

**Draft Minutes of the Wivelsfield Annual Parish Meeting  
held Thursday 14 March 2019, 8pm  
Wivelsfield Village Hall**

**Present:** Members of the Parish Council, the speakers listed below and members of the public as per the attendance sheet.

- **Welcome to Speakers & Introduction**  
The Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Dawson, introduced himself and welcomed each of the speakers.
- **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies had been received from Maria Caulfield MP, County Councillor Jim Sheppard, Parish Councillors Stoner, Haffenden and Martin, and Madelaine Hunter-Taylor from The Rita Project.
- **Minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 22 March 2018**  
The minutes of last year's meeting were agreed to be a true record.
- **Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing Team – Inspector Edward Ripley**  
Inspector Ripley referred to rural challenges and the current safe/low local crime rate. He announced that in respect of knife crime the Lewes District incidents were low. In respect of burglaries/agricultural crime, the 'Countryside watch' initiative is accumulating data but there is no reply facility and that there needs to be improved communications as a result.  
Referring to the PCSO development, it is quite clear the single point of contact simply does not work; there are now 25 officers available, however the initiative must keep evolving.  
The 101-call system is under review, but it is essential it stays. Call centre staff turnover is an issue; the public are also encouraged to email incidents not requiring attendance.
- **Action in Rural Sussex– Chiara Vagnarelli**  
Chiara outlined that AiRS covered all of rural Sussex utilising 12 part-time staff. The activities were broadly broken down between Neighbourhood Plan/community housing developments; and general support to Rother/Wealden/Lewes Districts clubs/societies/and Parish councils in respect of assistance required in the areas of training/good neighbours/lunch Bunch (gardens)/village shops/ and male social issues (sheds).
- **Wivelsfield Primary School-Head Teacher Helen Smith**  
Helen reported that the school was at full capacity as at September 2018 - comprising 7 classes of 30, totalling 210 pupils.

She further noted that West Sussex children are not a priority as the school is to serve the local community.

Parking is an ongoing issue and staff are encouraging walking or taking a bus to school. There is also an opportunity to twin a car to a drive near the school if parents so wish.

There is an outdoor classroom for summer/yoga/mindfulness use and a new garden with 5 borders.

More volunteers are needed to support the gardening and chess clubs please.

There is a forest school skills initiative which is proving a good development tool for the children.

Other activities include art vision, choir, and orchestra.

- **Sierra Leone Link–Paul Welch**

Paul reminded residents this has been active since 2006 between the local community and Aberdeen Village in Sierra Leone.

The 'Matcham' initiative encourages Christians and Muslims to work together to help fund children into secondary schools.

Wivelsfield donates biscuits (256 varieties).

There have been mutual visits back and forth since 2008.

The church and school are involved locally and provide lots of support; in particular in respect of scholarships and are looking to develop into apprenticeships; and also, in respect of pillars/electrification/mosquito nets and pre-school equipment.

- **Lewes District Council – Councillor Nancy Bikson**

Nancy reported that Lewes parking remains an issue; Lewes District Council is regarded as some sort of outpost; the parish/District/County roles are not well understood; there are speeding and dog droppings issues; and May 2019 elections.

It was announced that the Lewes District Council/Eastbourne working together initiative resulted in a 25% cost reduction and it won a transition award.

Recycling is much better now, but housing is still a (national) issue.

It was noted that permitted development does not go LDC Councillors, and that WPC do not support it.

- **Wivelsfield Village Hall Management Committee – Chairman, Derek Stephenson**

Derek reported that the proposed development has now got planning permission, along with £293,000 grants and £6000 raised locally/promised donations-but more funding is needed. There is now an architect and a quantity surveyor is being sought. Under phase 1, the toilets/entrance stairs progress can be seen on the website. The kitchens come later, heat is being lost requiring roof insulation and double glazing; an outstanding issue is the decision in respect of electricity.

The Committee are working closely with the Parish council.

- **Wivelsfield Parish Church - Reverend Christopher Powell**

Christopher announced they were now using the Parish magazine and thanked Councillors for the opportunity to do so.

In the last year youth club/Junior section reception (year2) and nicely noisy activities went well, but there may be a need to cap numbers for safety reasons.

Towards Easter there will be a Good Friday walk around the village along with a short church service; and on Easter Day, an Easter egg hunt around the church grounds. Later in the year there are plans for a medieval nativity in early December. There is a need for secretarial and administration support please.

### **Community Speed Watch-John Wigzell**

John reported there were a lot of speed complaints but it is not as bad as you might think. The average speed is 32/33 in the 40MPH area-however 15% do speed.

Please contact John if you spot speeding-it would result in a letter, followed by a visit, and ultimately a charge for repeat offending.

More volunteers are needed to help-this involves high visibility monitoring and only takes up half an hour of your time-and it does work!

- **Member of Parliament for Lewes - Maria Caulfield**

Bernard Rust (Parish Councillor) gave an update on various issues from an email sent by Maria:

- Local work – Telephone signal operators insist it is working perfectly well.
- Rail travel – The Southern £300M upgrade should be finished by the end of May; and trying to obtain funding for the Wivelsfield station access.
- LG Funding – is too low for rural areas; the formula is unfair. East Sussex is 1<sup>st</sup> on the list of the number of 85-year-olds.

There is now an additional £12M extra funding for ESCC, but the fairer funding review is yet to report.

- **Wivelsfield Parish Council – Chairman, Ian Dawson**

The Chairman noted there are currently two vacant seats on the Council and new councillors would be very much welcomed. Some recent changes on the Council included the resignation of Councillor Michelle van Bochove, whom the Chair thanked for her contribution whilst on the Council, alongside the co-option of Councillors Haffenden, Rust, Martin, and Jackson. In respect of the May 2019 elections, the nomination period runs from 18 March to 3 April with hand delivery to LDC.

Ian announced the death of Alan Janes, an ex-chair of the Parish Council, member of the Village Hall Management Committee, and fund raiser; who will be sorely missed.

In terms of the year to come, CiL funding will be significant; vandalism is an issue and the prospect of CCTV for the village hall and green needs examining; signage for Slugwash Lane to be reviewed; dog droppings are still an issue; and consideration to be given to registering the field as an Asset of Community Value.

Thanks were expressed to

- LDC for the new recycling scheme
- organisations utilising the display boards
- speakers
- bar staff
- residents for turning up
- Liz Gander (Clerk)
- stand in Clerk Derek Blackhall

- **Question Time**  
In respect of Charters Gate Sewerage, the residents association have 30 issues, of which the builders recognise 29. A further meeting is to take place on 15 March.
- **Chairman's Summary**  
The Chairman summarised some of the key points arising from the evening.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.