ebernoe and for their comprehensive reports received prior meetings.

### **195 Financial Report -**

#### **Present bank balances:**

Current Account	£ 726.51
Deposit Account	£ 4700.11

#### **Expenditure to be approved**

#### **Income received**

**Broadband** – Work has been completed in Streels Lane and Colhook Common - July 2021.

**BT Telephone Kiosks** – Agreement for the sale and purchase of Telephone Kiosk to Ebernoe Parish Council has been signed (27<sup>th</sup> July 2021) and telephony equipment has been removed from the Kiosk – 01428 707331, Ebernoe Common/Ebernoe Lane Ebernoe GU28 9LD. Completion notice received from BT payphones on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**North East Parishes** – Six parishes in the north east of the county have recently formed a group and the first meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Notes of the meeting have been circulated with this report.

#### **Planning Update**

SDNP/20/05011/FUL – Bittlesfield, Balls Cross – Demolition of 1 No. existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings, replaced with 1 No. detached dwelling and 1 No. Detached garage/storage including access; driveway/parking and amenity space.

SDNP/20/05531/HOUS and 05532/LIS – Upfolds, Balls Cross – ground floor extension to enlarge utility room, first fl. extension to enlarge bedroom (master bedroom), first floor extension to provide additional bedroom. **Permit**

SDNP/20/05206/HOUS – Redhill Farm, London Road – proposal for a two storey side extension to the dwelling with the relocation of the front door and porch.

SDNP/21/00237/PAIA – Land south of Brook Cottage. Alterations and extensions to existing workshop building. **Permit**

EN/21/00453/FUL – Brook Cottage, Balls Cross – New Access to the highway and associated driveway/parking area.

SDNP/21/01513/HOUS – 2 Upfolds Corner, Balls Cross – Single storey side/rear extension. **Permit**

SDNP/21/03666/LDP – Siblands Farm – repair work to roof barn.

#### **Correspondence**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Draft West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP) 2022-2036 public consultation.

21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – Andrew Griffith MP – re Submission to Boundary Commission -West Sussex  
July 2021 – request from ageuk West Sussex for a donation of £200 towards the Keep Connected initiative.  
ageuk magazine and information leaflet included.

All other correspondence has been previously circulated via e mail.

**Parish Website**

The parish website is fully operational and can be accessed via [www.ebernoeparish.co.uk](http://www.ebernoeparish.co.uk).

**196 Any other matters from councillors present** – Councillor I. Parkinson expressed concern about speeding in centre of Balls Cross. However as there is no speed limit in Balls Cross, there is little the police or other authorities can do. Councillor Mrs J. Duncton advised that Queen's coronation celebrations take place at beginning of June 2022 and that it would be advisable to start planning for the event in the near future.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

**Date of next meeting**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm