

Pyecombe Parish Council

Tel: 07909 332605.

Email: parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk Website: www.pyecombevillage.co.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on at Pyecombe Church, Pyecombe on Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 7:00pm.

Present – Cllr D. Wilson Chairman, Cllr T. Cullen, Cllr K. Grocott and Cllr M. Saich.

Minutes

31.23 Apologies for absence were received from Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Ziedler, West Sussex County Councillor J. Dennis, and Clerk D. Langston.

32.23 No interests were declared.

33.23 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2023. Minutes were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman.

34.23 Update on flooding issues Pyecombe Street. Councillor Wilson recently met with the new West Sussex Highways Manager, Adam Denby. His assistant, who temporarily replaces Tim Boxall, is John Cullingham. David discussed the issue of silting up, which affects both the drains leading to the tank in Pyecombe Street as well as the storage tank itself. He had also walked them past the overgrown verges that have become an issue along the London Road and asked that the trimming crew make a visit soon. He was promised it would be within 4 weeks. Clerk will contact West Sussex Highways again to highlight the continuing problem, and request that the tank be emptied of silt at least 3 times per year, to increase the capacity for storm water runoff.

35.23 South Downs Way crossing and Speed indicator Device purchase. WSCC Highways has confirmed significantly improved signs will be installed at the SDW crossing location. The signs will be installed in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2016 and which prescribes minimum distances. SID device purchase remains an ongoing item. Discussion revolved around the nature of signage that can be deployed to slow down traffic on the A273 so that the South Downs Way crossing can be made safer. Solar powered flashing lights reminding motorists of their speed is one option, but the problem is the 50mph limit as traffic comes towards the crossing – still too high, so someone travelling at 49mph is still legal but lethal if they hit someone. It was agreed that we need some input from Joy Dennis on this matter, and she was sadly absent from this meeting. We need to know what signage can be placed where to be most effective, and then we can put pressure on West Sussex Highways and the SDNP to help fund a solution that makes the crossing both more visible and safer. We will also know what the likely cost of signage will be when we know what we are allowed to put in place.

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Clerk will contact Joy Dennis and SDNP to establish what signage is permitted at what spacing to slow traffic down. Further discussion on what pressure we can bring on the SDNP and West Sussex Highways to fund this, is cost the stumbling block, or are we just low priority.

36.23 Mid Sussex District Councillor G. Ziedler circulated his report prior to the meeting. (See attached)

37.23 To receive an update on Parish works and other parish items. Public Notice to be posted on site near the proposed locations. Clerk will complete the S115 licence for the Parish Council and submit to WSCC. Council will need to provide gateway location plans and design drawings with the licence application.

- EV charge points – we need some feedback on the rollout of these in rural areas such as ours – it is happening elsewhere. The charging points at the BP garage remain out of use quite a lot, and so can't be relied upon. Tim raised the issue of running EV points from existing street lamps, as happens in Pembroke Crescent in Hove.
- WSCC are still requesting volunteer homes for Ukrainian families – the need has not gone away.
- Cllr Wilson requested Cllr Cullen and Cllr Grocott check the gravel bins at their respective ends of the village so we can inform the WSCC of the need to replenish them. The one at the bottom of School Lane is half full, and will need topping up ahead of winter.
- Cllr Grocott asked whether we should move forward with our plans for a defibrillator or two for the village, since we discovered that the BP garage does not hold one after our previous meeting. Discussion of the best sites to house a defibrillator focused on:
 - A – one in the church porch, which has video cameras, but is locked overnight.
 - B – one for Pyecombe Street to be housed in a phone box at that end of the village. Although the old phone box was removed, we wondered whether another could be located from Orton's reclaim site (or similar) and placed in Pyecombe Street as a defibrillator site? Cllr Grocott to check 2nd hand phone box prices and delivery at Orton reclaim, to see if this might be a viable option.
 - C – the BP garage which has a lot of local footfall. Clerk will contact both M&S and BP with a view to persuading them to buy a defibrillator and house it there for the local community.
- Following the comments made on local social media re the overgrown verges on the London Road, and the likely delay in WSCC coming to cut it, Ken volunteered to take the Hayter 84 along in the next couple of days to trim the verge and make passage more manageable for local pedestrians who are finding it difficult to negotiate.

38.23 Financial Matters

Balance Sheet. Handed to all councillors and signed by the Chairman.

Update on bank mandate. Clerk confirmed ongoing issues with Barclays. A new mandate has been submitted by council.

Council resolved to amend Clerks contractual hours effective 1st July 2023.

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Payments raised since last meeting:

£417.45 WSCC Invoice 8001688046 Salary & Pension

£324.94 WSCC Invoice 8001689037 Street Light Maintenance

£ 35.00 ICO Annual Renewal

£ 12.65 Hassocks Parish Council Invoice 023-23/24 Adastra Hire

£ 49.92 B&H SWET Ltd invoice 64173 Newsletter Printing

£417.45 WSCC Invoice 8001693416 Salary & Pension

£114.00 Mr D. Wilson MACs Ices Coronation Expenses

39.23 To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 12th September 2023.