

A MEETING of FUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL was held at the Funtington and District Village Hall, West Ashling on Wednesday 7th December, 2011, at 6.30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Mr. J.M. Sewell, (Chairman), Mrs. J.V. Bateman, Mrs. A. J. Brooks, Mr. R.J. Goulding, Mr. J. Hepworth, Mr. N.G. La Hive, Mr. T.E. Hoare, Mr. G. Keech, Mr. R.H. Knight, Mr. P.O.H. Medlam, Mr. B. Oakley-Smith, and Mr. W. Vinall.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr. R.J. Hammond.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No councillors declared interests in any of the items on the agenda

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd November, 2011, were approved and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising not already covered by the Agenda.

**REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Mrs. Tassell, said that there would be a four day Christmas Street Market in Chichester city centre, starting tomorrow. The District Council has earmarked £30M for green schemes. Some 500 signatures have been received to date in an e-petition opposing the introduction of Sunday charging the city car parks. It has been agreed to replace the Chief Executive when he retires, instead of merging posts.

**REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Mrs. Goldsmith reported that the County has ample stocks of grit to cope with any bad weather. Investigations are under way on improving broadband, with the County Council investing £6.28M in the project. The County Council is also supporting the £22M improvements scheme at the Festival Theatre, in addition to supporting other schemes throughout the county. County Council staff are unable to find the correspondence about the School Dell Country Park scheme, but one of the County Highway's arboriculturists will visit the School Dell to discuss the proposed new scheme. Mrs. Goldsmith thanked the Chairman for his recent presentation at Horsham about the Community Action Plan. It had been agreed that CAP would press ahead with broadband for businesses. 16 parishes had been asked to provide details of businesses within their parishes, including those run from home. Mrs. Goldsmith also gave details of the new County Council Social Enterprises Fund. Applications for grants would be welcomed.

**REPORT BY POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER**

Mr. Booker listed the minor crimes carried out in the parish over the last month. He emphasised that it was important that all parked vehicles and garages are locked and secure. The SID had been deployed in East Ashling for two days in November. Details of the few driving offences seen were passed to the Roads Policing Team. Stationary SID's were placed in Funtington and East Ashling for a week each. During this period, the average speed of cars was registered as 34 mph and of vans 37mph.

**CHICHESTER SOUTH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

As reported earlier, broadband for businesses is now being considered. Work is taking place on some of the road schemes submitted, action is awaited on the others. The next phase of the Plan is now being considered, including the provision of Community Wardens. The provision of the car park at Kingley Vale is being investigated, as the lease is due to expire shortly, and it may be that the lessee cannot afford an increased rent.

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

The Chairman said the Parish Council had been accused of a lack of communication with parishioners. Whilst he could not agree with that statement, the closure of the village shop had meant that few people now looked at the Parish Noticeboard in front of the shop and copies of the Parish Magazine were not so readily available. A new site for the noticeboard (and a new noticeboard) was being investigated. The Monthly Parish Newsletter was currently incorporated into the Church Magazine, instead of being a loose leaf insert, as it has been previously. The Council considered four choices :

(a) leave the Parish Newsletter as it was, incorporated in the Church Magazine,

- (b) revert back to the previous loose leaf insert,
- (c) seek an independent volunteer to run it, possibly in conjunction with another publication
- (d) discontinue the Parish Newsletter

After discussion it was agreed to remain with the present system whilst investigating other alternatives.

**CORRESPONDENCE** The Clerk reported that the following letters had been received:

- (a) Bournes Forum – Agenda 24th November, 2011 Meeting - *Noted*.
- (b) SALC – Minutes 12th October, 2011 Meeting – *Noted*
- (c) SALC – Proposed Subscriptions 2012-2013 – *Noted*

**FINANCE**

Accounts for Payment

		£	
Cllr. Medlam	Website Expenses	72.47	
Mazars LLP	Audit Fees	162.00	27.00
R & B Grounds Maintenance	Renew School Dell Fence	360.00	
PlaySafety Ltd.	Play Area RoSPA Inspection	82.00	13.80
Chi DC	Play Area Rent 2012	20.00	
Playsafe Playgrounds	Play Area Repairs	918.00	153.00
Mr. B.W Mann	Parish Clerk’s Expenses	43.85	

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillors considered the list of planning applications attached to the Agenda. The Planning Working Group’s recommendations, as shown on that list, were agreed and approved. The Fox & Hounds Public House is submitting a planning application to the District Council to open a shop in the barn adjacent to the Public House.

**WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

Finance & General Purposes. The Group will meet on 12th December to consider next year’s precept. They will also meet on 6th January to discuss details of the Queen’s Jubilee Party

Community Planning. Daily weather reports are now being received from the County Council stating whether or not gritting lorries are due to be deployed. All the salt bins in the parish have been filled.

Countryside. The County had been asked to replace damaged/missing way markers in the parish. The overhanging trees/bushes in Southbrook Road had been reported but no action taken yet. Mrs. Brooks was thanked for arranging all her tree planting : 400 – 500 trees were planted in 3 hours.

Amenities & Services. The repairs/renovations to the play area equipment have been completed. Hopefully the play area should be good for another 10 years?

Highways Management. Members of EATAG had met with County Council officials to discuss traffic problems. Any suggestions from that meeting will be followed through with the Parish Council. Links are being made with Chichester City Council and Westbourne Parish Council to consider rationalising the speed limit along the B2146 which passes through all three parishes. The possible construction of white panel ‘gateways’ at the entrances to East Ashling and West Stoke are being considered, but siting them may present problems. More Community Speed Watch volunteers are needed.

Bournes Forum. The Chairman debriefed councillors on the matters discussed at the latest Bournes Forum meeting. The Localism Bill comes into force on 15th April, 2012.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Richard Tassell, the Chairman of the Funtington and District Village Hall Committee said that Seaward Properties were providing an architect to draw up revised plans for the new Village Hall. He hoped to be able to say something positive in a month or so.

Mrs. Laird suggested the setting up of a domestic fuel oil syndicate so that cheaper prices could be negotiated. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council were prepared to act as negotiator for any such syndicate, they would not to run it.

Mr. Boys stated that he was picking up litter and reporting fly tipping to the District Council. The Chairman asked him to keep the Parish Clerk informed to avoid duplication of reports.

**DATE OF NEXT  
MEETING**

Wednesday 4th January, 2012, at 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman  
4th January, 2012