

**WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Draft MINUTES** of the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on Monday 3rd February 2025 in the Washington Village Hall (Doré Room) School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Buddell (Chairman), Cllr B Hanvey, Cllr A Dillaway, Cllr T. Keech, Cllr A Lisher (Vice-Chairman), Cllr G. Lockerbie, Cllr R, Scovell and Cllr J. Thomas.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr J Grech (HDC) ). Apologies received from Cllr P Marshall (WSCC), Cllr E Beard (HDC) and Cllr C Fisher (HDC). No other members of the public.

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council.

**ABSENT:** 2

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm.

**FC/25/02/01 Apologies for Absence**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE** apologies from Cllr Heeley. The Chairman was sorry to

 report that Cllr Perkins had resigned from the Council on 29th January for personal reasons.

 He was joined by Councillors in thanking Cllr Perkins for his services to the Community and the

 Council.

**FC/25/02/02 Declaration of Members’ Interests.**

 None received as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council’s Code of Conduct.

**FC/25/02/03 Minutes of the last Full Council meeting**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 6th January

 2025.

**FC/25/02/04 Public Forum**

 There were no representations from the public.

**FC/25/02/05 Reports from County and District Councillors**

 **WSCC Reports**

Cllr Marshall was unable to attend and had given his apologies. His updates regarding

 WSCC investigations into reports ofdebris and mud from Hampers Lane quarry traffic, were

 shared with members before the meeting.

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 Cllr Grech reported and answered a number of questions from members on the following:

* **New Horsham offices**

HDC to move to its new offices at Swan Walk this month.

* **Local Government Devolution: recent briefing by HDC to District Councillors**

They are still waiting to find out what is happening if Sussex becomes a unitary authority. HDC is advising early consideration of taking on some of its assets within the parishes and there are indications that Sandgate Country Park is likely to be offered to Storrington PC, and the bandstand in Horsham’s Carfax to the local neighbourhood council..

There were no known HDC assets in the Washington parish but that if offered, Cllr Grech understood that the PC had the right to refuse. Cllr Grech reported that she hoped there would be financial assistance but nothing specific had been confirmed at this stage Any assets not taken on would be the responsibility of the new unitary authority as HDC would no longer exist.

Three members questioned the cost implications and why Horsham District Councillors are not challenging the proposals which will affect so many of the essential services it provides. Cllr Grech explained that members had not been given the option and that the Secretary of State had made it clear that devolution will happen eventually regardless of whether Sussex is selected for the fast track programme.

**Local Plan delay**

Local Plan is in limbo and HDC expecting to hear further from the Examiner before deciding on next steps. Cllr Grech answered a number of questions and explained that under the new NPPF, any areas lacking a local plan that is less than five years’ old falls under the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development.’

A member referred to a recent letter from NALC on the implications for neighbourhood plans and anticipated rise in speculative development. The Clerk agreed to share this with Cllr Grech after the meeting.

* **HDC meetings in the south of the District**

Council meeting to be held at Henfield in June. Hopes for another two in the larger villages, e.g. Storrington, Steyning or Pulborough, to increase accessibility to HDC

meetings for residents living in the south of the district.

* **HDC set to adopt a new initiative safeguarding local rivers**

HDC Cabinet (29th January 2025) has recommended the Council’s adopts a Declaration for River Recovery, reinforcing its willingness to collaborate with other organisations to restore local rivers.

* **Litter pickers**

HDC has litter picking equipment available to Washington parish if required

**New seating at the Capitol Theatre**

New seating to be installed for the theatre’s 2025 panto season ahead of HDC’s planned new refurbishment programme beginning next January.

* **Disabled parking in HDC car parks**

Local councillors (Storrington & Washington Ward) are urging HDC to consult people with disabilities on the blue badge rules in their car parks, following concerns that the last consultation failed to reach its target audience.

