

Randwick Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 18th 2017 at Randwick Village Hall at 7.45 pm.

Present

Approximately 10 parishioners were present and nine parish councillors.

1 Talk: Neighbourhood Planning

The meeting began with a talk about Neighbourhood Development Plans given by Barbara Pond from Gloucestershire Rural Development Council, which had been arranged by the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Development Plans are part of a series of plans and maps that govern land use and planning and can shape new development in a community. A completed NDP becomes a statutory planning document.

Neighbourhood Plans were not intended for stopping development but about encouraging and embracing development.

Consultation combined with evidence lead to policy. In the hierarchy of planning law the National Planning Policy Framework stands above the Planning Authority's (SDC's) Local Plan which stands above any Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The work done by the Parish Council in creating the Village Design Statement would contribute towards creating a NDP. Creating a plan would involve eight steps

- Defining area of designation - normally parish boundary
- Gathering and preparing an evidence base - hard facts and opinions to identify issues
- Developing a vision and objectives
- Generating and testing solutions
- Formal draft of proposals for consultation within the community
- Finalising the Plan and submission to the Local Planning Authority for its consultation stage
- If passed, Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' as a legal document

The final stage involves an examination by a planning inspector and a referendum paid for by SDC. The referendum would be passed by a majority of those voting. (The turnout for Whiteshill and Ruscombe NDP referendum had been 37%.)

A NDP would need to run until 2031 to conform to the Local Plan.

There were organisations that would assist in creating a NDP but would also require the expertise of a professional planner. The average cost of creating a Plan nationally was £11-12,000. Grants were available.

A Plan would also cover local businesses.

A NDP could be legally challenged and would need to be updated, which might be a continuing cost to the Parish Council.

A Parish with a NDP would receive 25% for the Community Infrastructure Levy

Creating the plan would take approximately two years and a steering group would have to have administrative experience so that the burden of creating it would not fall on the Parish Council.

The impetus for creating the NDP would be a vision of what Randwick and Westrip would be in 20 years time.

Barbara Pond was thanked for her very informative presentation and left.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were read to the meeting, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

3 Matters Arising: None.

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Shaun Egan gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council during the past year and commented on the changes to the membership of the Council, following an uncontested election, which involved co-opting 4 councillors from 9 volunteers.

The Council had been active in pursuing developers' contributions, known as S.106 contributions and had passed some funding to RVH&PFC for the extension to the Village Hall. More funding was anticipated in 2017/18 and the Council had surveyed children at the schools and playgroup in the Parish asking what improvements they would like to have in the playground at the Village Hall. The Council had also distributed £1500 in grants to local organisations.

The Council had bought a mobile vehicle activated speed sign for use at places within the 20 mph zone, partly paid for with a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner. The lease of the part of the playing field owned by GCC had been renegotiated and now included a clause allowing use for parking for one day each year for the Wap. The Council continued to alternate its meetings between the uphill and downhill parts of the Parish and had been using Cashes Green School as a venue.

After requests from residents the Council was in the process of buying the redundant red telephone kiosks in The Lane and at Westrip. Part of the parking area at the playing field had been repaired and work was due to start to repair the overspill parking area on the grass.

In the coming year the Council intended to consider working on a Neighbourhood Development Plan and a Youth Council.

The Chairman passed on a request from a local farmer for parishioners' assistance over a problem in his fields where dog walkers were leaving the footpath and walking all over the field: barbed wire that he had erected to keep his cattle in place had been cut on several occasions.

5 Presentation of Annual Accounts

The annual statement of accounts was available to parishioners at the meeting as well as being published on the Council's website. No questions were asked by parishioners.

6 Matters raised by electors

Mrs Val Flack spoke about parking. The very successful football club brought many cars to the playing field on Saturday mornings and she explained that Randwick Football Club was considering buying a field next to the playing field to create another football pitch with a parking area. She suggested forming a working party with members from the Football Club, Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council which would carry out a feasibility study. The field in question was in Whiteshill and Ruscombe Parish.

Mrs Jane Cant asked about the part of the playing field owned by GCC as a site for a possible new school. That area was leased by the Parish Council as an extension to the playing field. The Council had negotiated permission to use the land for the purpose of car parking on one day in the month of May each calendar year for the Randwick Wap. Any other car parking would only be permissible with GCC's prior written consent. The Parish Council had registered the site as an Asset of Community Value, so that if the land were to be put up for sale the PC would be notified.

Mr Mort Watkins spoke about continuing problems caused by rabbits on the field, commenting that the rabbits' warrens were on neighbouring land and that the rabbits could be shot in those fields. The Council had paid for some ferreting but it had not been effective. RVH&PFC was due to discuss the problem.

Mr John Stewart informed the meeting that the trenches dug for the ground source heating system for the VH had begun to subside.

Mr Steve Mandeville thanked the Council for its continuing support for Parish sports organisations

No further issues were raised by parishioners.

The meeting closed at 9.05.

Signed:

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