

# Duncton Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on 20th May 2014

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**Present:** Parish Cllrs: M. Bracey, P. Darley, C. Davies, S. Danby, R. Boulton, D. Withers

**In attendance:** A. Harte (Clerk to the Council), PCSO Paul Isaac, Katy Bourne (Sussex Police Crime Commissioner), J. Elliott (CDC), N. Clifford (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee)  
13 members of Duncton Parish

### **Agenda item no. 1 Opening of meeting by Chairman**

Thanks were given to all for coming to the meeting and especially to those that provided refreshments for the evening.

**Agenda item no. 2 Apologies:** A. Beadsley, H. Martin, M. Brown (WSSC)

**Agenda item no. 3 Minutes – to sign the minutes of the APM held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013:** Signed as a correct record

**Agenda item no. 5 Duncton School Head Teacher's report 2013/2014:** Given by Marie Bracey Chair of Governors

We have had another busy and exciting year within our Federation. This year, Graffham Infants School has returned to Church of England status. Both schools in the Federation are now C of E schools and this enables the Christian ethos to be supported in both schools.

Our Governors, the Diocese of Chichester and church trustees from Graffham church have worked hard to ensure that this has taken place this year.

Duncton School goes from strength to strength and now has 60 children in 3 classes. We were fortunate enough to be supported by WSSC financially to enable us to complete a large refurbishment which has created a larger year 6 classroom; a group room and replaced the last of our Scola windows from the original building, now 46 years old.

Our classes all work out in local woodland regularly; with Forest School taking place both at Ash copse and Coopers Moor. Children in our schools treasure these places in Duncton, and they are special in their memories of childhood. We have also organised and hosted more forest school training this year, which now makes 75 forest school leaders and assistants that have taken Coopers Moor to their hearts and used their training experiences to then inspire and facilitate forest schools in every primary school across the Rother Valley.

We must say thank you to all of our local community, who help us, give us unique opportunities and support the team of Governors, Parents and Staff.

Helen Martin and Marie Bracey

## **Agenda item no. 6 Chairman's Report 2013-2014:**

### **Chairman's Annual Report**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting 20 May 2014**

2013/14 proved to be a quieter year for Duncton following the excesses of 2012. However as usual there were several events for Duncton residents to enjoy.

#### **Village Events**

- Our summer fair is held every two years and last summer's was an outstanding occasion. Over £5250 was raised and when you consider how small the village is this is an amazing success. The funds are distributed between the two village churches and the school. There is a well-established team for running the fair but Louise Hartley is the king pin and pulls every thing together. Thank you Louise.
- Other social events have included quizzes, BBQs and a Christmas Party. Thanks go to all those who always come up trumps in helping these events go so well, whether it is putting up tables, cooking, making cakes or clearing up. Thank you everyone
- It was the third time for the Duncton Fireworks and once again the evening was a great success. This has now become a regular date in the village calendar and is timed to coincide with the autumn half term holiday so we can have children activities on the Friday. The donations on the night are put towards the cost of the next year's event.
- Events this coming year will include the commemoration of the start of WW1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> August with a film showing and candle lit procession to a church service at the Holy Trinity Church Duncton. There will also be a tea and display of memorabilia in the Village Hall during the last weekend of August. This will be Parish Council funded and Donations will be collected for the British Legion. There is a Quiz night on 7<sup>th</sup> June with a BBQ and Fireworks night will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014..

#### **Highways**

- The safety measures on the A285 south of the Seaford College entrance were put in place during the year and the level of accidents at this spot has dropped remarkably. WSCC highways team is to be congratulated on listening to local advice on the problem and taking the right action! In addition Marie Bracey thanked Andrew Crawford for his vital role in the installation of signage on the bend south of Seaford College and pointed out that since this has happened there have been no accidents there.
- Marie Bracey reported that the Culvert on Duncton straight had been replaced and this should avert further flooding at The Barn on the straight. Also the drainage at Willett close is being dealt with.
- There have been several meetings about the problems along the Duncton straight and the junction of A285 with Graffham Road. WSCC came up with an extravagant plan to re-site the junction and to run a new road through the quarry. This of course was too much money. Other schemes have been considered but now the penny seems to have dropped and the idea of double white lines is being seriously considered and may finally be introduced. Fingers crossed!
- Speed and noise along the A285 and through the village, particularly at weekends is now a major problem and one that needs to be tackled.
- Very little progress has been made on getting a speed watch team up and running- we need someone to take this on.

## Minerals & Waste

- The Heath End quarry remains a big issue; Dudmans have submitted an application to continue excavating as their current permission expired December 2013. The SDNP will hear the application but they have asked that Dudmans obtain an environmental assessment. Dudmans have appealed that request to the Secretary of State so at the moment it is stalemate. We have had one meeting of the liaison committee but Dudmans did not attend.

## Village Hall

- As you can see the new extension has been completed. There will be a separate Village Hall report tonight

## Meetings

- Duncton has been represented at most meeting of the West Sussex County Local Committee, the North East Parishes Forum, Burton & Chingford Ponds Advisory Committee, Pathwatch, the meetings of Parishes in CDC and the Police Liaison Committee in Petworth.
- The Parish Council has met 6 times and all meetings have been well attended. Once again I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and contribution to the work of the council. Our new clerk, Amy, continues to work hard to keep the Parish Council running smoothly. We also welcomed John Elliott (CDC) and Michael Brown (WSSC) to many of our meetings.
- Unfortunately the new notice board is not yet in place. Our local supplier has proved to be unreliable. We are now making other arrangements.

