

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT  
BEECHWOOD HALL ON 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**

**Present:** Cllr.Tamsyn D'Arienzo (Chair)

**In attendance:**

Mrs J Toomey – Clerk to the Parish Council

2 members of Hamsey PC 2 members of the public Cllr.Isabelle Linnington LDC

*Meeting commenced at 7.00pm.*

**1) Apologies for absence** – Ian Ginn, Mike Dodd, Ailsa Suttie.

**2. Welcome and overview by the chair of the Parish Council.**

Parish Council chair, Cllr.Tamsyn D'Arienzo welcomed residents and gave an overview of the council year. (full report attached)

**3. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed**

**4. There were no matters arising from the 2017 meeting.**

**5. Report from the Beechwood Hall trustees**

The chair was away but sent in a report (attached)

**6. The Lewes District Councillor gave her report**

In her report, Cllr Linnington highlighted some of the Lewes District Council issues which were most relevant to Hamsey Parish. Firstly, she reported on the launch of the Neighbourhood First scheme. This involves a team of Neighbourhood Advisors, of which there are two for this area, who will inspect streets and open spaces, report issues to the Council and give advice to residents. Matters covered will include dog fouling, fly tipping, littering and street cleaning, abandoned vehicles and fallen trees. The Neighbourhood Advisors can be available to attend Parish Council and other community meetings and will be attending the Hamsey Community Meeting on 24th May.

Residents are encouraged to report issues to the Council by using the Report It app.

The first funds from the CIL money paid by developers have been awarded to projects. Hamsey was successful in obtaining £36,897 for improvements to facilities at Beechwood Park. Cllr Linnington congratulated the Parish Council on a strong and well prepared bid as many proposals were not funded.

Cllr Linnington had not been told that the new recycling bins had been delivered across Hamsey Parish. She became aware recently when she had complaints about bins not being emptied and was dealing with this. The new system meant that more items could be recycled and she hoped everyone was finding it easier, not having to sort the recycling, and that recycling rates would increase.

Lastly, Cllr Linnington spoke about 'Vote 100' which is the celebration of 100 years of women's suffrage. There will be an event on 9 July which is to encourage women to become councillors and be involved in local government. Details of the event will be available soon.

## **7. The clerk/financial officer to the council gave the financial report.**

## **8. Questions from the floor**

A resident asked about parking on the verge North of the school. Cllr. Baughan will check with Network rail whether the deep ruts could be filled. There is also a messy verge in Hamsey Lane caused by electric board works and he will follow this up too. The chair said that the parish council is working with Hamsey school to get permanent school parking.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm

### ***Min. 2 - The chair gave her report on the work of the council during 2017, which includes a statement from each councillor:***

***Cllr. Ian Ginn*** – ‘Represented the parish at Railfuture meetings as well as GTR stake holders meetings for a better train service. Attended ESCC meetings on parish and planning issues as well as road and pavements. Part of the planning team for Hamsey pc.’

*I would also add that Ian always makes himself available for everything from partner meetings to bin repairs, station issues to bus stops and everything in between. Ian is a regular on the litter picks and is a great example of a councillor who will get their hands dirty without looking for any acknowledgement. Reliable and supportive, it's been good over the past year to have Ian on the end of a phone or email and I'm happy to say Ian will be joining us for another year on the council, in the role of Councillor.*

***Cllr. Mike Dodd*** – ‘The parish ( like much of the country ) is facing an unprecedented focus on building new dwellings. Development at Covers will soon be complete and the proposed development at the former brickworks is inching forward. With these new buildings we will see many more people coming to live in our parish and together with more vehicles will put further pressure on local infrastructure and environment. Members of the parish council have been working to help ensure the best outcome for local residents and that residents wishes are met where possible. This is partly underpinned by the Hamsey Neighbourhood Plan.

*In recent years the parish council have been frustrated on a number of occasions, by Lewes District Council and also at committee meetings when officers and/or district councillors have gone against the recommendations of Hamsey Parish council on a number of planning applications. Whilst we understand that LDC make the final decision it is very important that our views are taken with the right level of seriousness and consideration when making important decisions which affect the people living in our parish and that we are involved throughout the process. Further meetings have taken place between councillors of HPC and officers of LDC to look to ensure in future this changes.*

*We are pleased to say that we have seen far better involvement and consideration on the more recent consultation re the Hamsey brickwork site, which has helped ensure that the ancient woodland will be accessible for current residents of Bevernbridge in the years to come. We hope that the level of consultative involvement with LDC will further improve in the year/s ahead and we will continue to work on your behalf towards this goal.’*

