

Randwick and Westrip Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.15 pm on Thursday October 18th at Cashes Green School

Present

Councillors

Shaun Egan (Chairman)

Mike Woods

Alex Egan

Debbi Smith

Matt Reed

James Holder

Robert Davies

Marina Fontenla (from 7.20)

Clerk Mr B Parsons, County Cllr Keith Rippington

1/10/18 **Apologies:** Cllr Byford and District Cllr Jonathan Edmunds.

2/10/18 **Public Forum:** There were approximately 14 parishioners present and County Cllr Rippington and four representatives from Plainview Planning and the owners of The Carpenters' Arms. The Planning Manager of Plainview Planning spoke about the ownership history of The Carpenters' Arms and the owners' view that the pub wasn't viable. Parishioners spoke about their concerns about the pub including the way it was currently being run. The owners stated that they had no current development plans and wanted dialogue with the community. They left a questionnaire for parishioners to complete and a link to a copy of the questionnaire online.

Kay Badham asked for a suggestion wrongly attributed to her in the September minutes to be corrected and also asked about the Council's problem in commenting on the application for Land at Somerdale in September. The planning authority's decision seemed to have been taken before the date notified to the Council, but this had resulted from a misunderstanding between the planning officer and the Clerk. She also asked whether the Council had approached the Neighbourhood Warden for assistance with dealing with some parishioners' concerns about fouling caused by irresponsible dog owners.
Action: The Clerk to ask whether the Neighbourhood Warden could offer assistance, whether he could recommence the former weekly reports and to invite him to attend a future Council meeting.

3/10/18 **Declarations of interest in items on this agenda:** None.

4/10/18 **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on September 20th were amended, approved and signed.

5/10/18 **Report from the Officer of the Council:** Cllrs noted the contents of the Clerk's report.

6/10/18 **Correspondence:** Cllrs noted the correspondence listed in the Clerk's Report.

7/10/18 **Questions from councillors:**

Cllr Woods reported a gully in Red House Lane that had been blocked by dumped building materials.

Cllr Smith reported a gully in Ash Lane blocked by tarmac, a broken stile on the footpath across the brook below Randwick Playing Field and rubbish dumped on the footpath from Far Westrip to The Martins.

Actions: *The Clerk to contact GCC Amey to ask for the gullies to be cleared and to contact PROW about the stile.*

The Clerk to contact the Neighbourhood Warden about rubbish on The Martins footpath.

8/10/18 District and County Councillors' reports:

County Cllr Rippington reported on business at GCC. The current focus was on the next year's budget. Costs were running ahead of budgets in areas such as Children's Services and Adult Social Care where there had been unanticipated issues such as an increased number of children in care. There was a rolling programme of closures for road repairs. He commented briefly on the VH Committee's application for a grant from GCC for the rural cinema. The review committee would favour applications looking for top-ups to funds already raised.

Cllr Rippington asked the Council to put forward suggestions for repairs and improvements from January 2019.

He agreed to speak to the local highway manager about the quality of work at Ruscombe and Bread St.

Cllr Rippington asked councillors to forward any comments from parishioners about changes to the opening times of Horsley tip (Pyke Quarry recycling centre).

District Cllr Edmunds had emailed his monthly report to the Council before the meeting. The report included information about the Stroud Local District Plan review, the Subscription Rooms and SDC housing.

9/10/18 SDC Community Governance Review: *Cllrs discussed the review of parish and town councils being carried out by SDC to consider whether existing parish arrangements should be changed in any way, including*

Altering the boundaries of existing parishes;

Changing the names of existing parishes;

Creating a new parish or abolishing an existing parish;

Altering the electoral arrangements for parish councils (including the number of Councillors and arrangements for parish warding);

The grouping or de-grouping of parish councils (and consequential changes to their electoral arrangements).

In 2014 The Local Government Boundary Commission had held a review of electoral wards in Stroud District and had proposed a change to the wards for Randwick Parish.

Randwick Parish was divided into two wards for parish council elections, Randwick (Randwick Ward) returning four councillors, and Cainscross (Lower Westrip Ward) returning five councillors.

The Commission's aims were to provide "good electoral equality, with each

councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters” and proposed three wards for Randwick - Randwick, Randwick South East and Randwick South West. In 2015 the Council had pointed out to the Commissioners that their proposal produced a poorer ratio of electors to councillors than the status quo and the Commission had not implemented their proposal, leaving Randwick and Westrip Parish with two wards.

Cllrs discussed a response to the current SDC review and resolved to inform SDC that it preferred to retain the current arrangement of the Parish into two wards, but that if that was not acceptable Randwick and Westrip Parish Council would support the division of the Parish into three wards with the ratios of electors to councillors accepted by The Local Government Boundary Commission in 2015.

