

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CLYMPING

**Minutes** of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on  
Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6.30pm at the Church Hall, Clymping

**PRESENT:** Councillors Colin Humphris (Chairman), Henry Burrell, David Miranda, Jane Mules (arrived 7.20pm), Anne Miller & Tim Hibbert, three 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 apologies from County Councillor Jacky Pendleton & District Councillor Amanda Worne.
3. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023 were received and signed as a true record
4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT** - The Chairman reported on 2023 – 2024 (1st April – 31st March) as follows:

## **Introduction**

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2023/24.

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, and our District Councillors and County Councillor who have supported us. I want to thank especially Lisa Eyre our former editor of Clymping Village News CVN for all her hard work and the high standards she set. CVN is intended as a village magazine, supported by the Parish Council. We currently seek an individual or team to be able to continue with CVN in its current form.

## **Councillors**

At the start of the year the Council comprised 6 elected councillors of our complement of 7: Cllrs Henry Burrell, Christine Gillott, Tim Hibbert Colin Humphris, Anne Miller David Miranda. During the year Christine Gillott stepped down and I would like to thank her for her service to the PC and Village Hall. Christine continues as a member of our Environment Workgroup. We welcomed Jane Mules to Council as a co-opted member. One vacancy remains.

## **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 35 Planning Applications through the year objecting to 7. Foreman Homes' proposals for 300 homes remains a major concern. Specifically Council is concerned about the apparent lack of willingness of both Foreman Homes and ADC to engage with us on this development. The housing design and layout were approved by Arun District Council in December but designs for a drainage scheme and for removal of

sewerage remain outstanding. Council objected to the inadequate Foreman Homes proposals required to comply with the conditions of the original approval back in 2018. The outcomes of our objections are awaited.

Council is playing an active role in the ongoing examination of the Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm proposals by the Government Inspector. Our concern is to minimise the impacts of the proposals to bring power ashore in and through the village. Of particular concern are:

- Operational and drilling noise.
- The establishment of work compounds and the access to them from local roads.
- The impact on the village school and its access from Crookthorn Lane and Brookpits Lane
- The timing of these works, together with local housing developments and the upgrade of A259.

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 **£16670.00** through our Precept which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Total income was **£31,714.40** due to additional income from Village News advertising, VAT recovery, bank interest and Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) funds of **£11,945.02**. The CIL money arises as the Parish has an approved Neighbourhood Plan. This money is now available for projects within the village approved by Council.

Total expenditure was **£27844.34**. Our main expenditure items (pre-audit) were: to run the Council **£7411.32 (inc wages £5517.36 & other items £1893.96)**, Grants were made to village organisations **£565.00** and Coastal Defence Group **£5000.00**, Village News production **£2296.82**, Highways Consultants report for Horsemere Green **£5500.00**, Environment matters including the purchase of two village defibrillators **£4906.55**. At the end of the year the bank account stood at **£66865.01**, including a General Fund of **£35880.69**, plus reserve funds **£23573.00** 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.

### **Principal Activities**

#### **1. Clymping Beach**

The erosion of the beach continues apace and remains a great concern to the local landowners and business owners as well as the wider community. Council commissioned a report by Herrington consultants (available on the Parish website) that reviewed options and concluded that shingle bunds are the best solution from both planning policy and financial perspectives. Council has worked with the landowners to try to agree a way forward that best meets their concerns. This work is and will be ongoing. A significant reserve of shingle is now in place through combined funding by the land and house owners, the Parish Council and the Environment Agency.

The recent storm damage has led to a repositioning of the shingle bund inland as part of the Environment Agency's plan to allow the beach to realign naturally whilst taking pressure of the bund.

#### **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 actively intervened in the failure to complete Longwood Close according to the approved plans. Progress has been made but

the issue also highlighted the worrying inadequacy of Arun's enforcement activities due in part to understaffing.

### 3. Highways

Unfortunately, our application for Community Highways funding (£233k) to WSCC to upgrade Horsemere Green Lane was unsuccessful. It was one of 61 applications of which just 12 schemes were approved of total cost £1.1m. Going forward we are proposing to unbundle the proposal by seeking a 20mph Area Zone through a community Road Traffic Order, pavement funding through a district scheme whilst focussing on the Church Lane pedestrian crossing as a new Community Highways Application.

