

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 6pm in  
the Parish Church at Southease

1. Apologies were received from Pippa & Howard and Rachel & Henry Wyndham

20 residents attended the meeting, John Hart, Susannah Hart, Jillian Harrison, Adrian Orchard, Will Orchard, John Orchard, David Wilson, Alexander Pett, Rebecca Hanks, Roger Leach, Susan Kyriakides, Harley Barugh, Paula Barnes, Irene Somerville, Damon Randall, Deborah Lenderyou, Dominic Kirk, Sian Woollens, Neville Harrison (chair), Ian Barugh (clerk).

3 Non residents attended the meeting, Martin Brickell, Susan Brickell, Murray Brickell

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Village Web Site

The clerk confirmed that as per the wishes of the last meeting, that registration of the village web site had now been transferred in to the name of Southease Parish Meeting.

- b. Traffic Calming Measures

No progress has been made regarding the speed limit in the village

Paula Barnes asked that signs like one she had prepared requesting cyclists to slow down in the village due to the risk of children being injured could be displayed The meeting agreed that notices should be placed at the southern entrance to the village and at the corner by Brookside Cottages.

- c. Southease to Rodmell Footpath

The footpath had been formally opened by the chair of the South Downs National Park on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Susie Kyriakides was concerned there was no fence along the Rodmell section of the footpath and was concerned her dog could get onto the road and asked if it would be possible to have one erected. The chair explained that fencing had not been considered for this section but that if residents thought it was necessary, they were welcome to raise the funds required to do the work.

- d. Southease Swing Bridge

The work on the bridge are now complete and there had been a well attended opening ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting felt that the restoration had been carried out very well.

The chair explained that the Environment Agency (EA) were keen to be nominated for a Heritage Award for the restoration work but that for the meeting to apply on behalf of the EA for a Sussex Heritage Trust Award would cost us £100. While the meeting felt that the work done was excellent, as the parish does not raise a precept, it did not have the funds to lodge the application.

e. Itford Farmhouse Youth Hostel

Work is still at a standstill, but the messages received from the YHA and from Action Lewes regarding funding to complete the work are inconsistent.

f. National Park

Chair explained that the National Park had become operational on April 1<sup>st</sup> and is now the Planning Authority. He would be happy to hold a meeting to explain how the park functioned and in the meantime he suggested residents wishing more information about the park, should visit the Park's website ([www.southdowns.gov.uk](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk)) or contact him

4. Village Funds

In view of other issues to be raised during the meeting, the clerk requested that the subject of village funds be dealt with later in the meeting. This was agreed.

5. Cycle Initiative

The chair explained that a new initiative for a safe cycle route in the Ouse Valley had been launched by "village connections".

A number of informal meetings have been held and another meeting was imminent to see how the proposals could be moved forward.

The meeting agreed that in principal it would support moves to create a safe cycle network.

6. Parking at Brookside

The Chair explained that parking adjacent to Brookside cottages had been discussed before. The area proposed is the small piece of land on the left verge of the road immediately after the gate to the East of the cottages.

The area would need to be cleared, levelled and appropriately surfaced; this might be achieved by using the council's , Village Maintenance Team, village volunteers, or be done professionally, (cost would be circa £1,500).

The meeting agreed in principal that the work should be carried out.

Sue Brickell requested that steps were taken to ensure that it did not cause the field gate to be blocked as access was required.

7. The Royal Wedding

The meeting was asked if the village wished to hold its own celebrations for the Royal Wedding or if residents wished to accept an invitation from

Rodmell invitation to join their village celebrations on the sports field. .  
The meeting felt that those who wished to celebrate the event would join in the Rodmell event.

8. Village Events

The dates for this year's Spring Plant Fair and Open Gardens were confirmed as being Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Saturday & Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> of June respectively.

Jill Harrison requested that soup makers get their pans ready for the Plant Fair.

9. Chilli Day

It was explained to the meeting that following the huge success of the last Chilli Day which rather overwhelmed the village, extensive discussions had taken place at the Parish Meeting and the organisers had agreed that any future events would not be held unless the Parish Meeting agreed.

Alex Pett stated that the event was the most interesting event for younger people in the village, but that the informal way in which it had been organised previously wasn't suitable with the numbers that were now attending the event. Those requesting to hold the event this year had reviewed the issues that concerned the meeting after the last event and believed they had been addressed. The proposal for this year's event would have a formal organising committee consisting of Alex Pett, Beckie Hanks and David Wilson with the Parish Chair as a co-opted member to ensure the interests of the Parish Meeting. The proposed date for the event is the last weekend in September.

David Wilson explained that advertising for the event would be restricted in order to limit the numbers attending, the organisers would provide a rota of wardens to monitor the church and churchyard and that a Lewes pub, The Elephant & Castle were prepared to run the bar, provide food for children and would contribute financially to the event. The organisers had approached the Abergavenny Arms at Rodmell regarding the event but they were not interested.

The Chair explained that other public events held in the village organised by the PCC were covered for its public liability by the church insurance policy. Alex Pett confirmed that the organisers would ensure that public liability insurance would be in place for the event.

The meeting was asked if it supported the request to hold Chilli Day in the village again this year. John Hart said he was opposed to the event being held as he felt it was inappropriate. The overwhelming majority of the meeting was in favour of the event being held again.

10. Village Funds

The clerk explained that the Meeting was currently in limbo with its bank account and the current signatories, himself and Jill Harrison had begun the process to move the account as requested at the last meeting but thought that a review of how it moved forward should be put to the Meeting. The Parish Meeting had limited funds, partly due to the fact that we do not raise a precept and partly due to most of the fundraising carried out was for church, rather than parish funds. Historically the parish had not required a huge amount of funding and the funds held were below the level which required the meeting to be audited externally, this removed the need for the Parish Meeting to have a bookkeeper to manage the account internally.

As the Parish Meeting had moved to a more structured format in recent years, the clerk suggested that it was an appropriate time to bring the Meeting's financial affairs onto a similar, more structured format and as part of this move the Meeting should appoint a Treasurer. He also stated that he felt it would be more appropriate if one of the signatories on the account should be the Parish Chair. In order to achieve this change, it was proposed that the current signatories secure the release of Parish funds from its current provider and that two new signatories be appointed, the new signatories to be the Parish Chair and a Treasurer. Beckie Hanks, who is an accountant had been approached and was willing to take on the role of Treasurer.

Sue Brickell explained that this is how the signatories had been set up historically, with the chair as a signatory and this had only changed when her husband Martin had become chair, to ensure no conflict of interest.

The meeting was asked if the above proposal, that the Chair be a signatory and that Beckie Hanks be appointed as Treasurer and second signatory. The Meeting unanimously supported both proposals.

#### 11. Any Other Business

Applefest - The clerk asked if the village wanted to hold Applefest again this year, the Meeting agreed it did.

Church Opening Rota - The chair explained the church opening rota, thanked those who were currently participating and invited other residents to join the rota

Churchyard & Village Work Parties - Meeting was reminded of the next working party was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April

Fly Tipping - The chair reported that the recent fly tipping incident near the bridge had been dealt with promptly by the council and that our local PCSO had advised that a receipt had been among the rubbish and enquiries were being made in an attempt to find the culprits.

Suspicious strangers – Paula Barnes explained that when she had emailed the village about strangers behaving suspiciously, she had also tried to

inform the police of the matter but had been unable to get an answer.

12. Election of Officers

The Chair, Neville Harrison, and Clerk, Ian Barugh, stated that they were both prepared to stand for re-election.

The clerk then asked for any other nominations to be put forward, there were none.

The meeting voted unanimously to re-elect the current Chair and Clerk.

The next meeting will be held in October 2011, the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.17 pm