

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall at 6.00pm on Tuesday 26th May 2015

Present: Parish Councillors: A. Mier (Chairman of the Parish Council)(in the Chair), Mrs. J. Annetts, Mrs. C. Gallagher, D. Greenup, A. King, S. Leadbetter, D. Thatcher, District Councillors R. Bird, C. Saint and 42 members of the public. Also present was the Parish Clerk, Mr. J Edmunds.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Revd V. Gibbs.

INTRODUCTIONS – Councillor Mier opened the meeting and advised that this is a meeting of the electorate of Fairlight, and has its basis in Law. He welcomed everyone and introduced the newly elected Councillors: Chris Saint (District) and D. Greenup (Parish). He stressed that whilst it was a Meeting which he would Chair, it was not a Parish Council Meeting and everyone present had the same status. Cllr Mier explained Resolutions could be passed but would not necessarily be binding upon the Parish Council, although any relating to Allotments would be binding.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2014– There were none

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Cllr. Mier said that he would not go through his written report verbatim, but briefly report on the items within the report (The written report will be available on the website www.fairlight.org.uk or can be obtained by email or hard copy on application to the Parish Clerk).

Specific items covered were:- The election of Councillors, which left a Vacancy of one, Precept increase to £44800 (cost £1/week to an average Band D household), Grants issued, the third phase cliff works, the community purchase of the Post Office and shop, work on the children`s play area in Wood field, the repair with road-stone on the lower part of Channel Way, updating the Emergency Plan and appointing street wardens, purchase of a speed indicator device (shared with Pett and Guestling PC`s), wild flower verges, brighter Fairlight, Website information with the Web master (Bill O`Reilly), Assets list, faster Broadband, Planning matters, (Neighbourhood Plan, Cliff Protection Scheme, Market Garden Site) and Highways issues. Thanks to some great lobbying we also managed to save the 344 bus service from being vastly reduced.

We saw the Public Inquiry last September regarding the footpath between Woodland Way and Warren Road but we were unsuccessful in getting it added to the “Definitive Map”. The PC is looking into ways in which it may be in a position to make an offer for the Estate as the owner has indicated he may be willing to sell. It is also another big year for raising pledges and funds towards continuing the protection of the Cliffs.

Cllr Mier gave details of the progress regarding the Post Office and Community Shop and advised that information was available on their website for residents to follow the progress. Results of their funding requests should be known in June.

Cllr Mier thanked all the Councillors for their hard work and dedication and in particular to Cllr Revd Gibbs for being an able deputy when required, Cllrs King and Mrs Annetts for their work with the playground and Cllr Thatcher for keeping the footpaths safe. Cllr Mier also thanked the Clerk for achieving a clean Audit.

The Chairman finished by reminding parishioners that Council Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the Month (except December when there is no meeting) and invited all to come along.

The Cliffs

Paul Capps (Chairman – Fairlight Preservation Trust) gave a recap on the history of the problems and the resolution to date. He went on to explain where the current progress has reached to achieve stage 3 and the hoped for final stage where the two berms are joined together to protect the cliffs from erosion. Currently it is Defra who are holding up the progress.

Partnership funding is crucial and with the cost being in excess of £1.3m, the more that can be raised locally the better the chances of receiving the go ahead. Pledges currently stand at £58k and the target is £100k. The pledges will not need to be called in until the green light has been received. Paul thanked everyone who had already contributed and also all the residents who continue to fund raise.

Paul went on to explain the work to the current drains which would be taking place over the coming months to remove silt and repairs which Laurie Beetham carries out and saves lots of money.

The Parish Council has agreed to match fund the money raised and has canvassed residents to seek approval for the raising of a loan. The response has been totally positive in this respect.

Paul asked for a show of hands from the audience to check that residents were in favour of the action taken and the response was unanimously in favour.

JOHN LUTMAN AWARD

This year after deliberation over many nominations by the Committee (Cllrs Mier and Revd Gibbs) they have decided to award the honour to George Hensher for his work with Fairlight Preservation Trust and other charitable work within the Parish. George`s achievements were read out by The Chairman. Whilst very grateful, humbled and honoured to receive the award, George has chosen to give the £150 to Mopps.

Unfortunately, Janet Lutman had been delayed so the award was presented by The Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS

The Clerk advised that no resolutions had been received.

OPEN FORUM

Alan Grant raised a question to the Post Office representative about grants and planning permissions which Collette answered explaining that everything would be done under permitted development and gave the details of the renovations.

Keith Jellicoe suggested that the line of sight was affected by weeds on the verge as one travels up Battery Hill, on the bend. He also mentioned about the potential of development for East Field and continues to campaign against development. Drainage remains very poor on the site.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be a good ally but may not be able to stop it. It is necessary to find suitable sites.

Val King thanked all the Councillors for their dedicated hard work and suggested more residents would benefit from attending the monthly Parish Council meetings.

There being no further business, Cllr Mier thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.12pm.

Refreshments followed.

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Chairman of the Parish Assembly

Date