* **Copyright issue**

HDC advises parish and neighbourhood councils to seek its consent before publishing images from HDC websites or communications, following a recent issue involving the re-posting of an image from one of its newsletters.

 *The Chairman thanked Cllr Grech before she left the meeting.*

**FC/25/02/06 Casual Vacancy on the Council**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note that the Clerk had notified HDC’s Democratic Services Officer of

 the resignation of Cllr Perkins on 29th January 2025 from the Council (Heath Common

 Ward). A notice to declare a casual vacancy had been published.

**FC/25/02/07 Actions and matters arising**

 To Report on actions and matters arising from the last meeting.

 The Council noted the following:

 There is one matter outstanding: Council to review and agree the contract for outsourcing

 payroll before the Clerk can sign this. A copy of the contract was circulated with the last

 meeting papers when the Council agreed the quote. To be deferred to the next meeting.

**FC/25/02/08 Minutes of the Committees**

 To Report the draft minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee and Open Spaces

 Committee on 20th January 2025.

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the draft minutes of both meetings and that there were no

 recommendations for consideration.

**FC/25/02/09 Planning applications, Decisions, Appeals and Compliance Matters**

 To Consider a consultation response to the following applications in the parish:

 **DC/25/0056 – Spring View, Bracken Lane, Storrington, West Sussex**

 *Erection of 1.5 storey triple bay garage to the front of the dwelling*

 A member expressed concern that the application may become windfall development due to its

 substantial size and positioning in front of the main property.

 Following a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** with one abstention to make **NO OBJECTION**

 **SDNP/24/05124/FUL - Stable Cottage, Highden, London Road, Washington RH20 4BA**

 *Conversion of storage area of existing dwelling into habitable space, including bedroom above*

 *and creation of a new 1 bed flat adjacent no objection.*

 Following a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION**

 **Appeals Lodged and Decided**

 To Report the Notice of Appeal reference APP/Z3825/W/24/3350094 against refusal of Planning

 Consent of: **DC/24/0021 – Thakeham Mushrooms Site, Storrington Road, Thakeham,**

 **Pulborough, RH20 3DY**

*Demolition of existing buildings and the phased redevelopment of the site as a residential led*

 *development comprising 247 dwellings and flexible non-residential floorspace (Use Class E), with*

 *works to public rights of way and associated landscaping, open space and infrastructure*.

The hearing will be on 25th March 2025 10am at a venue to be confirmed.

 The Council noted the information.

 **Compliance Matters**

 None reported

**FC/25/02/10 Rampion 2**

 To Consider a hire request by Rampion Expansion Development Ltd for non-intrusive surveys on

 the Recreation Ground to inform their proposed HDD design under the A24/!283

 Supporting papers and details of link to the proposed survey at:

 [Phase 1 Site Investigation - Washington Parish Council.pdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CZoe%5COneDrive%5CMEETINGS%202025%5CFC%20Feb%202025%5CRampion%20-%20FC%20Feb%202025%5CPhase%201%20Site%20Investigation%20-%20Washington%20Parish%20Council.pdf) were previously circulated.. The Clerk

 reported that she had forwarded a full list of prior bookings on the Recreation Ground to RED

 and was waiting for confirmation of the hire date.

 Following a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** with one objection, that it is minded to agree

 access for the surveys once it has received a positive response to its previous correspondence

 to RED regarding the Heads of Terms matter and alternative cable route.

**FC/25/02/11 Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan (SSWNP)**

 To report any further updates and recommendations to be considered at this meeting.

 Cllr Lisher reported that the Steering Group is working on rewriting the wording for some of

 the policies of the neighbourhood plan until there is further progress with the Local Plan.

 He agreed to contact HDC in the Clerk’s absence next week, to share slides from their

 recent Local Plan briefing, and forward them to the Council.

**FC/25/02/12 Urgent Matters**

 To Agree action on any urgent matters which cannot wait until the next meeting.

 The Clerk reported that she had ordered a replacement battery for the defibrillator at Pixies’

 Corner, under her emergency power as the current one had expired before the July 2025

 advisory date.

 The cost is in the region of £250 to £300. The battery should last three years but the cabinet

 is not designed for very cold weather and has been causing fluctuations in the display symbols

 The Clerk suggested that the OSRA Committee considers replacing the cabinet for a

 more robust design. It was acquired before the more modern cabinets became available.

 A heated one is not an option because there is no obvious power source at the site.

 The Council **RESOLVED** to ratify approval of the expenditure and to note the Clerk’s report.

**FC/25/02/13 Payments**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** payments totalling £3,884.56 for the invoices

 previously circulated with the agenda.

**FC/25/03/14 Bank reconciliations**

 The Council **RESOLVED** to note the monthly reconciliation for the £36,901.78 balance of the

 Council’s Llloyds Community Account for February 2025 which was previously circulated

 with the agenda.

 The Clerk advised that statements for the Council’s Redwood and Nationwide Savings accounts

 would be available at the end of the financial year and show balances totalling £85,000.

 The information was noted.

**FC/25/02/14 Clerk’s Report**

 To Receive and note the Clerk’s Report.

 The Clerk gave an overview of the report, adding that there may be an error on HDC’s Parish

 CIL expenditure report and that she would raise this with them.

 A Member queried how much CIL monies can the parish expect when the Old Clayton kennels is

 developed as it did not seem to be shown on the latest HDC reports. The Clerk suggested this is

 raised with the District Councillors at the next FC meeting.

 A Member reported that the Council had not heard anything further from the Village Hall about

 their planned projects for CIL funding.

 Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the Clerk’s Report.

**FC/25/02/15 Correspondence**

 To Receive and note correspondence to the Council

 A Member commented on the updates from Cllr Marshall regarding complaints about mud and

 debris on the A283 from the Hampers Lane quarry traffic. He pointed out it was still a most

 unsatisfactory situation. Another Member commented on his recent observation that the road

 sweeper made it worse especially in wet weather. The Chairman proposed and Cllr Hanvey

 seconded that the matter is discussed at the next PT meeting. Clerk advised on putting forward

 a written motion for this, to include all the points raised, to be presented to Members for the

 meeting.

 The Council noted the correspondences.

**FC/25/02/16 Chairman’s Announcements**

 There were no announcements.

**FC/25/02/17 Dates and Times of the next meetings**

The Council noted the following meeting dates:

 Planning & Transport Committee: **Monday 17th February, 7:00pm**

 OSRA Committee: **Monday 17th February 2025, 7:45pm**

 Full Council Meeting: **Monday 3rd March 2025, 7:30pm**

**FC/25/02/18 Exclusion of the Press and Public.**

 The Council **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and

 Standing Order 3d, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded

 from the meeting during consideration of the next item as publication would be prejudicial to

 the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**FC/25/02/19 Rampion 2: Heads of Terms on proposed cable route access on Council property**

 To Review Heads of Terms for payment of professional fees.

 Supporting papers of a sensitive commercial nature regarding RED’s proposed heads of terms

 were previously circulated with the agenda. Also circulated were two emails from RED’s new

 land agent (27th and 29th January 2025) stating that “*Rampion 2 provide a full indemnity for agent*

 *fees incurred in seeking advice on the Heads and Terms and any voluntary agreement”* and this

referred to ***“all fees”***

It was noted that the Clerk had requested (email to the land agent 28th January 2025) this to be

 shown in the Heads of Terms. The Council’s approved agent had previously advised that an email

 from RED is insufficient for legal purposes. An amended Heads of Terms was still pending.

 Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to defer this item until it receives the amended

 Heads of Terms with the assurance on professional fees in full before the Council is able to

 engage its own agent on negotiating the access agreement.

 There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.44pm.

*Signed…………………………………………..*

*Dated…………………………………………..*