

POYNINGS PARISH COUNCIL

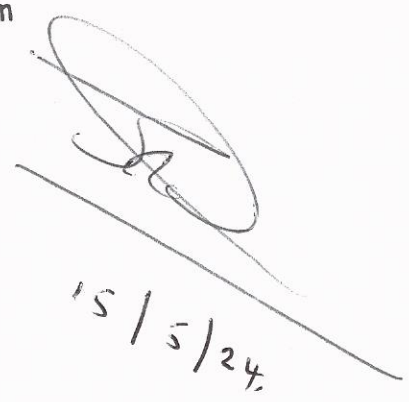
Clerk to the Council
Mr Colin Warburton

Minutes of the Poynings Annual Parish meeting at Poynings Village Hall on
Wednesday May 17th, 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: John Digby Chairman
Michael Crowther Vice chairman
Neville Searle

Colin Warburton - Clerk to the Council
Geoff Zeidler - District Councillor

14 members of the public attended.



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1. Outgoing chairman's report

By JD

Thank you all for coming today, our first Annual Parish Meeting since the local elections.

The Poynings Parish Council elections were uncontested with the council remaining the same apart from the loss of Fiona due to other commitments and Paula's earlier resignation. Not a single soul put themselves forward to be elected as a parish councillor. So I must assume that everyone thinks everything's perfect. - otherwise they might want to join, to try to improve things. As a council we are two members short so are looking to co-opt two more. If anyone would like to know more about becoming a councillor come and chat to one of the existing councillors. It is not onerous, it's only about being involved in the village in a vaguely official capacity.

I'd like to thank Colin for his work as clerk and party planner, as well as being the patient "go-to" for everyone's complaints about pot holes, noisy or unruly neighbours, internet, drains

Also let me thank Mike and Neville, as well as Paula and Fiona, for their engagement with the Council.

The Ward boundaries have changed and Poynings is now part of the new "Downlands Villages" Ward. This comprises Edburton, Fulking, Poynings, Newtimber, Pyecombe, Albourne and Sayers Common.

We welcome Geoff Zeidler as our new District councillor. And well done to Neville for having a go and coming a creditable second in the district council elections.

The council has continued to support the planting of Cora's corner, the church bank and the

roundabout. Thanks to all who gave labour and funding. There's a lot of love involved in making the parts of the village we share attractive and well maintained.

Although there are potholes in Poynings, we are not alone! This is due I understand to WSCC cutbacks. Poynings Parish Council (Colin) constantly pressures WSCC to repair them and they are reported promptly and normally repaired within their timescales, unfortunately not to a great standard though. The winter frosts and rain haven't helped and WSCC has extended the times that the contractors can take to repair them.

Meetings have taken place with highways to alleviate the traffic problems at the Ginger Fox / Muddleswood Road / Shaves Wood Lane junction, as well as at our own roundabout. However, it is unlikely that anything will be done. They say it would be too expensive to build a roundabout, and the reported accidents are usually caused by poor driving, according to police reports. So, given their level of priorities, the only thing we can do is try to extend the 40mph limit - which we're trying to do. At Poynings roundabout we have to watch out for crazy cyclists racing down from Saddlescombe Road - but again, there doesn't seem to be an obvious solution.

Fibre to the premises (FTTP) has now been given completed and now people who pledged must sign up. The emails that Openreach have sent to the residents seem quite aggressive, however these are standard emails and Openreach are aware that not everyone's contract has ended.

The Parish Council organised 2 celebrations this year, the Queens Jubilee celebration and the King's Coronation. Both were a great success and the PC hopes the village enjoyed them. A big thanks to all those who helped make them happen. We now have a beacon permanently placed in the village hall grounds. Maybe this will become a regular event! Grants were obtained for both events.

The council is still working on installing "Village gates" at the entrances to the village, with a view to focusing drivers' attention that they're entering a village and slow down. There have been delays due to Highways apparently being overwhelmed by the weather this winter and we hope they will be installed in the next few months. It's in our plan - like the government's promise to build 40 new hospitals!

The "Tommyes" were again installed at Cora's corner for Remembrance Day. I hope you agree that we should do something on Remembrance Day, and will work together with the church for next year's event.

In recent years the number of planning applications has increased. Planning applications are discussed by the councillors in public at council meetings although the council is not legally obliged to comment or discuss applications. We are not expected to be experts in planning but try to give a balanced, objective view based on planning regulations and what is best for the village as a whole. It's frankly not entirely clear if we have much influence, but even so

I think it is worth the effort. This coming year, we want to work with the Church and the VH Committee to try to update the VH - to try to make it more of an enjoyable and fit-for-purpose asset for the village. We certainly need to make access more appropriate - and in line with regulations as well.

Don't forget, if you're interested in joining the PC, form an orderly queue....

I would like to thank you for coming and please stay for a glass of wine once the meeting has finished.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated, were agreed.

3. MSDC

Geoff Zeidler - District Councillor. Geoff explained the boundary changes and that he is the only District Councillor covering our parish and how he hopes to make a difference.

4. Speaker

Henri Brocklebank- Sussex Wildlife Trust- Sussex Kelp Recovery Project

This was a very informative talk and was well received by all. JD thanked Henri for joining us and explain what the Sussex Wildlife trust does.

1. Open forum

Many issues that members of the public were concerned about were discussed and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm which was followed by refreshments and informal chats.