

FAIRLIGHT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at Fairlight Village Hall on Tuesday 27th October 2015 at 7.15pm.

Present: Councillors A. Mier (Chairman), Mrs J. Annetts, Mrs C. Gallagher, Revd. V. Gibbs, D. Greenup, A. King, S. Leadbetter and D. Thatcher. Also present: Dist Cllrs R. Bird, C. Saint, Parish Clerk J. Edmunds and 27 members of the public.

- 15155 Apologies for Absence:** County Cllr C. Maynard.
- 15156 Agenda additions:** Item 8(a) Report by Haydon Luke following the meeting of the Project Board for the visitor centre on Hastings Country Park.
- 15157 Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:** Cllr Leadbetter expressed a personal interest in item 6(a) as a member of Fairlight Preservation Trust.
- 15158 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 22nd September 2015.**
The minutes having been distributed prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting, were approved and signed by The Chairman as a correct record.
- 15159 Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda:** None
- 15160 Bus route 101**
The Chairman advised that 3 representatives of Stagecoach (Neil Instrall, Rob Hutchings (RH) and Kim Brooks) were present to address the Meeting and following a précis of the problems surrounding the 101 route, he suspended Standing Orders at 7.19 pm and invited Neil Instrall (NI) to address the Meeting. NI gave a potted history of the bus service from the 1980's to date clarifying what had happened to lead up to Stagecoach taking over the old 344 route in 2011. This is now route 101 and runs from Dover to Hastings on an hourly basis Monday to Saturday and a 2 hourly run on Sundays. The run is commercially viable.
He explained that the Ticket Machine has a chip within it which sends a signal to the IT equipment which enables the Bus Controllers to track the buses. Should a problem occur such as a breakdown, the Controller has to decide on the best solution to enable the service to return to normal in the quickest and most efficient way. This sometimes means that buses may miss parts of the route. He accepted that some unfortunate breakdowns had occurred and apologised for the lack of communication and the inconvenience caused. He also advised that drivers had been instructed not to refuse children if they did not have their fare.
He also explained other ways the buses can be tracked. Since April, he advised that 85% of the service had run to time but accepts that it should be better. Traffic delays such as road works often cause disruption. There is a mobile App *Traveline GB* which gives up to date timetable information and live bus information.
Questions from Councillors and members of the public were then answered and NI agreed that a shortening of the distance for the run could help improve the service but it could also affect the viability which would put pressure on the service. There will be a review in the new-year.
Carol Ardley (resident) asked if it was possible to use different buses from Wave or Arrow if a bus broke down to which NI confirmed it was possible as Stagecoach owned both Companies.
Nicky Frith (resident) mentioned that it was not possible for all to receive the mobile app to look up the whereabouts of the bus as the signal in Fairlight is poor. She also mentioned that timetables are missing from the bus shelters and requested new ones be placed there.
RH suggested that if a resident had a specific journey to make, before leaving home ring Customer Services (**01424 441115**) and check the bus had not had any delays.
Another resident (Felicity) stated that she had a half hour walk from home to the bus stop and asked if that was fair to expect her to return home to make a call if the bus was late.
NI agreed that it was not and he would look into ways of improving ways of communication and they also try to time the buses to coincide with train times at Rye.
NI advised that they had made a stipulation to ESCC that the trees are kept trimmed to enable the double decker buses to pass smoothly along the roads between Hastings and Fairlight.
Some residents were pleased with the service and complimented the bus company.
NI agreed to put timetables in the Post Office for residents to collect.
It was agreed that on some occasions the bus arrives early but the timing place is the Post Office on the way out of the Village and that in future the timing spot will be on the way into the Village at the lay by at the end of Waites Lane. RH will issue the necessary instructions to the drivers.
The Chairman thanked the representatives and then re-introduced Standing Orders at 8.07 pm.

15161

Financial Matters

(a) Discuss and agree the amount of funds to be made available by the Parish Council towards the Fairlight Cove Coast Protection works Phase 3 cliff project and the maximum amount, including the repayment term, to be taken by way of loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

The Chairman gave a précis on the history of the fund raising and the reasons behind it. He also reminded Cllrs that an agreement in principle to give a substantial amount of money to the project was already in place and now it was time to agree the amount.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 8.12 pm to enable Paul Capps (Chairman – Fairlight Preservation Trust) to address the Meeting and he confirmed that the Trust were still looking for a 50-50 split with the Parish Council and believes that the Trust can raise £75k although they are trying to reach a higher figure which could reduce the amount required from the PC.

