

The Bournes Community Forum

Minutes of Meeting held in St John's Church Centre, Southbourne
Thursday 30th November 2017 at 7pm



Present:

Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council

Cliff Archer
Caroline Davison
Cllr Andy Collins (CDC)

Compton Parish Council

John Popplewell

Southbourne Parish Council

Robin Davison

Thorney Island

Tim Kenealy

Westbourne Parish Council

Richard Hitchcock
Nigel Ricketts
Cllr Mark Dunn (CDC)

West Sussex County Council

Cllr Viral Parikh – Bourne Division

Chichester District Council

Cllr Robert Hayes – Councillor Representative, Bournes Community Forum
Dave Hyland - Forum Administrator

Chichester District Association of Local Councils

Mike Beal – Chairman

Apologies:

Fiona Baker (Stoughton), Katy Bourne (Police and Crime Commissioner), Cllr Jonathan Brown (CDC), Geoff Hand (Fishbourne), Ruth Keeley (Fishbourne), Nick La Hive (Funtington), Peter Lawrence (WSCC), Cllr Penny Plant (CDC), Chris Whitmore Jones (Bosham).

1.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising
1.1	No corrections identified, the minutes were then approved.
2.0	Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner
2.1	David Hyland reported that Mrs Bourne's apologies had been received earlier in the day, unfortunately due to ill health she would not be attending. It is hoped that Mrs Bourne will be able to attend the next Forum meeting instead.
2.2	AS an alternative Agenda item, Cllr Hayes had suggested that the time could be used to discuss issues relating to Southern Water and their management of waste water.
3.0	Cllr Bob Hayes re Southern Water
3.1	Cllr Hayes started by highlighting a recent news item where Southern Water has been named as the worst performing water supplier for customer complaints in England and Wales. He highlighted that Southbourne's Neighbourhood Plan group had identified concerns about Southern Water and their inability to provide data regarding the potential headroom for additional properties through its treatment works. Chichester District Council has no powers over Southern Water and rely on them to indicate capacity or otherwise to inform the determination of Planning Applications. Cllr Hayes suggested that maybe Parishes working collectively could identify concerns and issues and again push for further action. What issues were other Parishes experiencing?
3.2	Cllr Andy Collins queried drainage from new housing development, have Southern Water got their calculations right? Cllr Hayes referred to a site visit to Apuldram Treatment Works where he and others had been shown the additional measures that Southern Water have put in place to treat waste water, but had concerns that these do not prevent discharges of untreated sewage in storm surges.
3.3	Cliff Archer, Chidham and Hambrook highlighted that sailors have reported seeing more pollution in the Chichester Harbour. He noted that there seems to be significant variance in the responses by Southern Water to Planning Applications regarding what headroom exists, which suggests their information is not always correct.
3.4	Richard Hitchcock, Westbourne asked what can be done to challenge Southern Water. Cllr Hayes said that a Southbourne resident had spent significant time trying to piece together the data that did exist to try and build a better picture to try and do exactly that but it is difficult to bottom out. Previously their concerns had been summarised and reported to the Environment Agency and OFWAT but they had been rejected.
3.5	Cllr Mark Dunn recalled a presentation made by Southern Water to Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council. Southern Water's revenue is controlled by OFWAT in terms of what they can charge residents, and inflation means that their ability to achieve any surplus for investing in infrastructure is significantly curtailed. New development provides an opportunity for Southern Water for capital investment in the network which is obviously attractive to them. Climate change is manifest in changing weather and storm events are occurring with greater frequency. If the tides are right then untreated waste water discharging into the Harbour will be washed out to sea but if this happens against the tides then it does not reach the sea and is therefore more evident to Harbour users.
3.6	Cllr Hayes recalled a presentation to CDC's Planning Committee made by representatives of Southern Water which was not helped by the poor quality of the speakers. A subsequent session to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee resulted in a number of commitments made by Southern Water, but these have not been followed up with action. If further action is to be taken, it needs Parishes to work together to build a bigger and more detailed picture of concerns.

3.7	Tim Kenealy, Thorney Island, shared that following the completion of two new accommodation units for single service personnel, there had been some accusations that it was this development that was causing significant pollution into the Harbour – but they were able to demonstrate that the development was in accordance with their Planning Permission and waste water was being appropriately discharged to mains sewage.
3.8	Mike Beal, in his capacity as a Selsey Town Councillor and attendee at the Peninsula Community Forum, confirmed that experiences on the Manhood were broadly similar. The age of the existing network (Clay Pipes) means that there is significant water ingress into the waste water network especially during heavy rain which further exacerbates the issues. The network need major investment just to improve what already exists, as well as creating capacity for future growth.
3.9	Cllr Hayes proposed that, on behalf of the Forum, he approach Roy Seabrook to see if he would continue his work looking at these issues, and gather further information from the Parishes across the Forum area, and potentially linking with the Peninsula Community Forum, to build a bigger and better case to challenge. This was agreed by the meeting.

