

STEDHAM WITH IPING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES: Annual Parish Meeting of Stedham with Iping
Held on: Wednesday 5 April 2017
At: The Stedham Memorial Hall

Present: Eddie Lintott, Chairman of the Parish Council, was Chairman of the meeting
Jane Crawford, Parish Clerk, took the minutes

In attendance: Gordon McAra, County Councillor, Caroline Neville, District Councillor, and 38 parishioners including members of the Parish Council

The West Sussex County Council Certificate of Achievement had been awarded to Eddie Lintott. The citation for the award was read by NH, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, and the award presented by Mrs Pat Arculus, Chairman of WSCC, who both spoke about the award and why Eddie had received it.

Both EL and JL were thanked for their amazingly long service to the life of the parish which had enormously contributed to making it a lovely place for all residents. This meeting was Eddie's last meeting as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting began at 7.45

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Parish councillors: Elizabeth Griffiths and Lucy Petrie

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The Clerk read a précis of the Minutes, which had been previously approved by the Council

2. **STEDHAM SCHOOL**

SD, the head teacher, reported that the school had grown again and from September there would be 4 classes. This meant that sadly The Stedham Squirrels pre-school had to move elsewhere, but they had found new premises at Rogate School and become the Rogate Robins. The school would continue to run the wrap around care from 8 – 9 am and 3.30 – 5.45 to support their working parents and would be recruiting staff for this.

The school was also looking for a new Governor from the local community and if anyone was interested they could contact SD. The time demands on governors had significantly increased, but it was a highly rewarding role.

The highlight of the summer term had been when the whole school visited Stedham Campsite where the activities included sports, campfire making, whittling and claywork.

Among many other activities was the School sports day which was held at the sports field. The Sports Association was thanked for allowing use of their excellent facilities.

G, J and H, senior pupils at the school, each gave short reports on various aspects of school life. The full report is attached to these minutes.

3. **PARISH COUNCIL**

- a) **Chairman's Report:** The report had been circulated and because there was no longer a parish magazine, he thanked the many distributors who delivered it.
- b) **SIPC budget:** A breakdown of the budget had been distributed and is attached to the minutes. There were no questions.
- c) **SDNPA proposals for Sawmills site** in their local plan had designated the eastern half the land as residential. The West side of the site had planning permission for industrial units. The east side had going businesses in workshops and the storage container business.

SDNPA allocated 20 houses, 10 of which would be affordable, on the land. It was felt this amount of housing was not needed at Stedham and the SDNPA was trying to find sites to make up the number of houses needed in the whole park. The site was outside the village envelope and without a relationship the village. The local plan would last 15 years. If people had any observations they should respond to the consultation which would be held after the draft plan was published.

- d) **Minsted sandpit:** The Chairman read a report from the Minsted residents group which was involved in the sandpit and had taken a great load off the Council:
- Operations at Minsted Sandpit were suspended by SDNPA in August 2014 and up to 18 serious breaches of the existing planning consents were identified.
 - Deadlines for the operator to provide further information had since been missed, but it seemed that no further action or enforcement was being contemplated at this time with the operator being given further time to respond.
 - Because the Minerals Planning Authority had not enforced any of the breaches that had been identified during the last 12 years and did not seem willing to do so even now, despite the site being so damaged that it was probably incapable of being restored according to the planning consents, the residents were very concerned about its future.
 - Plans were under way to obtain some professional help and advice. SIPC would be brought up to date when they had more definite information about future actions.
- e) **St Cuthmans School site:** AH reported that planning permission for the temporary buildings had been refused and thanked everyone who had written in about the plans.
- Currently there were year groups 10 and 11 at the school.
 - The Education Funding Agency had withdrawn funding from the academy and this action was currently being tested legally in the courts.
 - The draft Ofsted report that showed the school as inadequate had been taken off the website and was being judicially reviewed.
 - The Health and Safety Executive had found the rubble of the old classrooms was contaminated by asbestos. Investigations were still continuing before the rubble could be removed and the site cleaned up.
 - Lighting of the site was also a matter of enforcement.
 - It was felt the school was likely to close its operations at the site.
 - There were questions about what might happen in the future, but local people should be constructive about it.
- f) **Great House Farm:** The Chairman had not realised that it was occupied until recently and he expressed sympathy over to the damage on the estate and about the recent break-in. Villagers were grateful to be able to have the facility of walking on the footpaths with their dogs and he realised that some people were not picking up their dog's mess.

4. PARISH ACTION PLAN

- a) **Change Stedham Crossroads install shuttering:** WSCC Highways still had not done this.
- b) **Iping signs and Iping telephone box:** The signs had been erected and the telephone box was now a visitor centre.
- c) **Faster broadband for Stedham and Minsted:** This broadband service would be coming soon.
- d) **Recreation Ground parking:** The estimate for the work had been accepted, funding including a grant from CDC was there and the work on the project should start soon.
- e) **Defibrillators:** It was hoped to obtain grants towards these.
- f) **Invitation for further suggestions for consideration:** There were no suggestions.

5 REPORTS

- **Stedham and Iping Churches:** The Reverend TB reported that she was appointed Priest in Charge on 1 September and one of the Bishops would come later to license her as Rector.
 - The churches had joined with Milland, Linch and Rake in one benefice.
 - The Parish Magazine was no longer being delivered to each house because, although it was not a fund raiser, they did want to lose money on it. It had yet to be decided how to replace it.
 - There had been good turn-outs for Church services and it was joyful when all the churches joined together for a benefice service with congregations of about 70.
 - She thanked L and V, the churchwardens and also thanked everyone for welcoming her.
 - She had visited the school and was looking forward to having the school at the Church.
 - She also hoped that many people would go to Church to join in the worship.
- **Stedham Memorial Hall:** WC, the chairman, thanked the Committee for their time and effort and particularly mentioned JH for his work on the garden. He also thanked CF who left the Committee at the end of 2016. Her organising and culinary skills had been invaluable at many events over the years.

He gave details of the users of the Hall and fund-raising events.
The Hall had obtained grant funding for the sound insulation in the ceiling and other fabric works had been undertaken. The Hall was on a sound financial footing and provided a valuable asset for the parish.
The full report is attached to the minutes.
- **Stedham Sports Association:** SY reported.
 - The significant improvement of the year was the installation of the tennis court which was regularly used.
 - The parking area had been completed which could be used by the Hall.
 - Bowls was the strongest sports section.
 - There was no Stedham cricket team, but Liphook continued to use Stedham.
 - There were currently 50 football players between the ages of 16 and 55, with two teams. The first team had moved up in Division 1 and might be promoted to the premier division.
 - The stoolball team was 5th in the league and also played at the Grange in winter where they were the winners of the league and cup.
 - The school had their sports day at the sports ground and barbecues had been held there.
 - The sports field was looking good and she thanked the volunteers for running the sports section, TB the groundsman for keeping the field looking so good, DC who gave much of his free time tidying up around the field and ST who looked after the buildings.
The Chairman thanked SY for the time she gave to managing the pavilion.
- **Iping and Stedham Commons LNR:** JW of Sussex Wildlife Trust reported that they had been busy carrying out more management work and bracken control.
 - They had 41 different sites and engaged with local people by organising walks.
 - They were encouraging responsible dog walking.
 - Practical work was taking place on the Roman road on Iping by clearing trees and small growth.
 - Fencing Iping Common was due to start in 2018.

- There had been outbreaks of disease to the rhododendrons on Stedham common which meant the plants had to be cut back to the ground and burnt. This was important as the disease could spread to other plants.
 - Six cattle had been put on Stedham common and would be removed in the summer.
 - JW list various events that were due to take place in the summer.
- **Women's Institute:** VB, WI President, reported that they had 36 members, about half of whom came from outside the parish.
Discussions had been held on annual resolutions suggested by the national organisation and they had supported one to allow dementia carers to accompany their patients to general hospital to give them support and a familiar face, and another to call for a reduction in food waste.
VB listed various activities held throughout the year and the full report is attached to the minutes.
 - **Horticultural Society:** HS, the Chairman, reported that they had a varied programme which included talks, the village school competition, the annual flower show and garden visits. The full report is attached to the minutes.
 - **Neighbourhood Watch:**
SP, the local area co-ordinator, explained that the NW objectives were to prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance and prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity; and to reduce the fear of crime by providing accurate information and promoting a sense of security. The police weekly bulletin was forwarded to those on SP's list.
 - **Lunch Club:** 40 people regularly attended the lunch which was held on the last Tuesday of every month. A hot main course and pudding was provided for £5 and there was space for a few more people.

The Chairman, on behalf of parishioners, thanked everyone who worked for our benefit which added so much to life in the parish.

6 Report from County Councillor

Gordon McAra gave an update on WSCC.

- WSCC had made £280 million savings over the past 4 years.
- 33,000 potholes had been mended.
- WSCC had assets of £1.8 billion.
- Total budget was £1 billion

He congratulated the Chairman on his WSCC award and over 50 year's service on SIPC.

The Chairman thanked Gordon McAra and said he had fought hard on our behalf.

Report from District Councillor

Caroline Neville, the District Councillor, raised a number of issues.

- Council tax would rise by 3.9%.
- Car parks now had charges in the evening.
- The district had some of the highest housing prices compared to salary in the country and there needed to be development of affordable housing. Many houses were being extended so they were no longer affordable.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman took the opportunity while there was a full gallery to thank his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their work throughout the year. We were saying goodbye to cf and to CM, both of whom had done sterling jobs over the last few years.

Consequently, there were vacancies on the Council and if anyone was interested in joining, they could get in touch with the Clerk.

8 DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING: Wednesday 11 April 2018.

And do not forget the Annual Spring Clean on Saturday 9.30 by the telephone kiosk.

CONCLUSION 9.10

Chairman..... Date.....