East Kent Engineering Company who have produced the report believe £150k will be sufficient partnership funding towards the overall scheme cost of £1.87 million.

There is a funding thermometer outside of St Peter’s Church. The Chairman (referring to what had been said at the recent Trust AGM) expressed his view that £150k might put the scheme “on a knife edge” and said that even though £75k was all that was being asked for, Cllrs needed to consider what amount would give the best chance of success without unnecessary expenditure of public funds. The Chairman re-introduced Standing Orders at this point (8.20 pm).

Cllrs debated amounts and how much to take from reserves and borrow by way of Public Loan.

Cllr Leadbetter proposed “Agree a sum up to £90k to be made available by the Parish Council towards the Fairlight Cove Coast Protection Works Phase 3 Cliff Project”. This was seconded by Cllr Thatcher.

A vote was taken and all Cllrs voted in agreement to the proposal. **Resolved.**

Cllr Greenup then proposed “The £90k should be raised by way of £10k from reserves and a Public Works Loan Board loan of £80k repayable over 40 years”. Cllr Mrs Annetts seconded the proposal. A vote was taken and all agreed the proposal. **Resolved.**

(b) Update the cctv situation

The Clerk reported that the cctv had been replaced and is up and running. The Insurers have agreed the claim in full subject to a £100 excess.

15162

RALC report

Cllr Thatcher had prepared a report in advance of the meeting which has been circulated to Councillors and made available to the public at the meeting. It is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Cllr Thatcher reminded everyone to check to make sure they had been registered on the Electoral roll.

Cllr Greenup advised that notification had been given that the Police budget had been reduced greatly and it would likely result in less presence on the streets.

15163

Electoral Review

District Cllr Bird had received details of the review from Rother District Council and gave a detailed report to Parish Councillors. He explained why it was being undertaken and the prospective changes.

There are two options, 1. Fairlight remains with part of Pett and that would be a 1 District Cllr Ward called Marsham or 2. Option 1 plus Icklesham and it becomes a 2 Cllr Ward called Southern Rother. The preference for the current District Cllrs is for option 2 which is also the preferred option for the Scrutiny Committee of Rother DC.

The Chairman felt there is advantages for both options and urged residents to look at the details on Rother’s website.

The consultation ends on 30th November.

(a) Country Park Project Board

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 8.45 pm to enable Haydon Luke as the official Fairlight representative to address the meeting and deliver a report on the Project Board’s October meeting which is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes. The next meeting will be in January 2016.

Trevor Lewing (Fairlight Residents Association) asked how much more money was required to complete the building based on the current Tenders. Haydon Luke advised £400k. It would appear that costings were not completed prior to Tenders being requested.

The Chairman re-instated Standing Orders at 8.55 pm

15164

**Highways
Monthly report**

The Highways Report had been circulated by Cllr. Revd. Gibbs prior to the Meeting and made available to the Public at the Meeting. The Report is attached as an appendix to these Minutes.

15165

Planning

The Planning Committee’s report and notes from their meetings for the last month had been circulated prior to the meeting and made available to the Public at the meeting.

The Reports were noted and are attached as appendices to these Minutes. Cllr Leadbetter highlighted some of the main points of the report (Skyscape primarily).
 Cllr Leadbetter advised that the grant of £4452 has been received following formal application to Rother to set up a Neighbourhood Plan.
 The grant represents the amount expected to be spent before the end of March 2016. Core groups are to be set up as more people are needed to get involved and a public exhibition will be arranged, possibly to incorporate the Christmas Fayre.

15166 Land Management:

(a) Monthly Report and (b) old dog bin removal/grit bin update

Cllr King reported the following:-

- (1) The old dog bins have been removed and the new bins are being emptied regularly.
 - (2) The new grit bins have arrived and will be installed by the end of the week.
 - (3) The Tennis Club requested a cut back of undergrowth around the Tennis Court and a restrictive plan has been agreed with the Tennis Club removing and taking away the vegetation for disposal.
- Cllr Thatcher advised that he needs to purchase some stump killer which will be approved under the Land Management authority. The Chairman advised that Weigela had been planted at the Play Area, and he thanked Cllr Jennifer Annetts for her help.