*It has been brilliant to have Mike at planning meetings this year, usually in the form of Bad Cop(!). Mike has been doggedly fixed in achieving our aims, skilled at assessing our*

*negotiating position and unafraid of fighting for what is best for our residents. We probably disagree half of the time, but I always appreciate hearing Mike's viewpoint, which is guaranteed to be passionate and considered and above all respectful and professional and always in support personally of his fellow councillors.*

**Cllr. Justin Harmer-** *'This year on the planning committee we have seen fewer small applications for house extensions etc but there have been an increase in the volume of large applications for multiple sites, these have proved to be tricky with the original granted plans subject to latter alterations not always for the better ! Our constant concern with LDC planning committee that whatever we may say has a limited influence. Always an interesting part of Parish Council work.'*

*Justin it's always useful to have your local knowledge and it has been good to have you on the planning committee. Planning is interesting and I believe if we are to show we are on the council for the right reasons then we must get involved in more than just planning. That said, helping to plan for a Hamsey to Lewes shared use (walking/cycling) path could be a really positive opportunity for our planning committee to make things better for generations to come.*

**Cllr. Ailsa Suttie** – *'We have seen the growth of our Facebook community grow and become more active over the last year with people discussing local issues, promoting local activities and supporting each other in general. The community action plan has been updated and is now robust and fit for purpose in the event of a local crisis or emergency. I would like to focus on communication in general in the upcoming months and I think we could see the benefit of running a local poll to ascertain how people would like to be informed.'*

*I agree that Communication seems to be key to keeping the parish harmonious and in giving all residents a voice. Through Facebook we have been able to track events, resident's experiences- everything from crime to road accidents to house fires and beyond- and plan our community meeting which was a positive end to a spate of antisocial behaviour. The nature of social media allowed neighbours to get to know each other. Most of these conversations were positive and some sense of community seems to have been restored. Thank you Ailsa, you have helped moderate Facebook which is a 24/7 task to ensure that it remains a source for good and does not wind up being a moan-page about what's wrong with where we live. Ailsa you quietly contribute in the background and respond with well thought out considered responses.*

**Cllr. Robert Baughan-** *'As requested, please find a few lines on what I have been up to over the past year and my aspirations for the year ahead:*

### **2017/2018 Key Achievements**

1. Attendance at all PC meetings and participation in debate / voting on key issues including Hamsey Brickworks
2. Environment Sub-Committee
  - Jointly addressing a number of issues including:
    - \* Organisation of quarterly litter picks
    - \* Dog fouling
    - \* Anti-pollution signage / level crossing initiatives
    - \* ESCC Waste & Recycling consultation
3. Rail Issues

- \* Active member (and founder) of Cooksbridge Station Partnership/Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group campaigning for an enhanced train service from Cooksbridge
  - \* Addressing all rail issues affecting the parish (Network Rail environmental behaviours have been a major issue during the year)
  - \* Acting as single point of contact with Network Rail for Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade as part of their Lewes to Newhaven Re-signalling Project
4. Highways Issues
    - \* Maintaining a log of reported highways issues and chasing resolution with East Sussex Highways
    - \* Issues satisfactorily resolved include:
      - Repairs to damaged verges from Level crossing diversions
      - Repairs to damage to footpath and posts at Downsview Cottages
      - Installation of reflective posts at A275 / Town Littleworth Road junction
      - Repairs to Potholes on The Drove
    - \* Assistance with agenda preparation for Strengthening Local Relationships meeting
  5. Anti-Social Behaviour Issues
    - \* Early morning patrols
    - \* Assistance with agenda preparation for Community Meeting
    - \* Research and sharing info on applicable powers available to PC and local residents
  6. Chatfield Close development
    - \* Liaison with LDC Enforcement Officer on parking issues
    - \* Verification of landscaping obligations
  7. Offham Bus Shelter working party
    - \* Organisation of working party to clear vegetation and litter from Offham bus shelter
  8. PC reports and Hamsey News reports
    - \* Preparing reports for all Environment, Rail and Highways issues

#### **2018/2019 Objectives**

1. Put myself forward for the role of Vice Chair of the Parish Council as I believe that I can make a significant contribution to the community in this capacity
2. Oversee the successful completion of the Cooksbridge level crossing upgrade works being carried out by Network Rail throughout this period and ensure that the impact on local residents is kept to a minimum
3. Continue my involvement in the Environment Sub-Committee, and addressing Rail and Highways issues, continuously developing new initiatives to enhance our effectiveness and the service we provide to our community
4. Proactively address any new issues that arise throughout the year working closely with, and supporting at all times, the Chair of the Parish Council
5. Attend all Parish Council meetings and participate in debate / voting on all issues'

