

POYNINGS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Mr Colin Warburton

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Minutes of the meeting of Annual Poynings Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 8th May 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr Mike Airey Chair
Ms Sheila Marshall
Mr Matthew Cutress
Ms Jan Nichols

Mr Colin Warburton - Clerk to the Council

Joy Dennis - County Councillor
John Wilkinson - District Councillor

20 members of the public attended

1. **Outgoing Chairman's Welcome**

Mike Airey welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. SM proposed Mike Airey continue and JN seconded this.

The council agreed that there was no need for a Vice Chair

3. **Chairman's allowance**

The chairman's allowance was agreed at the same level as last year at £155

4. **Chairman's Report**

It is good to have our Clerk, Colin, back following a month's sick leave in February, although he hardly stopped. The Clerk's workload nowadays is much more involved. During the last year Colin and I have attended training courses as has our newest member, Jan. Courses have updated us on Finance, Planning and Data Protection. We all deal with over 400 e-mails a year in relation to Parish Council business.

The Poynings Roundabout has been in full bloom this spring following the re-vamp and planting last year. Our arrangement with Green Lotus Gardens has now concluded as Jess and Adam have emigrated to Portugal. We are trying to put arrangements are in hand for the roundabout to be maintained.

At the end of last summer we said good bye to our local Vicar, Caroline Curer and her husband Alan on their retirement. Their work locally will be remembered. With help from villagers the council were able to put together a projected series of local photos that were played at the beginning of their farewell concert at the church.

We were able to give them a digital copy to remember us and the local area.

The council have continued to look after the appearance and maintenance of the area. There have been additional grass cutting and improvements to areas that flood. We have applied for further grants from WSCC's Watershed fund to complete works that were done last summer. The increasing number of pot holes are a concern. We regularly report the holes and they are repaired but others soon appear. We are pressing for the road between the village hall and the church to be repaired so we can continue with our plan to have a pathway made up beside the road. We have a new finger post to install near the roundabout as soon as we source the old style of lettering for the directions.

The West Sussex Rights of Way Team has done a very good job of replacing 50 risers on the steps up to Devil's Dyke.

Poynings again excelled in providing a great Bonfire Night experience. It is a whole village event that is supported by the council. Particular thanks go Mark Lee and his family for their work and facilities but also to all who helped in various ways with the procession, catering and parking.

In recent years the number of planning applications has increased. Our planning authority has changed from Mid Sussex to the South Downs National Park Authority. All planning applications are discussed in public at council meetings. We are not expected to be experts in planning but to give where necessary a view from the parish council in relation to the village.

The table tennis table in the recreation ground was provided as a result of a community grant being given to villagers. Poynings Volunteers have been awarded grants from WSCC and Mid Sussex DC for improvements to the playground. These are not Parish Council projects but are supported by the council and have been driven along successfully by Sheila Marshal. Well done Sheila.

We are one councillor short and will consider co-opting another villager to assist us this year.

There are local elections in May 2019, where the village will have an opportunity to elect a new council. It is just the Chair of the council that is chosen by the council each year.

I spoke about the Clerk initially and will finish by saying thank you Colin. We are fortunate to have your experience and commitment in these changing times of openness and accountability.

I also thank the council members for their work throughout the year.

5. Financial Report - Clerk

The cemetery made a small profit so it hasn't put a strain on the council funds. The Watershed grant was received and spent. The precept for this year including funds for the graveyard is £5,826

6. Local Talks

SDNP - Rob Ainslie Development Manager for Planning

Rob (with the help of slides) discussed the purposes of the park, mainly Conservation and enhancement.

Also how planning is approached with a balance between housing and conservation.

They take into account Eco, dark nights and tranquillity.

With regards to Pondtail Wood it was encouraging to hear that the new owners are working well with the SDNP, the enforcement notice is being complied with and waste is being removed and monitored.

MSDC Councillor John Wilkinson

John gave an update on events in Mid Sussex and said that it has taken 20 months to get the District plan approved as landowners had eight barristers and MSDC only had one.

WSCC Councillor - Joy Dennis

Joy remarked that WSCC has a strong balance sheet and they are looking to help children (vulnerable 13-15 year olds) and the homeless more. A new Speed Indicator Device has arrived as they had their previous ones stolen.

National Trust Charlie Cain

Charlie gave his annual update on what is happening on Devils Dyke and explained the his area goes from Highdown Hill to Wolstonbury Hill.

It appears that there are many incidences of "gross indecency" activity on the Dyke and if anyone sees this they should report it to the police and obtain an incident number so that it is logged.

39 steps are being repaired and the Public rights of way (PROW) team should be coming out shortly.

7. Open Forum

Betty Powell was concerned that the grass at the top on Mill lane has not been cut for a long time which is the responsibility of WSCC. JD (WSCC) to follow up.

It was commented that there are a lot of tyres in the pond and who is responsible.

It would be the landowner and if they were moved to the roadside MSDC would move them.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50
Refreshments followed**

Sandra Sharp

14/5/19