(c) Southern Water meeting 20/10

The Chairman reported that the draft Minutes from the recent meeting with Southern Water were still awaited and so a full report could not be given. However, it was interesting to have many different personnel there and it is something which respective authorities are taking very seriously.

(d) Trimming of Holm Oaks

The Chairman advised that the Holm Oaks on The Circle had been trimmed by the Gardening Club. Cllr Thatcher proposed that a donation of £50 be given to the Gardening club for all the work they had done around the Village. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mrs Gallagher. All voted in favour (Cllr Leadbetter expressed an interest as a Gardening Club member and did not take part in the discussion or vote). **Resolved.**

15167 County and District Councillors Reports:

County Cllr Maynard was not present and there was therefore no County Cllr report.
 Dist Cllr Bird had nothing to report as he had already presented a report on the Electoral review.
 Similarly, Dist Cllr Saint had nothing further to report.

15168 Approval and Payment of Accounts

The Clerk tabled a list of payments to be made at this meeting.
 Approved as follows:-

Cheque No.	Payee	Gross £	VAT (Reclaimable)
1720	AB Fire & Security	49.39	8.23
1721	Mrs V King	xxxxxx	
1722	J Edmunds (Sal & Expenses)	xxxxxx	
1723	HMRC	xxxxxx	
1724	Mrs T Robertson	30.00	
1725	Glasdon (litter bin)	359.14	59.85
1726	Fairlight Village Hall	64.00	
1727	D Thatcher (expenses)	9.45	
1728	T King (skip hire)	240.00	40.00
1729	D Richards	122.00	
1730	Wellers Law Group LLP	211.20	32.20
1731	Glasdon (grit bins)	1700.73	283.45

15169 Information and/or Future Agenda Items

- **Correspondence**

Correspondence Received:-

- East Sussex ALC re AGM**
- ESCC Highways re Broadway road closure**
- Fairlight Tennis Club**
- Fusion 4**

HBC (several) re gorse removal, burning aforesaid, and anti social behaviour
D Lucas re gorse removal
J Dean re footpath 11 signs and stiles
Rother District Council re 1066 grants
Southern Water
Stagecoach Bus Services
Various Neighbourhood Plan correspondence
Weekly Rural News
Weekly Police updates

Correspondence Sent:

Capital Estates re barbed wire
Glasdon
J Holyoak re barbed wire
Planning Applicants
Rother District Council x2
Southern Water
Stagecoach Bus Services

- **Police Report**

The monthly Police report was not received this month

- **Budget for 2016** (to be discussed at November`s Meeting)

- **Gorse burning on the Firehills**

There has been much burning of gorse which resulted in complaints from resident`s and as a result HBC stopped the burning. Several Cllrs commented on the current state of the Firehills.

- **HBC notification re Anti-Social behaviour on the Country Park**

The Chairman expressed that it was encouraging that HBC are tackling this issue.

- **Grants for 1066 celebrations**

Cllr Mrs Annetts advised that 2016 is the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings and that Rother DC has advised that grants may be available for local events. Cllr Mrs Annetts also wondered if some grants may be available for The Queen`s 90th birthday next year.

15170 **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 24th November 2015, 7.15pm at Fairlight.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 9.14 pm

Open Forum

- Keith Jellicoe (East Field Residents) asked if any news had been heard about the Rother District Plan and how it might affect the Neighbourhood Plan. Nothing has been heard and Cllr Mier said that Norman Kwan (Rother Planner) had advised that windfall developments (sites of 6 or more houses) do not count which is different to what had previously been advised. Dist Cllr Bird will investigate.
- Michael Hall (resident) mentioned the problematic pot holes and Cllr Revd Gibbs advised that they had all been reported to East Sussex Highways. Cllr Thatcher advised that ESCC Highways are now on their winter schedule which runs from October 30th to Mid April 2016.

There being no further business, The Vice- Chair thanked everyone for their participation and closed this part of the Meeting at 9.20 pm.

(Cllr A. Mier Chairman)

Dated -----

APPENDICES

1. Highways Report/Vice-Chair report

Highways Report. October 2015.