4.0	Mike Beal – Opportunities for Parish Council involvement in Health and Wellbeing
4.1	Mike Beal introduced himself as Chairman of the Chichester District Association of Local Councils and Vice Chairman of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils.
4.2	Mike highlighted that a Sussex Associations of Local Councils publication “Opportunities for Parish Council involvement in Health and Wellbeing” has recently been recirculated to local Parishes, which he encouraged all to be on the lookout for.
4.4	The aim of the document is to highlight to Parishes what they might be able to do for their local community to improve both the health and wellbeing of residents. We are an aging population, and older people can become more lonely and isolated – and it has been demonstrated that such isolation can either manifest into more significant health conditions or simply result in people regularly reaching out to their GP or other health professionals. At a time when such resources are continually stretched is there another way that such people can be supported from within the own neighbourhood.
4.5	Mike outlined the types of initiatives that may already be going on in some local communities that the document seeks to highlight and encourage: - Lunch Clubs - Film Clubs – showings of older films can be particularly helpful for people with dementia - Local assistance with transport/escort to key activity eg shopping or medical appointments Mike provided a more detailed explanation of another example – Good Morning Selsey. Every morning a group of volunteers telephone a list of residents who have signed up for this service, which provides a daily check-in to ask how people are. For many, it is the only human contact they might have that day. While the Selsey Town Council assisted with the development and set up of this service, it is completely separate to the Town Council and flourishes without any direct support. Highlights the role Parish Councils can have in setting such things up but not having to assume responsibility for.
4.6	Cllr Viral Parikh highlighted that from his own experience, local Pharmacists have had to loose significant sums from their budgets for which they work hard to compensate for. Having to work harder but ironically providing advice and guidance and selling non-prescription treatments can both help their sustainability and reduce the burden on General Practitioners and Accident and Emergency Departments.

4.7	Various comments about the cost to the Health Service of missed appointments, the activities of some surgeries to prevent patients from forgetting or missing appointments, requirement of surgeries to publish the number of missed appointments, suggestion of the correlation between waiting time for non-urgent appointments and missed appointments.
4.8	Cliff Archer gave an overview of some of the activities going on in Chidham and Hambrook: A weekly lunch club has been running for many years and continues to be very successful. People are typically reluctant to come along, but once they have been they find it very enjoyable and become regulars. FINCH – Fishbourne Nutbourne Chidham – a volunteer group that take people to medical appointments, sit with people who can't get out of their homes etc. But it is hard to find new volunteers. Popular Women's Institute, who always telephone members who don't come to meetings to check that they are OK.
4.9	Mike Beal concluded by encouraging Parishes to read the document that has been circulated. Hopes the content is of interest and some use, but particularly encourages Parishes to complete and return the survey enclosed so they can map what is going on and look at how they can support Parishes looking to do more.

5.0	Neighbourhood Plans
5.1	Chidham and Hambrook – Cllr Andy Collins told the meeting that he had been asked by Valerie Dobson (CDC - Neighbourhood Plan Officer) to provide an update for the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. The report, for the period April 2016 – March 2017 has a section on Neighbourhood Plans and Parishes are asked to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Plans in the period. Other Parishes queried why they had not been approached but it was understood that their Plans were not made, or made within the period of the report. Caroline Davison also highlighted the potential cost of Neighbourhood Plan Reviews and how they might be afforded by Parishes if they are required to be completed in the light of indications from CDC about likely housing numbers.
5.2	Compton – John Popplewell confirmed that Compton has no plans to progress a Neighbourhood Plan.
5.3	Westbourne – Richard Hitchcock update the Forum that Westbourne had recently had a Public Hearing by the Examiner of their draft plan. The Examiner had provided the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with a number of questions in advance he wanted answered, and the Hearing was their opportunity to address them. The Group had prepared well for the session, and while it was thought it might run all day, the Hearing concluded at mid-day which everyone viewed as positive a good sign for the eventual findings. The Examiners Report is expected imminently, and Westbourne hope to go to local referendum in February or March 2018.

5.4	<p>Southbourne – Cllr Hayes highlighted the issues of the Breach Avenue planning application, refused by Chichester District Council, but decision overturned by Inspector on Appeal. Inspectors decision had been that CDC had failed to demonstrate a 5 year supply, taking into account the likely time to sell properties. Everyone understandably very upset about the decision given the effort to develop the Neighbourhood Plan. CDC has issued a “Letter before Action” which has appeared in the Chichester Observer, and are committed to taking the case to the High Court if the Secretary of State does not call the case in.</p> <p>Cllr Hayes went on to highlight a recent High Court decision from Aldingbourne in Arun District, which he hopes is more encouraging: https://cornerstonebarristers.com/news/inspectorsquos-failure-deal-properly-neighbourhood-plan-conflict-leads-quashing-residential-scheme-aldingbourne-pc-v-ssclg-co21052017/</p> <p>This decision quashes a previous appeal decision that allowed development outside of the Settlement boundary, on the basis that the decision had not given due regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
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6.0	Any Other Business
6.1	Cllr Andy Collins raised an issue regarding the wording of S106 agreements and concerns where the Parish Council are not consulted on matters that directly affect them.
6.2	Confirmation that Katy Bourne to be invited to the next Forum meeting; hope to attract a better attendance; date of next meeting might be changed depending on her availability. POST MEETING: Mrs Bourne now confirmed for 21 June 2018.

7.0	Date of Future Meetings		
All Parishes meeting	25 th April 2018	6.00pm buffet, 7.00pm meeting	East Pallant House, Chichester
Bournes Community Forum	21 st June 2018	7.00pm	Community Hall, Compton and Up Marden CE School
All Parishes meeting	8 th October 2018	6.00pm buffet, 7.00pm meeting	All Parishes meeting