

## **HORSTED KEYNES PARISH**

Minutes of the Horsted Keynes Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8.15pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Refus Clarke, David Colville, Billy Dye, Chris Hersey, Jeremy Humphries-Davis, Michael Kirk, John Luckhurst, Keith O'Regan, Celia Vince, Sarah Webster and Christine Wheatley

14 members of the public signed in

In attendance: Linda Butcher, Acting Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr David Colville, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Cllr Sarah Webster to address everyone about plans for the celebrations for H.M. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and the fund-raising opportunity for the village play area.

### **PRESENTATION BY CLLR SARAH WEBSTER**

Cllr Sarah Webster explained that the Village Day is being held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June and that Katie Dereham had agreed to open the event at 2pm and would also be judging the children's Fancy Dress. Other items planned include a village choir, cake competition, children's disco, BBQ and a drone will be filming the event. She asked for volunteers and invited people to email either the Parish Office or herself.

Sarah then went on to explain that the current playground is very poor and that a survey will be carried out to see what is needed as nothing has been decided yet so it is the villagers' opportunity to have their say [including the children].

As well as fund-raising the Council has applied for grants and is set to apply to the Secretary of State for Borrowing Approval. It is likely if this is approved the Council will then apply to the Public Works Loan Board which will be paid back over a number of years.

Finally, Sarah hoped the Village Day will be a good opportunity for the village to get back together.

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

The Chairman explained that in the absence of a permanent Parish Clerk it was not possible to find the electronic copy of last year's minutes but hand-written notes had been found and would be available shortly.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these minutes and although this contained thanks to Councillors and Clerks, he apologised for omitting his thanks to Judith the Council's Responsible Finance Officer.

The Chairman invited questions from the floor on the content of his report, copies of which had been circulated to everyone present.

A former councillor said he was full of admiration for those who are now on the Council and his comment was followed by applause from the audience.

## **OPEN FORUM**

People were pleased about the play area and asked what would be available for teenagers as they tend to want individual things i.e. bicycles and what about the pavilion, could anything be done to make it more useable?

David Colville suggested that when the Business Plan is in place we can work towards something positive and that we will consult the public.

There was a suggestion that there should be a small area for adult exercise and Sarah Webster suggested perhaps something for adults and teenagers could be placed round the edge of the recreation ground.

Helena said three weeks ago she had attended a fracking presentation and said that Balcombe issues also includes this village and that in reality it could be an issue for Horsted Keynes and she wished to draw attention to this issue. She said that as a geologist she knows that very little is done on shore but lots done off shore and there are still many questions. She suggested there should be a line in the Neighbourhood plan about this matter.

Another member of the public said that in Lancashire they voted against it but Cameron over-turned the decision.

Some people felt that the Neighbourhood Plan is an artificial exercise as to whether local councils should have more say over planning and questioned whether we will have more authority in the future. David Colville responded that we need positive and negative views expressed because this is very much an evidence-based exercise.

Christine Wheatley said 30 people responded in a poll on Facebook but only a few people to the official site.

Helena felt lots of people do not care enough and Jeremy Humphries-Davis emphasized the need to raise awareness of the closing dates.

In answer to a question, it was said that the population is 1500. Sarah Webster confirmed that it will be Mid Sussex District Council that sets the date for the referendum. Again, Jersey Humphries-Davis said we need to make people aware that they need to comment before 23<sup>rd</sup> May. It was then suggested that we could have a countdown banner, ? days to go. There have been only 17 or 18 replies to date.

A member of the public asked if the proposed development at Abbeyfield would contain flats and Sarah responded that it says one bedroom dwellings but does not specify if houses or flats. She went on to say that this year school numbers are low in pre-school but that next year school numbers will be way over. A member of the public said that the school governors will be putting in a submission to the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was felt that the plan could encourage the Village to be over-run by development but that it does not contain any infrastructure, i.e. footpaths, condition of roads. We need to fight for the village.

David Colville said the Council would soon be having a Visioning Exercise and we need village involvement and Jeremy suggested we co-opt people to assist.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and contributing to the discussion. A member of the public thanked Councillors for listening to the villagers.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm