

Stedham with Iping Parish Council

Chair: Simon Barnard

Clerk: Morag Birch

email: clerk@stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk

website: <http://www.stedhamwithiping-pc.gov.uk>

MINUTES: Meeting of Stedham with Iping Parish Council - No. 4/Year 3/19-23

Held on: Thursday 9th September 2021 7:00pm at Stedham Memorial Hall

Present: Neil Read (Acting Chair)
Ruth Cooper
Amanda Hollingshead
Terry Stevens

In attendance: 45 members of the public

(Note: Unless otherwise stated voting on decisions/resolutions is unanimous)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Judy Fowler CDC Councillor, Luca Perricone, Madeline Pike, Simon Barnard
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:** SIPC resolved to approve the minutes for SIPC Planning meeting on 23rd August 2021
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** Members of the Council each confirmed there had been no change in their Register of Interests.
4. **RIVER ROTHER LEVELS & STEDHAM MILL STEPPING STONES**
 - 4.1. The Environment Agency made a presentation, summarising the EA's powers and funding, current condition of the Stedham sluices, what has been done so far to address the issues and what the next steps may be. - Copy of presentation attached
 - 4.2. The Arun & Rother Rivers Trust explained they are part of the national network of rivers trusts and are a charity. Their aims and objectives are to protect, enhance and restore the Arun and western streams catchment. The presentation summarised their current scope of work and explained the difficulties being faced in trying to improve the Arun/Rother system, eg the Rother is the most erodible river in the UK and there are weirs along practically its whole length, not just at Stedham – copy of the presentation is attached.

A key element in the approach of both the EA and the ARRT is that any solutions must be effective across the whole catchment area not just at individual blockages, banks or local sediment problems. Another key aspect is the availability of funding. The EA is constrained by its statutory duties, ie its main responsibility is flood defence. Alternative funding is available, from charities and other organisations, eg SDNPA, but needs to be sought out and applied for
 - 4.3. The main points raised during the Question & Answer Session were as follows:
 - 4.3.1. A letter from The Stedham Angling Club detailing the deteriorating condition of the River Rother was read out, a copy of the letter is attached.
 - 4.3.2. What will the impact be on rate of flow and on farmers' ability to extract water if the rivers levels are lowered – it was confirmed that the volume of water will remain the same, but the shallower the water becomes the faster the flow and the greater erosion on the river bed.
 - 4.3.3. It was suggested, given the complexity of the subject, that it would be useful to get agreement on what the objectives of any remedial works at Stedham Mill should be. EA/ARRT agreed but felt they were not yet in a position to define specific objectives, eg a solution is needed for the 8500 tonnes of sediment trapped behind the weir, how should the sediment build-up be controlled in the future, is an automatic weir a sustainable solution, what is required to improve the health and habitat of the river

It was then queried what the process would be for agreeing the objectives and identifying sources of funding. First step is to define the aims for the various parties involved, including the local community, landowners, SDNPA, farmers, Angling Clubs as well as the EA and ARRT, then arrange workshops where representatives can reach consensus on the best way

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forward. EA is responsible for stakeholder engagement, key element being to identify the “right” people to be representatives.

- 4.3.4. Are the aesthetics and heritage value of the Stedham Mill area considered as part of the EA/ARRT solutions.
- 4.3.5. Concern was raised about the build-up of sediment at the Bridgefoot bridge, currently 3 of the arches are filled up. It was suggested that action could be taken now to clear sediment. EA confirmed they were aware of the issue and had passed it to West Sussex Highways as it is a Highways Bridge, Similar problems were also being experienced in Iping. It was suggested that the solution is prevention, ie of sediment run-off from the surrounding land. EA confirmed they were already working with local landowners including NT, SDNPA and NFU.
- 4.3.6. Concern was raised about the numbers of trees/branches falling into the river which were not being removed. Such debris exacerbated the build-up of sediment. Regular removal of debris is not generally done partly because of lack of funding but also because of a change approach, such that, if the debris isn't creating a flood risk then it's better for the river to leave it in. It is the responsibility of the owners of the banks to remove fallen trees from their banks.
- 4.3.7. What will the impact be of the various solutions, suggested for Stedham Mill, be on the properties in Iping. It depends on what is eventually done at Stedham, from complete removal of any obstruction, remaining as-is to replacement of automatic sluice by a fixed weir.
- 4.3.8. Have particular “hot spots” been identified as part of the overall risk assessment, ie where some immediate work could perhaps mitigate risk while longer term solutions are put in place.

