

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the `Virtual' Full Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 6th January 2021 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr O Hydes OBE (Chairman), Cllr J Assassi, Cllr J Bromley, Cllr N Bryant (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Cato (8.20pm), Cllr J Chaytor, Cllr D Harber, Cllr C Kenny, Cllr D Livingstone and Cllr T Nelson

ALSO, IN VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE: Sarah Hall (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Nigel Jupp, District Councillor Toni Bradnum and nine members of the public.

187-20/21 CHAIRMANS WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and members of the public to the first virtual meeting of 2021 and advised that the Clerk had a statement to make before the meeting commenced.

Clerks Statement

`This Statement concerns item 196 on tonight's agenda under Planning Updates and entitled Swallowfield Nursery.

I must remind everyone that this site is in the Nuthurst Neighbourhood Plan which received 89% support from voters in the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

At the October 2020 Parish Council meeting, the Planning Application was fully discussed and a comment was sent to HDC therefore supporting the application, but with a list of concerns about various matters.

I have since received an e-mail from the case officer for Swallowfield Nursery explaining that the intending purchaser of 7 Swallowfield Close had queried the boundary line. The case officer has explained to me that there has been, quote, "a minor tweak to the red boundary line and that the design and layout of the proposals have not changed from that previously consulted on".

Following correspondence from the Save our Countryside team's clerk, Mr Proctor, which contained threats, and also correspondence from Councillor Cato, I have taken advice from HDC's Monitoring Officer about how the Parish Council should handle the matter of Swallowfield Nursery.

The Monitoring Officer has advised that Swallowfield Nursery should be removed from tonight's agenda for the following reasons, and I quote:

"Firstly, and most importantly, the letter received from HDC's Planning Department does not notify us of an amendment or change to the planning application / scheme, it simply notifies us of a boundary, curtilage clarification. There is no material change to the scheme that we have already considered at length and communicated back to HDC". This comment from the Parish Council not only supported the scheme but listed "concerns that we had at that time".

Secondly, and I continue to quote, "there has been a Standards Complaint made to HDC's Monitoring Officer" from the Save our Countryside group "with regard to the dealing of this

application which involves the Parish Council and it's Chair and therefore it would not be right to discuss the matter with the complaint under full investigation”.

In the light of the information and advice I have received from the Case Officer and the Monitoring Officer I am therefore removing Swallowfield Nursery from this agenda.

Any comments or complaints about this decision from Save Our Countryside group, any councillor or a member of the public should be made directly to HDC's Monitoring Officer.'

188-20/21

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Cllr J Mercers apologies for absence.

189-20/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr O Hydes is a member of Mannings Heath Golf Club and declared a Personal Interest in DC/20/2531. The Monitoring Officer at HDC has confirmed that as Cllr O Hydes has no pecuniary interest, he can Chair the meeting and partake in discussions concerning the application. Cllr R Cato declared an interest in DC/20/2560, the applicant is a personal friend.

190-20/21

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** the [Minutes](#) of the Full Council meeting held on 2nd December 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and be signed by the Chairman. (Vote – the minutes were unanimously approved; Cllr R Cato was not in attendance at this time).

191-20/21

CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman did not make any announcements.

192-20/21

COMMITTEE MINUTES / REPORTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes approved by the following Committee be **ADOPTED**. [Planning Committee](#) – 18th November 2020

193-20/21

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Toni Bradnum provided the following update on District Council business;

- Proposed adoption of Horsham District Local Plan moving forward, going to Full Cabinet 28.01.2021 and Full Council 03.02.2021. There will be a further consultation period before going to the Government Inspector in June 2021. The Inspectors report is expected in May 2022.
- Financial overspend of £5.4 million in the last financial year, this includes taking into account the £1.1 million Government grant. Substantial action needed to achieve a balanced budget.
- Proposed Council Tax increase not published.
- £89,000 granted in Capital Budget for weighing technology for business waste bins.
- Trials at Hop Oast for 9 months, 'pop up' shop for the sale of furniture every 3 months.
- Fully electric waste collection vehicle being trialled.
- Cycling/Walking Infrastructure Plan has been adopted.
- Five Cycling and 6 walking corridors, mainly in Horsham town, being proposed.
- Contract has been awarded for the installation of electric charging points.
- Chased up the retrospective planning application for Millers Mead.