***Actions:** The Clerk to return SDC’s phase 1 consultation survey. The Clerk to ask ‘The Randwick Runner’ to publish an item suggesting parishioners respond to the review.*

*10/10/18 **Licence for gateway on to Randwick Playing Field:** Cllrs discussed a licence due to expire on November 1st.*

***Action:** The Clerk to write to the parishioner asking him whether he would like to renew the licence or fill in the gateway.*

*11/10/18 **Planning, traffic and transport:***

a) S. S.18/1291/TPO – St John’s Church – fell fir tree – no comment.

S.18/2156/HHOLD – Derwin – removal of existing floor and creation of new raised room in a roof - conversion of garage – no comment

*b) **VAS report:** Cllr Reed presented the most recent statistics. The VAS was being sited at locations where GCC had recently installed new posts.*

*c) **Community speed watch:** Cllr Smith reported on a recent meeting about road safety held in Whiteshill. It had been suggested that parish councils should consider acquiring ANPR signs (automatic number plate recognition) at a cost of approximately £9000 each. Their effect had been questioned: they were less mobile than the council’s VAS, due to calibration requirements; they had a temporary effect as drivers learned their locations and slowed down temporarily. ANPR signs could be used to identify regular offenders and the police would contact them.*

The effectiveness of Community Speedwatch groups was questioned. County Cllr Rippington spoke about the experience of the Painswick CS group. Councillors decided against forming a Community Speedwatch group.

*d) **Parking in The Lane:** Cllr Davies reported that the Head Teacher of Randwick School would be happy to cooperate with the Council’s efforts to stop irresponsible parking by parents bringing children to and from school. Cllrs considered putting notices on cars parked irresponsibly.*

***Action:** Cllrs were asked to find out who owned cars that were being parked irresponsibly.*

A parishioner had contacted the Council about cars parking on the grass above the Village Hall. Cllrs discussed whether to put posts there to stop this.

Resolved: *The Clerk to ask a parishioner to install posts to prevent cars parking on the grass between the tarmac parking area above the Village Hall and the concrete base of the former water tank.*

12/10/18 Finance and Personnel:

a) Bank reconciliation: *Cllrs considered the bank reconciliations for August and September.*

b) Quarterly review: *Cllrs considered the quarterly review. Expenditure was as planned.*

13/10/18 Environment:

a) Play equipment at Randwick Village Hall: *The new equipment had been installed. New posts and panels were needed to replace the fence.*

Action: *Cllrs Davies and Reed were to cost this and the Clerk to buy the materials.*

The new equipment had required only £2800 from Parish Council funds. The Council recorded its thanks to Cllr Davies for overseeing the project and to the volunteers who had helped.

Action: *The Clerk to write thanking Iain Humphryson and Ermin Plant Hire for their generous assistance.*

b) Hedge at Randwick Playing Field: *Cllrs agreed to ask Stroud Tree Workshop to plant approximately 140 trees at Randwick Playing Field. STW would donate £100 towards the costs, the Council would pay £40 and Cllrs would donate the remaining sum.*

Action: *The Clerk to confirm STW's donation and that they would plant the trees and arrangements for delivery.*

c) Environmental Plan: *Cllr Smith would report when she had further information for the Council.*

f) Design Statement: *SDC planning department had confirmed by telephone that the Design Statement could be revised to include encouraging new building in the Parish to use 'green energy' but it would need public consultation as SDC had to adopt any revised statement as supplementary planning advice.*

Cllrs decided to defer any action until advice had been received in writing.

d) Management of Randwick Playing Fields: *Cllrs Egan, Holder and Davies had been working with Mr Stan Giles and Mr Richard White, representing RVH&PFC, on an agreement for RVH&PFC to take full responsibility for managing the playing fields. Mr Giles had outlined the background to the discussions. Cllrs decided to proceed with drawing up an agreement and emphasised that it was not an attempt to save the Council money or withdraw support for RVH&PFC. Any major capital projects in the future would be considered by the Council taking into consideration any effects on the precept. Maintenance would be the responsibility of RVH&PFC. The*

Council would want assurance that the governance of the playing fields and hall would remain sound.

The Council's draft budget would be considered at the December meeting and financial plans for the VH and playing fields would need to be ready by the first week in December.

*f) **National Trust Ranger's Visit:** The Ranger for the Haresfield Estate had asked Cllrs to suggest topics for him to speak about at the November meeting. The Council had asked the Ranger to respond to a request by parishioners for information about the Trust's work in the woods and recent felling of trees in Standish Woods.*

***Action:** The Clerk to contact the Ranger.*

*14/10/18 **Items delegated to the Clerk and items for the next agenda:** as above.*

*15/10/18 **Orders for payment:***

Wicksteed Installation and supply of play equipment

M Lammas October monthly contract payment

B Parsons September & October salary less PAYE due in the 3rd quarter

O2 mobile phone tariff

*16/10/18 **Next meeting:** November 15th at Randwick Village Hall*

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.