

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CLYMPING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on
Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 6.30pm at the Church Hall, Clymping

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Humphris (Chairman), Henry Burrell & David Miranda, Christine Gillott, Anne Miller, Tim Hibbert, District Councillor Amanda Worne, thirty four 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.
2. **APOLOGIES** – There were no apologies.
3. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022 were received and signed as a true record
4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT** - The Chairman reported on 2022 – 2023 (1st April – 31st March) as follows:

Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2022/23.

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.

Queen Elizabeth II

This was a year of mixed emotions; the joy of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee followed so quickly by her sad passing. Around the village the community has planted flowering crab apple trees and some oaks. These stand as both celebration and now in memoriam for her 70 years as Queen.

Councillors

At the start of the year the Council comprised 5 councillors of our complement of 7: Cllrs Henry Burrell, Ann Findlay, Christine Gillott, Colin Humphris, David Miranda. During the year Ann Findlay stepped down I would like to thank her for her service to the community. We welcomed Tim Hibbert to Council.

Meetings

The Parish Council held 7 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 40 Planning Applications through the year objecting to 11. Through the year we awaited clarity on Foreman's proposals for 300 homes. The anticipated final plans have not been forthcoming. In fact, it has gone eerily quiet. The Arun website shows objections from the drainage engineers, the greenspace (landscaping) officer and the conservation officer with no response from Foreman's for many months now. The uncertainty raises questions over the funding that was to be provided for the Church

Lane Roundabout, the Oystercatcher Junction, and the provision of pavement on Horsemere Green Lane.

We objected to a proposal for an incinerator at South Coast Skips. This was approved by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and unfortunately a request for this decision to be called in for reconsideration was turned down by the Minister of State for Housing and Planning.

Last year I noted Council's concerns over developments on the site of the former Farm Shop. These concerns have eased as the fast-food drive-through is now a café outlet with more limited opening times in line with the garden centre. The awning for a car wash was removed. We objected to a significant installation for EV car charging, which was subsequently refused by Arun District Council.

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.

Finance (pre-audit)

For the year the Council raised £16,670.00 through our Precept which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Total income was £30,402.64 due to additional income from Village News advertising, VAT recovery, bank interest (minimal!) and Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) funds of £11,386.64. This arises as we have an approved Neighbourhood Plan. This money is now available for projects within the village approved by Council.

Total expenditure was £10,817.05. Our main expenditure items (pre-audit) were: to run the Council £7,013.65 (inc wages £5,214.77 & other items £1,798.88), Grants were made to village organisations £200.00, ground works on Horsemere Green £1,350.00, general planting and Village News production £1,270.94, Highways £553.98. At the end of the year the bank account stood at £63,146.83, including a General Fund of £37,166.18, plus reserve funds £18,967.00 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.

Other Activities

1. Clymping Beach

The loss of the remaining section of sea wall has refocussed minds on the threat to Clymping. The shingle bund across the car park was realigned in response. We are witnessing the Environment Agency's (EA) 2015 strategy of "do minimum" play out and the human cost of this to those who live close to the beach, those in the village who love it and those who used to be drawn to this amenity as tourists. Council is actively encouraging the EA to engage more creatively with the community to find ways to improve the resilience of the beach. Watch this space.

2. New Housing and Facilities

In addition to the focus on Foreman Homes, Council remains concerned about the piecemeal housing developments in the village. Council objected to a proposal for two more houses on Horsemere Green Lane and were pleased to see this application rejected by Arun District Council (ADC). We have complained several times about the state of the entrance to the housing development adjacent to Scyld.

3. Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm

Council responded to the consultation on the location of the landside works for the Rampion 2 Windfarm. The key points raised were:

- To favour a more easterly route south of A259 to avoid the need for works access close to the school and down Bread Lane.
- To raise concerns over the proposed works area to the south of Field Place given the importance of this area for drainage of an eventual Foreman site.
- To argue against any access by the Church and Church Hall.
- To question the timing and potential clashes with the proposed A259 road works.

4. Highways

The Transport workgroup has been active through the year on proposals for Horsemere Green Lane in response to the consultation on the future of the lane last year. We will be launching details of two design options for the lane at the Annual Village meeting for residents' consideration. A favoured design and costing will then be the core of an application for Community Highways funding to WSCC in July 2023.

WSCC consulted on proposals to upgrade A259 through Clymping. Council took note of residents' comments and feedback in its response. Given the extent of development in the area, Council feels that an upgrade of the junctions is essential for safety and to ease access for local traffic joining A259. Many of the proposals were supported but not the location proposed for the Oystercatcher junction, the design of the Ferry Road junction or the proposal for a new non-vehicle bridge parallel to the river Arun road bridge.

5. The Village Environment

Council is grateful for the work of the Environment Work Group and volunteers. It was so disappointing that the wildflower display on the green was thoughtlessly trashed by the travellers. A big volunteer effort followed to clear away rubbish and the area was restored and reseeded for the display in 2023. The village also now has its own bug hotel.

Work continues to ensure the drainage efficiency to the west of Langford and freedom from flooding. We need to keep the culverts running to the pond clear and work will start this year to desilt the pond which is an important component of the lane's drainage system. The silt arises from dying vegetation and soil ingress through the drainage channels entering the pond. Council will be making an Operation Watershed application to WSCC to help with this given the high cost of silt disposal.

Given the availability of CIL funding, Council will be working with the Village Hall and ADC to ensure the future of the village playground.

The restoration of the Climping Street finger post is complete.

6. Defibrillators

Council is exploring the options to part fund the installation of defibrillators in public locations around the village. The first will be at the Village Hall.

7. Council Representation

Council was represented on the Arun District Association of Local Councils that is seeking to find ways for the towns and parishes to engage with the District and County Councils more effectively.

And finally

Please do visit the new Council website for information about the village and Parish Council activities. Our thanks go to Nadine Phibbs our clerk for ensuring it is up to date.

5. COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Amanda Worne expressed her thanks to be re-elected as the District Councillor at the District elections for the next four years.

Councillor Amanda Worne went on to say that the major concern remains the state of Clymping beach and the necessary work to be identified by the Environment Agency. She is corresponding with the Environment Agency with a view to arranging a meeting at the Arun Civic Centre and invitees will include local concerned residents and expert representatives. There is a consultation event later this week organised by a landowner to address resident concerns in relation to the beach car park.

6. WSP DESIGN WORK PRESENTATION FOR HORSEMERE GREEN LANE

Councillor Tim Hibbert with the support of Alan Lovell, provided an overview of the two proposals and invited residents to look at the details of two design options for the lane and to make their comment using the prepared questionnaire. The questionnaire is available in hard copy this evening or can be found on the Parish Council website.

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

8. PUBLIC Question Time –

A resident raised the suggestion of a community bus scheme in the village. It was agreed that this could be included as an item for the Transport Working Group.

9. CLOSE - The Chairman closed the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7.30pm

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

Chairman:.....

Date:.....