*Robert you have been invaluable on the PC this year. Your ability to juggle so many communications and actions with our organisation partners has been impressive and a great help to me. Your persistence to push past brush offs and fight in the politest way possible, for our parish has been remarkable; when most people may have accepted defeat or just been worn down and requests fallen to the wayside, you don't give up and amazingly things do get done, your perseverance pays off. You are a calm, wise and resolute colleague and a pleasure to work with on the PC. It is clear how passionately you care about your local area and the people in it, especially with your commitment to litter picks and to the improvement of highways and rail services. You have happily taken a lead on the many projects you have*

*outlined here and by taking these on you have freed us up to be more proactive as a council. You've been a great support this last year and a great ambassador for the council so I am relieved you will stay on for another year and pleased that you would like to expand your duties further by putting yourself forward for the position of Vice Chair.*

**Cllr. Kate McBrown** – *'Thank you, I really enjoyed working with everyone on community projects including the playground and Children's Christmas party. I look forward to working in the future with you all for years to come on new projects including having the exercise equipment installed at the hall.'*

*Kate, you've been a real credit to the PC this past year, always keeping children and young people high on our agenda and willing to get involved in fund raising and making plans come to life. I've been so impressed by the way you have used your position as councillor for the good of the residents; be it working with Jenni on playground plans, planning fun events or haranguing the county council for pavement repairs. You continue to raise the profile of the PC and yourself as a councillor in such a positive light and it's a pleasure to see you develop and be such a good role model not only for your own children who are clearly very proud of you, but to all young people towards whom you are so inclusive and committed. Thank you.'*

**Jenni Toomey-**

*I have said it many times before and I will say again that you are the glue that holds the parish council together. Through your guidance and hard work, many hours per month of which is unpaid and well out of your job description, you've made great things happen. And you've managed to finance them through your amazing grant applications. Almost everything we have achieved as a council you have had some part to play in, even down to the paperwork, books and signage for our Phone Books. You have had a lot to deal with in terms of changes to policies and additions at Beechwood Hall this year where you have been the person to face the music and you have taken the rough end of residents' reactions, more than once. You've continued to be a great strength and I would like it recorded that you do have the council's full support. Thank you for all you do.*

**Chair, 2017-2018-** *This year my top 5 memorable moments were probably standing in my balaclava at 5am one morning to catch the bin chucker on Chandlers Mead, stacking our first books into the Phone Books (great name by the way Robert), being part of such a positive community meeting, resurrecting Cooksbridge Stoolball and getting the Switch Off your engine signs around the level crossing agreed and supplied by LDC. Next year during my time on the council I would like to continue to support Hamsey School in gaining planning approval for a car park to relieve the parking pressures and improve road safety outside the school. My biggest target is to mediate with landowners to help us achieve our goal of a shared use, accessible path between Hamsey and Lewes.*

*I have enjoyed this past year on the council. Key for me is that I've enjoyed working with every person on the council, all of whom make our time together effective and best of all harmonious and it's been wonderful to see our projects come together. I will be happy to stand as Chair again for next year.*

## **Min. 5 - Report from Beechwood Hall trustees:**

### **Key Improvements and Developments**

The trustees are very grateful for the support of the parish council and working together, many improvements are planned including new play equipment, additional car parking and an all weather court for tennis and ball games.

Already the park is pleased to have an outside convenience for park visitors and new goals which have meant the local junior footballers now practice at the park two or three times each week.

All of the facilities have and will be provided through a mixture of fund raising and profits from hall rental income, providing much needed additional social and sporting facilities for residents with no extra financial burden on them.

The hall has had its annual repair and repaint and is looking its best for the new season. Trustees have appointed a maintenance manager to take care of the thousand and one jobs that keep the hall and grounds in good order. Previously these jobs have been carried out by local volunteers and the trustees would like to thank Jim Edwards and more recently Tom Walker for so kindly donating their time and energy.

#### **Help and Support Needed**

The Beechwood Hall Trustees are keen to add another Trustee to their team and if anyone is interested to join we would be delighted to hear from them. Similarly, and perhaps even more urgently, we need to find someone to take on the role of Secretary to the Trustees, an administrative role that requires good organisational skills and enthusiasm! Any person interested in either of these "roles" should contact Rod Hearn - Chair of the Trustees at [rod.hearn@hotmail.com](mailto:rod.hearn@hotmail.com)

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