Not a lot to report this month apart from reporting potholes as usual. I am trying to get the pothole at the top of Battery Hill repaired as it is quite deep and unavoidable when facing oncoming traffic. If we have a bad winter this will only exacerbate the pothole problem.

I am hoping that when BT complete their work in the Broadway ESCC will then repair the surface which has become very bad. There is even grass growing down the centre of the road. It will be interesting to see if they repair it or mow it!

Speeding is still a problem in the village and when the clocks go back we face the dark evenings even earlier. So please take extra care and may I suggest that pedestrians in particular make sure they can be seen in the dark by wearing a light coloured jacket or better still something like a day-glow jacket or band.

Finally, let`s make sure our vehicles are ready for the winter, fully serviced, lights working and properly adjusted, brakes in good order and fresh anti-freeze in the coolant tank etc.

Cllr. Revd Val Gibbs. Highways Officer.

Vice Chair Report. October 2015.

The November meeting of the Parish Council will be the last one before Christmas unless there has to be an emergency meeting for some reason.

You will have seen reports that we are in for a bad winter, very low temperatures and probably snow. Obviously we all hope that will not happen but maybe we should all be prepared in case it does. May I suggest that we all make sure we have the Emergency Plan handy along with the contact details of your Street Warden, at least one torch with fresh batteries and a reasonable supply of the basics and food not forgetting our pets so have a good supply of their food as well.

If you are very ill or disabled make sure you are registered with your power supply company so that they are aware of your special needs should we get prolonged power-cuts.

So keep well, warm and safe this winter and if we have a white Christmas lets hope it doesn't last too long!! Happy Christmas Everyone !

Cllr Revd. Val Gibbs. Vice Chair.

2. Planning Report

Planning Report for Fairlight Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 27th October 2015

1) Planning Applications

Planning report week 37

RR/2015/2296/P

Skyscape - Land at rear, Channel Way, (fronting Shepherds Way), TN35 4BP
New dwelling.

Parish Council Comments:

- 1) The height, bulk, and proximity to adjacent dwellings of the proposed development appears overbearing.
- 2) Although the first floor windows are Velux windows there appears to be an issue of overlooking.
- 3) Drainage is a concern in this area and if consent were to be granted it should be subject to a plan to include discharge of surface water into the main drainage system to be agreed before work starts.
- 4) It is unclear whether the requirement to provide two parking spaces is met.
- 5) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

Planning report week 38

RR/2015/2332/P

Barn House, Warren Road Fairlight TN35 4AN
Two storey extension for kitchen dining room and sun room (previously approved under
RR/2011/1281/P)

Parish Council comments:

- 1) The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.
- 2) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

Planning report week 39
Nothing for Fairlight

Planning report week 40

RR/ 2015/ 2397/ P
1A Battery Hill , Fairlight TN35 4AP
Widening of existing driveway, dropped pavement.

Parish Council comments: Not yet considered.

- 1) The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.
- 2) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

Planning report week 41

RR/2015/2514/P
Moon Cottage – Land to the East - Friars Hill , Fairlight TN34 4HJ
Demolition of existing “ old chapel “ outbuilding and replacement with new bungalow on existing footprint.

Parish Council comments: Not yet considered.

2) Planning Decisions

RR/2015/1873/P
Birchen Knoll, Peter James Lane, Fairlight TN35 4AH
Change of use of existing outbuildings from general storage to a Leisure Suite with adjoining badminton court.
Decision: Rejected.

Reasons: (My summar).

- 1) By nature of the separation, scale and design it is not ancillary to the main dwelling but unrelated and inappropriate new development in the countryside.
- 2) It is not subservient and the appearance and use is detrimental to the rural character of the area.

RR/2015/1962/P
Sycamore, Clinton Way, Fairlight TN35 4DL
Proposed garden room & driveway alterations.

Decision: Approved

Stephen Leadbetter
Planning Committee Chairman
20th October 2015

Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 6th October 2015 Notes of Meeting

Present: Councillors S. Leadbetter (Chairman), Mrs C. Gallagher, Revd V. Gibbs, Mrs J. Annetts,

Members of the Public: Mr P Vidler, Mr P Harwood, Mr and Mrs Burton.

Apologies for Absence - Councillor A. Mier

- 1) **Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:**
None, although Councillor Mrs Gallagher stated that she would not take part in the discussion on RR/2015/2332/P.
- 2) **Planning Applications**

RR/2015/2296/P - Skyscape, Land at rear, Channel Way, Fairlight TN35 4BP
New dwelling

Mr Vidler the applicant was invited to speak but said he preferred to listen to the discussion.

Mr and Mrs Burton were invited to speak. Mr Burton stated that applicant was the owner of Skyscape, an existing house behind his house at Firecliff, which he believed would be extended. The construction of a new 3 bedroom house to the side would result in Firecliff being squashed in. He felt that the new property would be too close and that Firecliff would be overlooked. Mrs Burton was concerned that being a family house there would be noise.

The Chairman stated that over 20 comments had been put on the Rother website and had prepared a document for the committee summarising the issues raised.

Some of these were not strictly material planning considerations but the following were: Whether the application sought to overdevelop the site, whether the proposed property was in keeping with the area, proximity to, and overlooking of, properties either side and drainage issues.

Councillors then discussed the application and considered that there were concerns which should be referred to Rother planners as follows:

- 1) The height, bulk, and proximity to adjacent dwellings of the proposed development appears overbearing.
- 2) Although the first floor windows are Velux windows there appears to be an issue of overlooking.
- 3) Drainage is a concern in this area and if consent were to be granted it should be subject to a plan to include discharge of surface water into the main drainage system to be agreed before work starts.
- 4) It is unclear whether the requirement to provide two parking spaces is met.
- 5) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

RR/2015/2332/P - Barn House, Warren Road, Fairlight, TN35 4AN

Two storey extension for kitchen dining room and sun room (previously approved under RR/2011/1281/P).

Councillors discussed the application which was to renew a previous approval to which the Parish Council had not objected.

Comments to Rother will be that the Parish Council has no objection but that any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

3) Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman briefly updated progress on the Neighbourhood Plan.

A grant of £4,452 has been approved subject to formal agreement and due diligence. Rother will consult on the area to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan starting on 9th October.

The Chairman will arrange publicity within the village once the link to the Rother website is known to work.

4) Any Other Business

Matters to be investigated:

- Untidy property in Lower Waites Lane
- Possible illegal car selling near Sea Road
- The application for Pixie Wood has been withdrawn.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm

5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 4.00pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman
8th October 2015

Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee – 20th October 2015
Notes of Meeting

Present: Councillors S. Leadbetter (Chairman), A. Mier, Revd V. Gibbs.

Members of the Public: Mrs Bird.

Apologies for Absence - Councillors Mrs J. Annetts, Mrs C. Gallagher

3) Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Interests:

None.

4) Planning Applications

RR/2015/2397/P – 1A Battery Hill, Fairlight TN35 4AP

Widening of existing driveway , dropped kerb.

Mrs Bird, the wife of the applicant was invited to speak and explained that they were new owners. The application to widen the access was so she and Mr Bird could turn their car without encroaching on their neighbours drive. They also wished to erect a fence.

Councillors then discussed the application. Councillor Mier expressed a personal preference for hedges over fences and open rather than closed fencing.

It was agreed that if highways had any comments on the application they would make them direct. Councillors had no objection to the proposal.

Comments to Rother to be:

- 1) Fairlight Parish Council has no objection to the proposal.
- 2) Any comments made by neighbours should be taken into account.

3) Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman tabled a paper which he wished to present to the Parish Council on 27th October.

The report updated progress which had been made on the Neighbourhood Plan and the steps required between now and the end of March 2016 to comply with grant conditions.

He stressed that from now progress had to speed up and in particular, if the plan is to succeed, the need to increase the number of people involved in developing the plan.

Councillors agreed that this was needed and that the report should go to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with the consultant and a date set for the next public consultation event.

4) Any Other Business

Councillor Mier expressed concern that any new development of less than six properties did not count towards the target in the Local Plan but were treated as windfalls. It was agreed that if sites which could be developed became apparent during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, this could be challenged.

Meeting closed at 4.30 pm

5) Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 2.30pm in Fairlight Village Hall, subject to confirmation.