County Councillor Nigel Jupp provided the following update on County Council business;

- WSCC entering into budget season. Proposed savings have been amended and the suggested review of the HWRS sites and changes to bus passes for the elderly have been rejected by Cabinet.
- Only 86 of the 217 schools in West Sussex did not open, due to INSET days and insufficient staff available to open school safely.
- Visited the gates of the two Southwater Schools, over 700 pupils. Only 16 unauthorised absences in one of the schools with 425 pupils and one member of staff self-isolating. Not so positive elsewhere in the county.
- With increasing COVID infection rates schools are now only open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. The criteria for vulnerable children have changed and now includes children without the ability to have a computer at home.
- Delivery of free school meal vouchers now being put into place as is the question of providing computers for children's home learning.
- Discussing with the unions the size of pupil bubbles, currently 15.
- Inspected damage to the verge in Copsale, asked for the Street Wardens to re inspect, some of the damage may have been caused by the hedge cutter. Cllr N Bryant advised this was not the case because most of the hedge had been cut from inside the field not the verge.
- Repairs to the road surface in Polecat Lane carried out by the Gas Board in accordance with regulations, will be continuing to monitor. Cllr C Kenny advised Gas Board have erected two markers and debris from a fallen tree remains in Bar Lane.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Nigel Jupp and District Councillor Toni Bradnum for writing to WSCC re the condition of the footpath alongside Winthrift, Nuthurst Street. The Parish Council have also written to WSCC and HDC are still waiting for replies.

194-20/21

HOLLY FARM, WINTERPIT LANE

The Chairman introduced Dr Chris Lyons and advised that the Parish Council had not looked favourably at the original planning application. The application included land outside the BUAB of Mannings Heath, the properties were considered too large and would have a negative impact on Hathaways.

Dr Chris Lyons made a [presentation](#) on the revised proposals for the development of Holly Farm. The Parish Council will comment on the proposal when the plans are submitted to Horsham District Council.

Cllr R Cato joined the meeting at 8.20pm.

195-20/21

PUBLIC SESSION

A member of Save our Countryside (SOC) had requested to speak on DC/20/1840, Swallowfield Nursery. However, having heard the Clerks statement, at the beginning of the meeting, the member of the public commented that there was no longer any real point in saying what he intended to, which was a brief summary of the presentation from SOC which the Clerk had circulated to the Councillors earlier in the afternoon. SOC will come back and make their presentation if the planning application is included on a future agenda.

A resident in Hammerpond Road spoke in relation to DC/20/2531, he had no objection to the original planning request for the 'Barn'. However, MHGC have not adhered to the planning consent and considering that the building is intended to be used for entertainment purposes there is a considerable lack of information. If permitted would have a considerable impact on the resident's home and way of life.

Having joined the meeting Cllr R Cato advised that he was unable to dial into the meeting until 8.20pm, that he may have potential a conflict of interest in DC/20/2560 and asked for a brief recap on the Clerks Statement.

The Chairman advised that if you think you may have an interest it is safer to declare it and not partake in any discussion on that item.

The Chairman continued, in essence, in view of various things that have happened the Clerk has been advised by the Monitoring Officer to remove Swallowfield Nursery from the agenda. If SOC, Councillors or members of the public have an issue with this they should contact the Monitoring Officer directly.

196-20/21

PLANNING MATTERS

i. **NEW APPLICATIONS**

Comments to Horsham District Council (HDC) on current planning applications were unanimously agreed.

Number	Applicant & Reason
<p>DC/20/2531 17.12.2020</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	<p>Retention existing barn currently under construction, to provide a dual-purpose facility for vineyard staff welfare/vineyard storage, and vineyard tours. Associated hard and soft landscaping works. Mannings Heath Golf Club, Hammerpond Road, Mannings Heath</p> <p>The Parish Council strongly objects to this retrospective planning application for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The barn is sited within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) where such commercial activity is not appropriate or acceptable; 2) It contravenes policy 1 of the Nuthurst Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) which requires that <i>“Development proposals will be expected to conform to the development plan policies [in HDC’s Planning Framework] in respect of the control of development in the countryside”</i> since it does not comply with HDC’s Planning Framework (HDPF); 3) It contravenes paragraph 4.13 of policy 1 of the NNP which states that <i>“Its spatial strategy [of the NNP] ...for avoiding development in the High Weald AONB all together”</i> because this development is in the AONB; 4) It contravenes policy 26 of the HDPF on “Countryside Protection” because this commercial enterprise is inappropriate development in the High Weald AONB, it is not essential to its countryside location and it does not support the needs of agriculture; and 5) It contravenes policy 30 of the HDPF on “Protected Landscapes” because of the harm it will cause to the High Weald AONB and because this commercial enterprise is not in the public interest. <p>The Parish Council Strongly urges HDC to refuse planning permission on the above grounds.</p>

DC/20/2553 23.12.2020 RESOLVED	Erection of detached oak framed garage with store. Maplehurst Farm, Nuthurst Road, Maplehurst The Parish Council has no objection because the design of the proposed garage is in keeping with Maplehurst Farm, a Grade II listed building, and it does not adversely affect the setting of the listed building. However, the Parish Council requests that a condition is attached to any approval along the lines of “the garage/store hereby permitted shall be used solely for purposes ancillary to the enjoyment of Maplehurst Farm as a dwelling and shall not be used as a separate unit of accommodation.”
DC/20/2560 18.12.2020 RESOLVED	Erection of single storey front and side extension with conversion of garage into habitable living space. 33 Gaglewood, Mannings Heath The Parish Council has no objection to the proposed extension and the conversion of the garage because the design with its pitched roof will enhance the overall appearance of the bungalow. However, the Parish Council notes that there is very little information on the materials of construction in order to assess whether they fit in with the materials of the existing bungalow. It asks HDC to obtain further information on the materials, so that HDC can be satisfied that they match the existing bungalow.
DC/20/2424 23.12.2020 RESOLVED	Surgery to 5 x Horse Chestnut, 2 x Oak and 1 x Maritime Pine. Mannings Heath Village Green, Golding Lane, Mannings Heath To raise no objection to the application.