SIPC Chair confirmed the Parish Council recognises the issue is important to the Parish and its constituents and will ensure to maintain communication with the EA and ARRT and facilitate identifying Parish representatives and establishing the Parishes main objectives.

5. REPORT FROM CDC AND WSCC

- 5.1. Kate O'Kelly, WSCC – Copy of report attached. Councillor raised query regarding the complexity of the renewal process of Blue Badge in West Sussex as compared to other counties. **ACTION:** KO'K to investigate
- 5.2. Copy of report from Judy Fowler CDC is attached and was read out by the Clerk. Gordon McAra, Chichester District Councillor, was alerting Parish Councils near Midhurst to the ongoing Planning Application for a care home on the site of the old Grange Centre in Midhurst. Midhurst Town Council is concerned that the addition of a care home will put an unacceptable strain on the local medical facilities. The Town Council would like local parishes to consider and comment on the application with regard to the possible impact on medical resources.

6. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 6.1. Local resident pointed out that local villages were starting to plan local events and suggested Stedham with Iping should also be considering future communal events. Possible events being considered by the Council are the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, VEDay+2 and putting-up Christmas Trees.
- 6.2. Issue was raised about a van which had been parked for a lengthy period at the exit of The Alleyway to The Street. It was queried whether people are aware that an owner of a house does not have any legal right to restrict parking outside said house. It was confirmed the Council do have a project to address parking issues in the village but there are no quick solutions. Information had been published on the website on how to report traffic/parking problems. **ACTION:** AH to post leaflets on Notice Boards.
- 6.3. A related point was raised about parking on the pavement. It was confirmed that this is currently legal but discussions were ongoing in Parliament about making it illegal.

7. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE(AMANDA HOLLINGSHEAD)

- 7.1. Copy of Financial Summary is attached.
- 7.2. **SIPC resolved to approve** the following items for payment/expenditure:

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| Date | Who | What | Gross | VAT | NET |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 31/08/2021 | Morag Birch | August Pay (Clerk) (£10.76/hour) | £ 301.28 | £ - | £ 301.28 |
| 31/08/2021 | Morag Birch | August Pay (RFO) (£10.76/hour) | £ 129.12 | £ - | £ 129.12 |
| 31/08/2021 | Morag Birch | August Expenses (Clerk) | £ 2.25 | £ - | £ 2.25 |
| 31/08/2021 | M H Kennedy & Son Ltd | Grasscut August 2021 | £ 828.00 | £ 138.00 | £ 690.00 |
| 09/09/2021 | Ordnance Survey Maps | 2 x OS Maps for Telephone Boxes | £ 40.00 | | |

8. AMENITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE(RUTH COOPER)

8.1. Monthly inspection of children's play areas & AED equipment – AH compared all okay

9. PARISH ACTION PLANS & CORRESPONDENCE(CLERK)

9.1. Request from WSALC re issues with Southern Water & survey for Neighbourhood Plans. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond and include query about was the leak a result of lack of maintenance and possible compensation for residents on the tanker route.

9.2. Review Action List. **ACTION:** All to review list and let Clerk have any updates/clarifications.

10. PLANNING COMMITTEE(SIMON BARNARD)

10.1. SDNP/21/04365/HOUS

Location: Brook Corner Ingrams Green Lane Ingrams Green Iping GU29 0LJ

Proposal: Proposed tennis court to replace existing sand school.

No Comment

10.2. SDNP/21/04404/TCA

Location: Stone Cottage Mill Lane Stedham Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0PS

Proposal: Notification of intention to crown reduce by 20% on 1 no. Magnolia tree (T1) and crown reduce (height and widths) by 20% on 1 no. Holly tree (T4).

No Comment

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

11.1. 14th October @ 7:00pm in Stedham Memorial Hall

11.2. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact local organisations to plan Parish Meeting on 23rd November

Conclusion 9:30pm

CHAIR:..... **DATE:**.....

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| Action# | Description | Responsible | Date Raised |
|---------|--|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Investigate relative complexity of the renewal process of Blue Badge in West Sussex as compared to other counties. | Kate O'Kelly | 09/09/2021 |
| 2 | Issue was raised about a van which had been parked for a lengthy period at the exit of The Alleyway to The Street. Post relevant leaflets on Notice Boards. | AH | 09/09/2021 |
| 3 | Request from WSALC re issues with Southern Water & survey for Neighbourhood Plans. Respond and include query about was the leak a result of lack of maintenance and possible compensation for residents on the tanker route. | Clerk | 09/09/2021 |
| 4 | Contact local organisations to plan Parish Meeting on 23 rd November | Clerk | 09/09/2021 |
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