Stephen Leadbetter
Fairlight PC Planning Committee Chairman
20th October 2015

3) Neighbourhood Plan

**Neighbourhood Planning – Progress Report and Future Programme of Work
Report for Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee 20th October 2015 and
Fairlight Parish Council on 27th October 2015**

1. This report sets out what has been achieved so far, but more importantly what has to be achieved between now and the end of March 2016.

Progress so Far

2. At its meeting on 24th February 2015 the Parish Council confirmed its intention to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Following negotiations with Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS), in May 2015, we agreed the services to be provided, and the likely costs, which are in the order of £13,000.
4. On 24th June 2015 the Planning committee met with the AiRS consultant to discuss the process and tasks required to progress the Neighbourhood Plan.
5. On 29th July formal notice was submitted to Rother District Council to designate the parish of Fairlight as a Neighbourhood Plan area. Rother have confirmed that we are eligible and the consultation required by law on the area to be included is underway, running from 9th October until 6th November.
6. During July and August 2015 a Community Evidence report was jointly produced by AiRS and the Parish Council. It sets out information about the character of the parish, and factual and statistical information about Fairlight, its residents and access to services. This is a document which will be developed as the plan proceeds and will be a key part of the plan.
7. On 18th September a grant application was submitted to Communities, the government agency which deals with Neighbourhood Planning, for £4,452 . This was agreed subject to a due diligence process. The required evidence and supporting documents have been submitted and the grant was approved on 19th October.
8. ***The grant must be spent on the activities detailed in the application by 31st March 2016 or must be repaid.***

What is Required Next?

9. We now need to now increase momentum to achieve the required progress and expenditure by March 2016.
10. **Consultant** - The next key step is a further meeting with our consultant to review the project plan and ensure that we understand what is required.
11. **Core Group** - We need to hold a meeting of those who have said they will be part of, or assist, the core group to see what skills we have and to identify any skills gaps, and agree Terms of Reference for the group.
12. **Public Consultation** - We need to plan a public consultation to assist in setting an overall vision, objectives and the key things on which to focus.
13. **Thematic Groups** – Arising from the consultation we will need to set up groups to look in detail at the key areas we decide to focus on. These could be matters such as coastal erosion, housing numbers and design, the local economy, transport and services.
14. **Call for Sites** – This would create an opportunity to see if there are alternative or extra sites which could be developed in addition to those already identified. It should be noted that Rother anticipate that such sites would be within or abutting the existing development boundary.
15. **Contact Local and Statutory Consultees** – To advise that we intend to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
16. **Develop Communication Strategy** – We need to keep residents informed of progress and events, using the village website, social media, press, posters and other means to be decided.
17. **Agree Sites and Start to Develop pre-Submission Plan** – Based on information fed in from all of the above, start to develop the plan.

Future Commitment

18. A Neighbourhood Plan involves a community deciding on how it wishes to see the area develop and working on the plan together to allow that to happen.
19. Until now work on the Neighbourhood Plan has been limited to a very small number of people supported by a consultant.

20. Having been successful in obtaining a grant we have now reached a critical stage where we need to speed up progress and where greater involvement by those who wish to see a Neighbourhood Plan is required. This will be tested at the submission and inspection stages and the plan is unlikely to succeed without such involvement.

Councillor Stephen Leadbetter
Chairman of Fairlight Parish Council Planning Committee
19th October 2015

3. Country Park Visitor Centre

Report to Parish Council Meeting, 27 October 2015

As indicated in my previous report, the CPVC Board duly met on 16th October. Present in addition to me were: Cllr Warren Davies (Chair), Cllr John Hodges, Fiona Wellings, Programme Manager, (Groundwork South), Mike Hepworth, HBC Assistant Director for Environment and Place, Murray Davidson, HBC Environment and Natural Resources Manager, Michael Moor (deputising for Andrew Blackman), Friends of Hastings Country Park, and Marian Hollingsworth, HBC Parks Admin Officer.

In practice little more has happened since we all met Murray Davidson and Fiona Wellings at the FPC meeting back in July. The project remains stalled because the £225,000 that HBC has 'in the bank' from the sale of Warren Cottage is insufficient to proceed with the building as designed by Cave Architects. Groundwork South, which has a Service Level Agreement with HBC to build and run the Visitor Centre, now has to put together bids to attempt to secure the additional funding necessary to deliver the project. They favour approaching the HLF Parks for People fund.