WSCC are awaiting business plan approval from the Department of Transport for revised plans for the A259. In Clymping this includes a roundabout at the junction with Climping Street and new Church Lane Roundabout to the west of the existing one with realignment of Church Lane and redesign of the Ferry Road Junction. Current plans are for works to start in 2026.

### 4. The Village Environment

The Environment Work Group has continued its work of planting around the village including restocking the wildflower meadow on Horsemere Green Lane. The pond was cleared of reed overgrowth and now has a healthy and diverse ecology of plants, insects, and pond life. It remains quite heavily silted, and Council will be applying for Operation Watershed funding to remove this as the pond is an important part of the Horsemere Green Lane drainage system.

"Wild about Clymping" was launched this year supported with some initial funding from the Council. The aim is to engage the village in promoting the native wildlife starting with the hedgehog community, encouraging swifts and bats, and creating pollinator highways for our bees.

The Parish Council agreed to provide funding of £10,700 towards the cost of refurbishing the playground at the Village Hall from its allocation of CIL funds. This work was undertaken in April 2024 (new financial year). Council will also assume responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the playground from Arun District Council. This was one of the reasons for the increase in council tax charges, the first increase in 5 years.

### 5. Community

A new workgroup is being created involving councillors with the aim of promoting the village community. We will welcome resident participation in this. Where appropriate Council has provided initial funding to get activities underway. Activities have included the coffee mornings, the history evening and upcoming the D-Dy memorial film night in the village hall.

### 6. Defibrillators

Public Defibrillators are installed at the Village Hall and Climping Park with arrangements being made for an additional installation in Waterford Gardens. Installation costs are shared with the PC who will ensure they are maintained.

### 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**

Our thanks go to Nadine Phibbs our clerk for her hard work supporting Council and the community.

## **5. COMMENTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Not in attendance.

## **6. CLYMPING COASTAL DEFENCE**

Due to the recent storm damage, it was noted that the bund to the east did fail resulting in the River Arun bursting its banks with the biggest impact at Rope Walk which was severely flooded. This has led to a repositioning of the shingle bund inland as part of the Environment Agency's plan to allow the beach to realign naturally whilst taking pressure of the bund. The Environment Agency has issued a report that shows where the river breached, however they are confident that the positioning of the bund is good for a few years. They will continue to remove any metal work and groins. The Parish Council will continue to urge the affected landowners to form a trust fund for any future works.

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

## **8. PUBLIC Question Time –**

A resident offered, once the defibrillators are installed, options for training sessions to be arranged.

A resident asked in relation to the Foreman Homes Development and the access. As included in the Chairmans Report, Council is concerned about the apparent lack of willingness of both Foreman Homes and ADC to engage with us on this development. The housing design and layout were approved by Arun District Council in December but designs for a drainage scheme and for removal of sewerage remain outstanding. Council objected to the inadequate Foreman Homes proposals required to comply with the conditions of the original approval back in 2018. The outcomes of our objections are awaited. It was noted that the Church Lane roundabout is included as part of the phase I works which is due to commence late 2024, phase I taking two years to complete. The overall development is a five year schedule.

Other Planning matters included the development at Ford Airfield for 1500 homes. At a recent meeting with the developer, Vistry Homes and other local parishes, several concerns were raised. It was noted that the developer is to instal a pathway along Horsemere Green Lane as one of the building conditions. Vistry Homes advised that this as a 10 -12 year project, inevitably leading to long-term disruption.

In relation to Rampion 2, a full update has been provided in the Chairmans Annual Report. The Inquiry resumes this week and Councillor Colin Humphries registered to speak on behalf of the Parish Council. The Governors letter and concerns were specifically raised by the Government Inspectorate at the project inquiry hearing. The Applicant responded that it was for post construction occasional light traffic only. This led to a discussion as to how the applicant will prevent construction traffic using Crookthorn Lane and Brookpit Lane during construction. The Parish Council has asked that a formal commitment to this effect be included in what is called the "Consent Order".

It was noted that the Parish Council objected to the application for an Environmental Permit to operate an installation at SCS Waste, Rudford Industrial Estate.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for all their work and time given to help protect Clymping Village.

**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:.....