Marie Bracey, Chairman Duncton Parish Council

20. May 2014

### **Agenda item no. 7. Financial Report 2013-2014:**

2013 opening balance	£18,790.70
2014 closing balance	£ 9,595.73
Total receipts	£10,242.60
Total payments	£19,437.57
Precept retained at	£ 7,250.00

Major expenditure was £11400 for the Village Hall Extension and £1600 on Playground repairs.

A grant of £2307 was given to Duncton Parish Council for new furniture for the Village Hall.

### **Agenda item no. 8. Nigel Clifford Village Hall Report:**

- Another successful year for the Village Hall with income increasing. There is now an income of £30,000pa.
- The new extension has been opened by Nick Herbert and this was a great event. Nigel Clifford thanked WSSC, the Egremont Estate and Chichester District Council for donations to the cost of building this extension.
- A Village Christmas party was held at the Hall, funded by the Village Hall and the generosity of Villagers that contributed. It ended up costing just £1.50 per head

- Subsidizing various village activities where organisations such as Church and School events are given the hall free of charge remain a focus of the Hall.
- Safety measures are an issue to Hall progress and they are looking to hire a safety officer.
- The driveway to the hall is in need of attention and this is on the agenda for the Village Hall Management committee.
- Nigel Clifford asked the meeting for ideas for using the money the Village Hall earns in order to benefit the Village.

**Agenda item no. 9. Michael Brown County Councillor's Report:**

As Michael brown was unable to attend this meeting he sent the following:

1. Double white lines and vegetative cut back along A285 will take place this year in an attempt to improve the safety position at the junction with Graffham Lane.  
The position with white lines is legally complex and will take several months to overcome. Should these measures prove ineffectual, (expensive) physical measures will be considered,
2. Recent works near the Barn opposite April Cottage will hopefully help to alleviate the flooding problems.
3. Flooding at Willetts Close continues to be a problem but matters are in hand.
4. The Heath End Sandpit Committee has been reconvened following reports that extraction activity had begun.
5. The roll out of rural broadband has begun in earnest. Duncton won't be long. Nearby Graffham will have superfast broadband capacity by the end of June.
6. At County level financials problems remain. Having reduced its cost base by £124m over the last 4 years, it has to reduce it by a further £128m over the next 4 years. Having frozen Council Tax over the past 4 years I am determined to maintain downward pressure on local taxation.

Michael Brown

**Agenda item no. 9b. Paul Isaac PCSO for Duncton:**

Paul Isaac gave a summary of the policing issues in this area. Speeding and dangerous driving is of particular interest in Duncton and Speedwatch is being investigated but needs more volunteers here in Duncton. Many questions were asked about what more could be done to stop the speeding and noise caused by Weekend traffic, particularly those travelling to and from Goodwood Breakfast Clubs. Motorbikes create noise pollution, often with illegal nonstandard silencers and possibly no insurance and no organization appears to be able to do anything about this. Tractors in the area are also becoming an issue as they do not appear to follow and code of practice to allow other road users past, this causes problems. Paul Issac gave the message that reporting issues such as these using 101 would be advised as information is logged and used.

**Agenda item no. 10. John Elliott District Councillor's Report:**

- J.Elliott Congratulated the Village Hall Committee on the new extension for which CDC gave £15,000.
- Further cuts are planned with a number of senior staff being made redundant in order to save £360,000.
- The Grange is the new leisure centre at Midhurst with good facilities including a coffee shop and incorporating the Library (WSSC).
- New Homes Bonus Scheme has £400,00 for parishes. Claims can be made is you design a neighborhood plan. The cutoff date for applications is 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Not all was used last year so this should be accessed if possible.

- Planning changes include the conversion of Agricultural buildings and shops that can be converted to domestic units. Also permitted development where farm buildings applications are subject to just 28 days available for comment. Parishes must act quickly in these cases.
- At a council meeting 4 million was given to the 'Gateway' project – this could be applied for for playgrounds or access for communities to facilities or renovations – David Hyland is the contact for this.
- Proposed travelers transition site for 9 pitches at Westhapnett. This is believed to be a good idea by many.
- Ruth Boulton asked why the Swimming Pool which was proposed at Seaford College for use by local residents as a stipulation of the planning permission for the new houses there had not yet materialized. John will investigate this.
- Thanks to John from the PC

**Agenda item no. 4. Katy Bourne -Police and Crime Commissioner Sussex:**

Katy explained her role and how the previous situation has developed into the current structure of organization. This has led to a greater connection with the public requirements of policing through Police and crime commissioners such as herself. She explained how she works in collaboration with Surrey police to create a more effective team. She spends time with police working in order to understand the pressures and constraints they are faced with. She is involved in budget setting and in recruitment. Many important police services are changing in response to findings by Police and crime commissioners such as victim services and restorative justice. She spoke very positively about her role and what can be achieved in policing in this area.

Questions included what qualifications she had, she replied that she was a business woman and as such came with budget and contracts experience which was of benefit to the police. Most other questions related to speed, noise caused by cars and motorbikes and overtaking in dangerous places. The lack of police targeting weekend drivers was highlighted again; people want to see the rules enforced. Katy Bourne said that she would raise these issues with the District Commander. Again Operation Crackdown was suggested but it is often difficult to get enough detail (number plates when they are travelling at such speeds) Calling 101 was also suggested as the more times you call to report things the more likely it is that there will be a response. Speedwatch is a great tool that communities such as Duncton can use to combat the issues of speed, dangerous and antisocial driving but volunteers need to come forward. Ruth Boulton had a couple of people interested but a minimum of 6 are needed.

Katy ended by inviting any problems anyone had with policing in Duncton to be brought to her attention through the Parish Clerk.

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**The next APM will be held in May of 2015 in Duncton Village Hall. Time and date will be agreed closer to the time.**  
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**Signed:**

**Date:**