

# WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



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## WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES** of proceedings for the monthly meeting of Washington Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 in the Washington Village Hall ( Doré Room) School Lane, Washington RH20 4AP

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr P. Marshall (WSCC), Cllr J. Grech (HDC) and Cllr E. Beard (HDC). Apologies were noted from Cllr C. Fisher.

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council, Ms Z Savill

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 2

**ABSENT:** 2

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:30 hours

**FC/24/7/1 Apologies for absence**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr Luckin and Cllr Perkins.

**FC/24/7/2 To Record Declarations of Interest from Members in any item to be discussed**

There were no declarations of interest as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct were made.

**FC/24/7/3 Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM)**

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the [minutes of the APCM on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024](#) which were duly signed by the Chairman.

**FC/24/7/4 Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting**

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the [minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024](#) with one amendment to correct the date of the meeting from 6<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**FC/24/7/5 Public Session**

Two candidates for co-option to the Council gave a presentation of their applications and answered questions.

**FC/24/7/6 County Council Reports**

Cllr Marshall advised that he would follow up on signage for CCTV at the A24/Bostal junction and 'Slow Down' signage, both suggested at the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April 2024); yellow-backed 30mph signs along London Road and the Bostal; and relocation of the Speed Indicator Device in Rock Road.

S.S.B.

He would seek a briefing from WSCC on Southern Water's plans for an effluent recycling project in Hampshire which could be extended into Sussex (Midhurst to Horsham) from 2040.

## **FC/24/7/7 District Council Reports**

### **Rampion 2:**

Cllr Grech advised on a briefing from HDC's Senior Planning Officer and that she was pleased with the high level of emphasis being given by the evaluation panel to address the impact of the proposed inshore cable route and compounds on the parish.

The Chairman commented that the Applicant's information about the proposed compounds was vague regarding location, scale, traffic generated and lifespan. Cllr Grech confirmed that HDC was seeking clarification on these points.

Another member pointed out that HDC appeared to be focussing on mitigation of the project, and reminded the District Councillors that it was important to question the choice of the cable route through the village which had been strongly opposed by residents at a public meeting.

### **Storrington Traffic Group**

Cllr Beard advised that a member of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership is willing meet online with the Council to discuss how they can help with local traffic issues. She would share their contact details after the meeting.

### **Planning applications for the care home at Old Clayton Boarding Kennel and a dog care kennel at Rock Road.**

Cllr Grech advised that the Old Clayton Kennels application was due to be determined by HDC's Planning Committee. She agreed to request that the other application is determined by Committee due to the number of local objections.

### **Village Pub**

Cllr Beard advised that HDC's Senior Conservation Officer had visited and was happy with the work being undertaken, and that there were no current compliance cases open for the site. A member commented that the retaining wall and the balustrading did not comply with the approved specification on the SDNPA website. The Chairman explained that the Council need confirmation from Officers on what has been approved, if the works are in compliance and the completion deadline. Cllr Beard agreed to follow this up.

### **Kia Garage**

Cllr Beard agreed to forward a report to the Council of the site meeting she attended with the garage's manager in May, together with the land ownership documents and their proposed plans. Cllr Beard advised that the garage had still not displayed stickers on their cars identifying those parked around the village, despite a reminder.

### **Sandhill Lane parking obstruction**

Cllr Beard agreed to follow up a resident's complaint that pedestrian access along Sandhill Lane was frequently blocked by parked cars.

*8:00pm: Cllr Marshall excused himself from the meeting.*

## **FC/24/7/8 To Report on actions and matters arising from the last meeting**

The Council noted the Actions Report and **RESOLVED** to approved the Council's Speedwatch

poster for the local Facebook page drafted by Cllr Luckin, with one amendment: to add "anti-social behaviour" in the description of drivers speeding through the village.

*To Comment on the proposed change of use of Existing Sand School for Dog Agility in addition to Equestrian Purposes (Retrospective)*

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to **OBJECT** to the application but if Officers are minded to approve, to request a condition to control the use and times of the proposed flood lighting, ensuring there is no adverse impact on neighbours and to protect the established barn owl population and bat colony.

**FC/24/7/10** [DC240774 - 17 Spring Gardens Washington West Sussex.pdf](#)

*To Comment on the proposed erection of a first floor side extension*

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to make **NO OBJECTION** to the application.

**FC/24/7/11** [S106/24/0008 – Old Clayton Boarding Kennels Storrington Road Washington West Sussex RH20 4AG](#)

*To Comment on the proposed discharge of planning obligation pursuant of Schedule 5 (FR/PAG/190) to application DC/04/2084*

The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to reiterate its **STRONG OBJECTION** to the application and that the original planning permission for the bungalows was for staffing only to support the kennels business as an exception.

**FC/24/7/12** **Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan (SSWNP)**

*To Agree that the Parish Council reviews the SSWNP with its partners Storrington & Sullington Parish Council, and to make a joint application for grant funding towards costs.*

Cllr Heely (Vice-Chairman of the SSWNP Steering Group) reported on a training session with members (25<sup>th</sup> June 2024) by Consultant Maureen Chaffe of Process Matters2, to review the NP. The Clerk's report of the session was previously circulated with quotations from the consultancy for an initial review of the NP policies and preparation for a Regulation 14 submission.

Cllr Heeley advised that it had been suggested that Storrington & Sullington Parish Council, as the Lead Qualifying Body for the NP, seeks available grant funding for the review costs. If successful, to review and make any changes which are possible before the Local Plan is adopted, likely to be next Spring at the earliest. It was acknowledged that there would be an inevitable period when the NP is not afforded the protection against speculative development. But that both Councils could do something now in the hope that NPs will still be respected going forward.

