

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CLYMPING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on
Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm as virtual meeting using the Zoom Platform

PRESENT: Cllr Humphris (Chairman), Ward and Wetherell.
District Cllr Worne. County Cllr Pendleton.
7 members of the public. Nadine Phibbs (Clerk).

1. **WELCOME** - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Clymping and explained the safety procedures. Due to the current legislation allowing virtual meetings will cease on May 7th 2021, this meeting has been brought forward to allow the meeting to take place virtually.
2. **APOLOGIES** – None
3. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2019 were received and signed as a true record
4. **TO NOTE THE CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-20** – The report was noted. (*Available on the council’s website*)
5. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT** - The Chairman reported on 2020/21 (1st April – 31st March) as follows:

Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2020/21. I hope you find the information set out below on the work of the Council of interest.

I would like to thank all our councillors who contributed to the Parish work through the year, the residents who contributed to our Working Groups, the residents who turned out to help with projects around the village, Lisa Eyre our award-winning editor of Clymping Village News and our District Councillors and County Councillor who have supported us.

Covid 19

The pandemic has restricted us all in so many ways. The Parish Council has tried to help by providing information about the assistance and support available and by distributing activity packs to those who valued them.

For the Council it was a very different year as all of our meetings were held virtually using the ubiquitous “Zoom” platform. This was allowed under emergency government legislation and our amended standing orders. This facility ends on May 6th 2021 after which we must return to meet in public, although there are approaches being made on behalf of Councils to get the facility re-instated.

Councillors

At the start of the year the Council comprised 6 councillors of our complement of 7: Cllrs Henry Burrell, Ann Findlay, Christine Gillott, Colin Humphris, Harry Ward, Stuart Wetherell. We were able to fill the one vacancy but unfortunately Adele Hodgson subsequently had to resign due to pressures of work and Henry Burrell also then resigned for personal reasons. We end the year with 2 vacancies open for co-option.

Meetings

The Parish Council held 6 full meetings. Our Transport Working Group, Environment Working Group and the Planning Working Group of the Parish Council also met to prepare recommendations for Council to consider. Details are available in the Council Minutes.

Planning

The Council considered 38 Planning Applications through the year objecting to 13. The plans for Ford (1500 houses and changes to Ford market) came forward three times however the various amendments proposed did not address our objections. Council objected to the overall Ford Masterplan as it failed miserably to address the needed infrastructure, especially for Highways.

Council lodged a detailed objection to the proposed incinerator at Ford as this contravened a number of WSCC (West Sussex County Council) waste management policies and also policies of our Neighbourhood Plan. Following the public reaction to this planning application, it was withdrawn. The incinerator was redesigned, and a new application made. The council does not however consider this new application an improvement and it still leaves the village exposed to excessive HGV use of Church Lane. A new Council objection has been filed in April, 2021 and residents are encouraged to make their views known as it is important for our elected District and County Councillors to be able to judge the strength of feeling in the community.

Generally, we objected to applications that we felt contravened our Neighbourhood Plan, would cause excessive traffic impact on our overstretched roads, had capacity to create noise and disturbance to residents or failed to achieve a good design to protect the character of Clymping. In these regards we remain concerned about the housing developments underway along Horsemere Green Lane.

Four rejected applications were approved on appeal; at Waterford Gardens (2 homes) and Kent's Yard (3 homes), the 64-bed dementia home behind the old farm shop and the Crematorium on the Yapton/ Clymping boundary.

Council filed a detailed response to the government white paper "Planning for the Future" that threatens a further increase in new build housing in Arun to the potential detriment of the village.

Finance

For the year the Council raised £16760 through our Precept which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Our main expenditure (pre-audit) was: to run the Council £5955.54, grants to organisations helping the village £2040, ground works on Horsemere Green £1210, bulb planting £454, Village Pound improvements £530.86 and new brackets required for the restoration of a fingerpost £570, Resilience matters and Covid Communications £94.20, Planning consultancy for community facilities (Action in Rural Sussex) £820 and support to the Village News £684.17. At the end of the year the General Fund balance was £30,591 plus reserves totalling £13,025 are held to be used on specific projects including work on planning the village future, drainage and flooding, improving our village appearance, possible future elections, winter management and resilience. We will need to meet before the end of June to consider the audit outcome before filing our final financial returns.

Other Activities

1. New Housing and Facilities

We still have yet to see any detailed plans for the 300 houses south of Horsemere Green Lane. This design work is delayed due to the findings of an initial archaeological survey. We are keenly awaiting the results of the recent exploratory work on the field as this could have a material bearing on the project. In the meantime, Council has work underway to define what new community facilities may be needed, and how these might benefit the village as a whole, without damaging the

viability of either the Church Hall or Village Hall. We expect to consult both residents and the halls on this shortly with assistance from Action in Rural Sussex.

2. Clymping Beach

The erosion of the beach continues to concern residents. The damage to sea defences and groynes has become unsightly and raises safety concerns for visitors unfamiliar with the area. An application to government put forward by Arun District Council for funding of innovative demonstrator projects to prevent flooding was unfortunately not successful however, a working group of which the Council is a member continues to meet chaired by Nick Gibb MP. The objective is to find more sustainable ways of managing the coastline.

3. Rampion 2 Windfarm

Council has been briefed by both the proposers of the Rampion 2 windfarm extension and those implacably opposed to this, and information from both has featured in the Clymping Village News. The proposal would bring power ashore at Clymping. Formal consultation is expected in the summer and we encourage all residents to have their say and respond to the consultation.

4. Highways

The Highways workgroup has been very active through the year. In response to a consultation on proposals to upgrade A259 from Flansham to Littlehampton, Council submitted a paper that argued for far more attention to local feeder roads. Horsemere Green Lane is a particular concern given all the proposed development in the area. The workgroup is considering how the Lane might be refocussed for residents use only and to encourage more use by pedestrians, cyclists, and those of limited mobility (“green routes”). We will consult to understand the community’s views on this before making proposals to the District and County Councils for approval.

5. The Village Environment

Council is grateful for the work of the Environment workgroup and volunteers, maintaining Horsemere Green and pond, cleaning the gateway signs and planting bulbs around these signs. The Pound in Clymping street was restored and is now a more attractive public amenity. The restoration of the finger post has been beset with delays but should be completed this summer.

6. Council Representation

Council was represented on the Grundon (incinerator) and Rampion 2 liaison groups, and the Ford, Yapton and Clymping Advisory Group (re Arun District planning). It was actively involved in the reorganisation of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils. The county wide area committees have not met this year.

And finally

I and my fellow councillors want to thank Val Knight for all her help and sterling support over the past 8 years, firstly for our Neighbourhood Plan and then as our Clerk. We want to extend a warm welcome to Nadine Phibbs who takes over as Clymping Parish Clerk.

6. COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Both County & District Councillors were in attendance but advised due to the Elections on 6th May 2021, Councillors are in purdah, therefore there is nothing to report.

7. RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – none received.

8. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –

A resident raised his concerns in relation to the need for a pathway along Horsemere Green Lane and the speed limit in Church Lane.

Councillor Colin Humphris advised that the Parish Council are aware of various concerns regarding Horsemere Green Lane and that the Transport Working Group are considering a number of options.

With regards to Church Lane, a speed limit 30mph was put forward but not supported by the police and not implemented.

It was advised that ADC are considering safe access routes for non-vehicular users from Arundel to Littlehampton and Highways England have carried out a study for a pathway from Arundel to Ford Station.

District Councillor Amanda Worne advised that a Community Speed Watch Group in Clymping has been set up.

9. CLOSE - The Chairman closed the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.25pm

Minutes to be considered at the next Meeting of the Parish and signed as a true record:

Chairman:.....

Date:.....