There was quite a lot of discussion about the nature of the tendering process which, from HBC's perspective, had produced such a disappointing response with no tenders anywhere near the anticipated sum of money available. There were wide variations in the build price per square metre represented in the tenders received.

There was also discussion of the options for the construction of the visitor centre explained to us at the FPC meeting by Murray Davidson and Fiona Wellings, namely:

- Using the same design but using traditional materials
- Modular (what Murray referred to as the 'flat pack' option)
- Using the same design but with more fixed costs

They seem reluctant to consider a total redesign which would require a new planning application!

Fiona said that Groundwork had sought feedback from firms which had expressed interest in the project but had not tendered. She felt the timescale for the return of tenders had been too short. She hoped that a re-tendering process might result in more interest from firms. Meanwhile the Board requested that an Independent Quantity Surveyor assess costs of a traditional build based on the drawings submitted in the planning process. If cost effective, this should be included in the tender options.

These activities which will happen over the next couple of months will all take time and therefore the Board is unlikely to meet again until January though HBC is still hoping to make a start on site in the summer of 2016.

Haydon Luke
22/10/15

4. RALC report

RALC Meeting
Battle....Wednesday 14th October 2015

Police Report.....

Chief Supt' Neil Honnor was unable to attend and sent a deputy Commander who reported that the Police have made £50 million in savings. note....but at what cost?

*What was noted, was he apparently indicated that the Police role was to "act" on crimes committed, not to actively show a presence, or to discourage crime!!

AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex) in conjunction with RVA (Rother Voluntary Action)

A presentation was given by Teresa Gittins on a campaign to promote a healthier lifestyle & well-being in Rother.

The aims are.....

- 1) Targeted interventions to benefit People most disadvantaged by their rurality.
- 2) Support to Communities to develop their own capacity to manage change.
- 3) Policy, research and advocacy on Rural issues.

Website.....www.ruralsussex.org.uk

A series of networking meetings will be taking place in.....

- 1) Robertsbridge (Village Hall)..... 9th October 9.45am--2.30pm
- 2) Battle (Memorial Hall)..... 4th November 9.45am--2.30pm
- 3) Peasemarsch (Village Hall).....17th November 9.45am--2.30pm

A free Lunch will be provided & spaces are limited.

To book e-mail Claire Reynolds on.....claire.reynolds@ruralsussex.org.uk

Highways Matters

- 1) The areas of and around a Pothole that will be repaired is increased to 10 metres where necessary.
- 2) Winter maintenance schedule starts on 30th October, and runs until roughly mid April 2016.
- 3) The permit system is showing positive results of Utilities combining their work(s) which results in less disruption ie, when one utility does some work, and completes it, it you don't see another Utility come along soon after and rip it all up to do their work.
- 4) Fines imposed on Utility, and other companies for overrunning the planned work has seen substantial amounts paid. The message seems to be getting through to them to plan properly and complete works to the agreed times etc.

Electoral Review

As I reported at the last PC Meeting, there is a review of Boundary changes, which will see wards created where once there were none ie, amalgamating some existing wards.

People are encouraged to make sure they are up to date and registered on the Electoral Roll, otherwise they will be removed from the Roll.

FOI (Freedom of Information)

ESCC/Rother have expressed concerns over the cost of providing FOI requests, and would like anyone who wishes to request one, to first contact them on the issue in question to see whether it can be resolved that way instead.

Public speaking at Planning meetings

Concern was raised by RALC representatives about who can speak at planning meetings. This is a bit of a contentious issue at the moment. However some members wanted the due process of Democracy to be seen at these meeting, although realising there was difficulty for Planning committees to accommodate "all" who would like a voice.

PAWS

Paws on watch is a scheme whereby the Public are encouraged to report suspicious activity in their areas (similar to Neighbourhood Watch) to them where it can be collated. Also it wants the Public to approach people they see allowing their Dogs to foul, and failing to clear up. Discretion is obviously the order of the day here, and approaches should be done in a friendly and non confrontational manner to avoid trouble. More info' can be found on.....

http://www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Residents/Community_and_Safety/Crime_and_Disorder/PHCS_Paws_On_Watch.aspx