ii. **DECISIONS**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the details of the Delegated Decisions, HDC Planning Decisions and Enforcement Numbers.

iii. **MHCLG CONSULTATION ON PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS & USE OF CLASS E**

It was **RESOLVED** to **INCLUDE** the consultation on the Planning Committee meeting agenda 20th January 2021. The Clerk to request further details from CPRE.

iv. **PLANNING UPDATES**

a) **Swallowfield Nursery DC/20/1840**

It was **NOTED** that following guidance from the Monitoring Officer this item has been removed from the agenda.

b) **Any Other Planning Updates**

Mannings Heath Golf Club - DC/19/2583 Mill Farm remains undecided.

197-20/21

FINANCE

i) It was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of invoices totalling **£3,149.06** be **APPROVED** for payment.

Cheque/Ref	Payee Name	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
Direct Debit 16 Dec 2020	SSE Energy (Nov)	Unmetered Electricity Supply	118.67	5.92	124.59
S/Order 1 Dec 2020	Profitable Website	Website/Email Support (Dec 2020)	30.00	0	30.00
S/Order 1 Dec 2020	S Hall (Clerk)	Office Allowance	87.50	0	87.50
002101	S Hall (Clerk)	Expenses	23.39	0	23.39

002102	WSSC	Clerks Salary November (Inv 8001498772)	1,499.19	0	1,499.19
002103	Action in Rural Sussex	Parish Survey - 50% (inv 3502)	911.00	182.20	1,093.20
002104	SSE Enterprise	Street Light Repair Outside Clovelly, Nuthurst Road, Monks Gate (Inv 074033)	242.66	48.53	291.19
Total			2,912.41	236.65	3,149.06

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the receipts in October 2020 totaling **£0.70**

	Payer Name	Details	Net £	VAT £	Total £
FPI	Nat West	Interest Nov 2020	0.70	0	0.70
Grand Total			0.70		0.70

- ii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the [Nat West Current](#) account and [Nat West Savings](#) account bank reconciliations for November 2020.
- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the [Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading](#) for November 2020.
- iv) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Clerks annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC).

198-20/21

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL SURVEY

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that AirS have been appointed to prepare an online survey, with hard copies being available if required. The first draft was too long and AirS are making a few adjustments to reduce the length of the form. The survey will be circulated to Councillors for their comments prior to publication.

199-20/21

ADVENT WINDOWS (LIGHT UP THE PARISH)

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that although many people commented that it was a lovely idea the event was not as successful as hoped. Three small prizes have been delivered. The Chairman thanked Cllr D Harber and Cllr N Bryant for participating. However, it increased the use of the Parish Council's Facebook page.

200-20/21

LOCAL ASSOCIATION, OTHER BODIES AND TRAINING REPORTS

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that the Chairman and Cllr J Chaytor attended the 'virtual' HALC meeting held on 15 December 2020. The meeting was addressed by Helen Peacock, HDCs Environmental Co-ordination Manager who introduced the 'Wilder Horsham District project' and Richard Black, Landowner Advisor, Sussex Wildlife Trust.

The WSALC AGM was also discussed, the Chairman and Cllr N Bryant will be attending the AGM when the date is confirmed and will vote as previously instructed.

201-20/21

OPEN SPACES IN THE PARISH

Mannings Heath Village Green

i) Children's Play Area

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the [monthly report](#) (December) on the children's play area.

ii) New Equipment for the Children's Play Area

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that Cllr R Harber has been in contact with the Headmistress at Holy Trinity Primary School, Lower Beeding and it was agreed that the pupils would look at the proposed drawings. This will be re-addressed when schools re-open following the present COVID 19 lock down.

- iii) It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Chairman of the Parish Council having delegated authority to approve and check grant application submissions.

202-20/21 REGISTRATION OF LOST FOOTPATHS

Standing Orders suspended 9.04pm – meeting commenced 9.05pm

After much discussion it was **RESOLVED** to **INCLUDE** the registration of lost footpaths on the agenda for the Roads and Footpath Committee meeting on 20th January 2021. The Chairman, Cllr J Chaytor and Cllr J Bromley volunteered to look at some of the lost footpaths.

203-20/21 VIRTUAL MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Parish Council continuing to hold virtual meetings. This will be reviewed in April 2021.

204-20/21 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr R Cato requested for the UKPN auto reclosure, located behind Elite Garage, to be included on February's agenda.

205-20/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the next meeting will be held on 3rd February 2021.

The meeting closed at 21.09

Cllr O Hydes
Chairman of the Parish Council

Date