

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 2, 2019 at 7.30pm in Horham Community Centre

PRESENT	Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, April Groen, Jasen Jeffrey, Bill Craig, Paul Hambling, Tom Wright, Jacques Groen, Rod Caird (acting Clerk) and five members of the public. County Cllr Guy McGregor was also present; District Cllr Matthew Hicks was unable to attend
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1/020719 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/020719 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/020719 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting held on May 22, 2019

The Minutes were approved with an amendment to Item 8, Appointment to Outside Bodies.

4/020719 Members of the public are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda. Reports may be presented by the District and County Councillors

A resident of Athelington said that planning application 19/02723 was opposed by many residents. He said the site is not used for professional agricultural purposes but as a “hobby” farm; the building is used to store non-agricultural items; the field is used for ponies and horses and not for cattles or other farm livestock. Allowing the application would set a damaging precedent.

Sue Ives, coordinating a number of villages’ response to the scoping application for poultry sheds in Horham and Southolt, reported that it involves possible installation of very large sheds each capable of holding 42,300 chickens on a 35 day turnaround. It is an intensive farming project with associated large-scale traffic movements including up to 2,000 truck movements per site per year. The sheds are also part of a large-scale venture including feed plants in Eye and Denham. Affected parishes have met and will share information, working towards coordinated responses to eventual planning applications. This may require professional help and funds will need to be raised. Cllr McGregor said he would be able to provide funding for advice. He felt the economic benefit to the area would be very limited and it is essential to protect the character of the area and the environment of the surrounding countryside and villages.

Cllr McGregor also noted in his report that Highways have an improved approach to pothole fixing; that subsidised bus services are under threat of cuts; that provision for mental health care for young people is underfunded; that reducing the health visitors roll is a false economy; and that local fostering and adoption services do their best in the face of central government incompetence. He also indicated it would be possible to find funding for a Speed Indicator Device and would be receptive to a request for a Stop (rather than Give Way) sign at the T junction where the road from Denham meets the Street.

5/020719 To consider the following administrative questions:

Appointment of Parish Clerk; Bank signatories; Registration of Council Officers with MSDC and SALC; Website administration

It was agreed to appoint Rod Caird as Clerk on the basis of 12 hours per month at £10.57 per hour (SCP 20). Bank signatories will be Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Rod Caird and April Groen. Clerk will advise SALC, MSDC etc of the new appointment and will establish a new Parish email address.

6/020719 Poultry Unit: Plan for coordinating opposition with Southolt PC & Sue Ives

DC/19/02723 Notification for Prior Approval for a Proposed Change of Use of an Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (C3) and for Associated Operational Development. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3 Class Q- Conversion of agricultural building to 1No dwelling. Land East Of Horham Road Athelington *Consultation open until July 4*

Following earlier discussion it was agreed to support the joint parish effort to respond to planning applications concerning the poultry sheds.

It was agreed to oppose 19/02723 on the grounds discussed earlier in the meeting.

7/020719 To discuss purchase and positioning of two new dog waste bins

It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase and installation of bins for Horham and Athelington.

8/020719 To discuss an update on the proposed purchase of a Speed Indicator device (SID)

It was agreed to approach Cllr McGregor for funding once posts have been installed.

9/020719 To consider the purchase and installation of a noticeboard for Athelington

Cllr Jeffrey agreed to make and install a noticeboard for Athelington

10/020719 Financial Report from the Clerk including any payments due

Information is not yet available as the new Clerk does not yet have access to the bank account and related paperwork. This would be rectified at the next meeting.

11/020719 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The Clerk will write to the County Cllr about the request for a STOP sign as discussed earlier. The next Agenda will include an item on fund raising for the poultry shed campaign, as well as establishment of a sub committee of the Parish Council. It was agreed Cllrs Wright and Hambling will take a particular interest in traffic, speeding and relating issues; Cllrs Craig and Jeffrey in planning matters; Cllr Groen in the noticeboard and website. Contact details will be published on the website.

Thanks were expressed to those responsible to regular grass cutting of public and shared areas.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday September 3, followed by Tuesday November 5.