The Council **RESOLVED** that subject to a successful grant application, to support an initial review process with Process Matters2 in a two-hour session quoted at £160. It was agreed that if sufficient funding is available, this Council would then be in a better position to decide on the level of review and expenditure requirement going forward.

**FC/24/7/13** **SDNP/22/04274/DCOND – Frankland Arms, London Road**

*To Discuss the use of materials for the retaining garden wall and agree on appropriate action.*

*Application details at:*

<https://planningpublicaccess.southdowns.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RI36RMTU&activeTab=summary>

Members expressed disappointment with HDC's latest response to the Council's planning queries on work undertaken on the retaining garden wall, shared by Cllr Beard earlier in the meeting.

The Council **RESOLVED** to prepare a report to HDC via the District Councillors, seeking clarification on what has been agreed and the latest position regarding compliance. To be drafted by Cllr Thomas for delegated approval by the Planning & Transport Committee.

**FC/24/7/14** **Washington Quarry/Sandpit Hampers Lane**

*To Discuss the standard of road cleaning on the A283 fronting Hampers Lane, Millford Grange and Old Clayton Kennels and Agree on appropriate action.*

The Council discussed and **RESOLVED** to write to WSCC requesting more effective on-site wheel cleaning at the Washington quarry to ensure materials are not deposited on the road, and more effective road sweeping. Cllr Harvey had drafted a letter and agreed to share this with the Clerk.

**FC/24/7/15 Agree action on any urgent maintenance of council property**

None reported

**FC/24/7/16 Delegated Decisions**

None reported

**FC/24/7/17 Rampion 2 Examination**

*To Consider making any further representations for Deadlines 5 & 6 of the examination of the application for a Development Consent Order. Latest updates and examination timetable at: [Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm - Project information \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)*

Members expressed disappointment that the examination focus for the parish was on mitigation of the inshore cable route project but not on a route to avoid the village. The choice of the cable route was a core objection by residents at a public meeting in 2021.

The Council reiterated that it had never received a detailed explanation from RED on why the route is preferred over the alternatives put forward or might have been considered which would avoid the village.

The Council **RESOLVED** to submit these comments for the Deadline 5 submission; and to delegate any comments for Deadline 6 (1<sup>st</sup> August) to the Planning & Transport Committee.

**FC/24/7/18 Village Hall Trust Deed**

*To Consider an invitation to the Parish Council from the Village Hall to amend the Trust Deed on membership*

The Council considered the Village Hall Trustees' proposal for new members to be recruited from from an approved list of Bodies. The letter explained that the current list is out of date and more members were needed. The Parish Council (Custodian Trustee) and the Parish Church, were the only two members remaining and would be added to the list.

Action in Rural Sussex had advised the Hall that it could use its powers under Section 281A of the Charities Act 2022 and a resolution to amend the Hall's governing document for the change without the need for consent from the Charity Commission.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the proposal, subject to exercising its powers to give prior approval of any members to be considered for appointment.

**FC/24/7/17 Grant Applications**

**To Consider a [grant application for £1,165 for additional heaters in the Village Hall Dore Room](#)**

The Council considered and **RESOLVED** to defer a decision on the revised CIL funding application by the Village Hall for £775 for the two heaters. This is pending clarification if the project is additional or included in the approved list of heating improvement projects.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Finance Committee reviews the list of projects against payments to be Reported to the next Council meeting. Cllr Keech agreed to prepare a report.

**To Consider a [grant application for £2,092 towards sound-proofing at the Village Hall](#)**

The Council considered the grant application from the Village Hall and **RESOLVED** to award £2,092 from CIL monies, under the powers of the LGA 1972 s133 for this project upon completion.

S.S.B.

**Ward.**

Applications from two candidates were reviewed. The candidates were in attendance, and had given a presentation during the public session and answered questions.

The Council **RESOLVED** that Mr Rob Scovell be co-opted to the Council for the Washington Ward and Mr Alan Dillaway be co-opted to the Council for the Heath Common Ward. Both would sign their acceptance of office at the next meeting. They were asked to complete and return a Register of Interests within 28 days.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Dillaway and Mr Scovell to the Council and advised on membership of the committees, to be considered at the next meeting. They thanked the Council before leaving the meeting's next confidential item of business.

**FC/24/7/25 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude the Public and Press in pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Council's Standing Orders from the next confidential item.

**FC/24/7/26 Rampion 2: The Council as Trustee of the Washington Recreation Ground Charity**

To report a letter from Carter Jonas on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with further clarification on professional fees, and any further updates; and to discuss next steps on negotiating terms for access of the proposed inshore cable route on the Recreation Ground.

The following documents were previously circulated and discussed:

- Letter from Carter Jonas on 6<sup>th</sup> June with further clarification on payment of professional fees
- Letter from Carter Jonas on 25<sup>th</sup> June with a revision to the proposed Heads of Terms to include an improvement on compensation terms.
- Response from the Council's Agent (28<sup>th</sup> June) to Carter Jonas queries on fees; and to request a legal undertaking that all reasonably incurred legal and professional fees would be recoverable from RED even if the matter became abortive.

It was noted that the Council was still waiting for a satisfactory response from Rampion's agent regarding the payment of fees. The Council **RESOLVED** to write to the agent again, reiterating their agent's request on the fees before they can enter into negotiations on the cable route access. Clerk to write to Carter Jonas to this effect.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 9:27pm

Signed.....



Dated... 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 .....