

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2007 in
the Parish Church at Southease

1. Apologies were received from Adrian & Jane Orchard, Andrew Clark & Katrina Russell, Pippa & Howard James, Peggy Kirby, Henry Wyndham and Elise Barugh.

11 Residents attended the meeting.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Open Gardens – Andrew and Katrina had offered at the last parish meeting, to organise a concert to be held in conjunction with Open Gardens weekend. Their proposal was for a 1 hour concert to be held on the Saturday evening from 6pm if this was acceptable and wanted by the village.

Meeting agreed that the concert would be an excellent addition to the Open Gardens weekend and requested that Andrew and Katrina proceed with the arrangements.

It was suggested that 6.30 might be a better time in order to allow those opening their gardens to get ready to attend.

Applefest – The meeting agreed that the village Applefest should be held again this year.

Chillifest – Residents were reminded that anyone who wished to foster a chilli plant should contact Adrian Orchard.

Neville Harrison's application to sit on the south downs joint committee, for which he had asked for the support of the parish at the last meeting, was successful. Neville was congratulated on his appointment.

The finger post at the North entrance to the village has now been replaced.

4. Southease to Rodmell Footpath – Neville Harrison raised the subject of a safe footpath between Southease and Rodmell which would avoid the need to walk alongside the C7. Maps were passed around of the proposed route which would cross land owned by three landowners, Chris Weston, Ben Harkness and the Glyndebourne estate.

The questions posed were whether the meeting felt the idea and the proposed route were a good idea and did we wish Neville to contact the landowners involved to seek approval.

It was agreed that he should proceed and that the issue of how such a path might be funded would be considered once the responses had been received.

5. Village Precept – The parish clerk raised the issue of a precept, i.e. an addition to the council tax raised at parish level, collected centrally which then flows back to the parish meeting to meet parish expenditure. The clerk pointed out that he had been highly vocal in his opposition to the idea in the past, however as district and county councils were increasingly trying to push costs down to parish level, the lack of a precept meant that it was taking longer than anticipated to have issues resolved, e.g. the finger post and the southern boundary sign.

The clerk pointed out that due to the smallness of the parish a precept would need to be not insubstantial to be of any use.

The meeting unanimously agreed that it did not want to raise a precept and that it wished to continue pushing back onto district and county councils to have issues resolved.

6. Current signatories to parish funds bank account – The current signatories to the parish funds bank account are Jill Harrison and Patrick Bolshaw. With the imminent departure of the Bolshaws from the village it was suggested that a replacement was needed for Patrick.

Sue Brickell proposed that the replacement be Ian Barugh, this was seconded by Rachel Wyndham and carried unanimously.

7. A request has been received to contribute to the cost of expert support, provided at county level, for the parish tree officer. The meeting agreed that as we do not raise a precept we unfortunately do not have the funds to be able to do so.
8. Any other business

Mower repair – It was proposed by John Hart and seconded by Neville Harrison that the village offer to meet a portion of the repair costs for the mower used to maintain the village green. While the offer and the spirit in which it was made, was greatly appreciated it was declined.

Bolshaws farewell – A farewell lunch has been organised for the Bolshaws on the 11th of May.

The next meeting will be held in approximately 6 months, date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm