

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the Parish of North Mundham held at the Village Hall on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 which commenced at 7.00pm

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Denia Turnbull (Chairman), Tim Russell (Vice Chairman), Rob Callaway-Lewis, Jon Stuart, Annie Maclean, Frances Neave, Paul Chivers and Adrian Sampson.

**In attendance:** Mrs Louise Chater (Clerk to North Mundham Parish Council), Guy Martyn (Principal of Chichester Free School), Stephen King (Chair of School Governors, Chichester Free School), Andy Forsyth (Chairman, Mundham & District British Legion), District Cllr. Paul Jarvis, Chris Shimwell (reporter Chichester Observer), 40 registered electors and 1 member of the public.

### A01.14 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present and introduced the members of the Parish Council and the speakers.

### A02.14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013

On a proposal by Mrs. Frances Neave it was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and these were duly signed.

### A03.14 Presentation by Mr Guy Martyn, Principal Chichester Free School on the first year of the Free School and way forward.

Mr Guy Martyn gave a very informative and interesting presentation on the Free School.

Q: There are no houses near the new school building. All children will have to travel to school and this will cause traffic jams on the Hunston road. What is the total capacity of the new school?

A: The maximum capacity will be approximately 1200 children including the 6<sup>th</sup> form. We are currently working on the travel plan and it is expected that we will have to contribute to West Sussex County Council to make changes to the road layout including widening the access road. There are also proposals to provide access via a pedestrian bridge over the A27. In addition to the mini buses currently used, the new school is on the main bus service route for Selsey and Bognor.

Q: What is the schools position on members of staff belonging to the union and will you be plagued with strike action?

A: We actively encourage membership of the union as it provides very good protection to the staff. We have currently been unaffected by the recent strike action as the conditions that the unions are concerned about are already in place at the school.

Q: Do the school holidays differ from main stream schools?

A: The school is closed for an additional 14 days over the year and we usually tack these onto normal holiday periods to enable travel outside of the peak travel season.

Q: You stated there is no catchment area for the school. What is the criteria for admission?

A: West Sussex County Council select the names at random although there is the usual special considerations like "looked after children", children with special needs and siblings who have priority.

Q: How big is the new site?

A: 7.3 acres of walled garden, and we are currently exploring the possibility of purchasing additional land adjacent to the site.

Q: Will you be at full capacity when you open the new school?

A: No. In September 2014 we will be accepting two reception classes and three year seven classes, and from September 2015 we will be accepting a maximum of 60 children for reception and 120 secondary children.

Q: Are you offering nursery places?

A: No we are not currently planning this.

Q: Have you been inspected by OFSTED?

A: We were inspected prior to opening and we are expecting to be inspected sometime next year.

Q: You stated funding for state schools is "creamed off" by the County Council - what is this used for?

A: Many services are provided by the County Council, for example providing support for vulnerable pupils, and safeguarding issues. A proportion of state schools funding goes directly to West Sussex County Council for these services. We can choose to access these services for exactly what we require.

A resident stated that most schools have been given their full budget other than £200 per child which is given to the County Council. From September all schools will have the right to opt out of the national curriculum. They expressed surprise that the Free School is an all-through school as the Department for Education considers this inappropriate as there is a tendency for older children to bully the younger pupils.

Mr Martyn responded: The school provides plenty of opportunity for the older children to engage with the younger children and there have been lots of studies that show that bullying usually occurs if the younger children are not known as people, by the older children. By involving the older children as play leaders and assisting with clubs the younger children are known people and the younger children look up to the older children.

Q: What priority is given to children with Special Educational Needs and ethnic minority children?

A: The school advertises throughout the whole area, currently 25% of the pupils have special educational needs and 16 children out of 210 have English as second language.

Q: You stated that you expect the children to stay after school for after school clubs - this would prevent children from belonging to groups like cubs etc.

A: Twice a week the children can attend outside activities however we expect them to be engaged in an activity and not at home watching telly or playing on the x-box.

Q: What is the new school going to be called?

A: The school is currently called Chichester Free School - the school governors would be reviewing this in due course.

A: Do you have assemblies and what religious education do you provide?

Q: There are two assemblies a week. We are required to give the children the opportunity to reflect, and we do this by exploring the themes reflected in the term names: temperance, justice, courage and wisdom.

Q: Are all your teachers qualified?

A: We currently have only one teacher who is not qualified as it is difficult to find Latin teachers. This teacher is treated as a newly qualified teacher and receives a huge amount of support.

The Chairman asked if the parish councillors would be able to visit the new site before work commenced and once the school had been opened. Mr Martyn responded that there would be no issue with the members of the council visiting once the school was open. However, he felt it would be difficult to provide the opportunity for a visit prior to the work commencing.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Martyn for his time.

A04.14 Talk by Andy Forsyth, Chairman Mundham and District British Legion, on the Parish during the Great War.

The parish was a rural community with a Lord of the Manor, and his brother was the incumbent vicar of St Stephen's. Both did much to improve the parish and the church.

The vast majority of the population of the village was working class who worked as agricultural labourers and in other farming related jobs.

Over the four years of the war 116 men connected with North Mundham served in the Forces and of these 20 lost their life as a direct result of the conflict. The Harmer's, Horner's, Joyce's, Kelly's, Lambourne's, Pullen's, West's and Wingate's all had three or more members in the Services. There were very few men serving as officers, the majority being with infantry units fighting in the trenches on the Belgium/French border where a number are buried. At least 22 of the men who enlisted throughout the period of the war are known to have been choir boys at St Stephen's Church.

The women and children of the parish took on more of the farm work and the school holidays were set around the busy farm times, especially harvest and picking periods.

There is very little official record of North Mundham as it was not particularly affected other than by the loss of the work force. There is no mention of North Mundham being involved in the war in the Parish Newsletters or the Church Vestry minutes for the period of 1914 and 1921.

Three years after the end of the war following fund raising the war memorial was built to remember 10 people. In 2011 following research a further 10 residents were identified, and

these have been added to the Roll of Honour which is read out every remembrance day.

Q: Is the British Legion or the Parish Council acknowledging the anniversary of the start of the war?

A: There will be the usual annual remembrance church service followed by the poppy day lunch, and some liaison with the school in recognising the anniversary.

The Chairman thanked Andy for his presentation and David Coward for his hard work researching the history of the parish.

#### A05.14 Report by Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Denia Turnbull

The positive action for this period had been the promotion of the affordable housing project which was endorsed by public meeting in 2012. The ground work had commenced and the developers have advised the site will be completed by the Autumn. A local connection registration event will take place shortly before the site is completed.

Following the completion of the work on the pavilion annexe the Village Hall Management Committee have been working hard to replace the loss of the Sunbeams income, and part of this has been to provide a new kitchen to improve the facilities of the hall. Terry Reed is in control of the bookings for both buildings, however, the billing and funding of both buildings remains completely separate.

The Parish Council had worked hard to encourage the riparian owners in South Mundham to clean out their ditches and following this work the flooding had been significantly reduced.

The Parish Council had been investigating the options for the layby on the Vinnetrow Road ; West Sussex County Council and local businesses wish to see it remain open. Further discussions are planned to see how this area can be improved.

Small domestic planning applications continue to arrive. The large scale developments in the past year have been the Free School on Vinnetrow Road and the proposed Grain Dryer and Store on the food park. A new application for a large greenhouse and office block on the Horticultural Development Area is expected imminently.

The Parish Council had worked closely with the British Legion and the Parochial Church Council on the way forward for the parish War Memorial, as a result of which the Parish Council had accepted responsibility for the war memorial and cleaning of the memorial had been arranged.

Work continues to try and provide a safer crossing at the Walnut Tree Pub. The County Council have recently carried out a road safety investigation, and the Parish Council have requested that West Sussex County progress options 5 and 6.

The Parish Council continues to work with other bodies including the Youth Club, the Primary School, the Playing Field Trust, the Police, the Police Community Support Officer, the French Exchange Group and the Parish Polishers.

On the downside we experienced the traveller's incursion onto the playing field car park, however, the parish polishers assisted Playing Field Management Committee in clearing the site. The Parish Council provided funding for the installation of height restriction barriers with the assistance of a grant from Chichester District Council. The vandalism of the bus shelters unfortunately continues to be an issue.

The Hyde Group had requested the Parish provide suggestions for a name for the affordable housing site:

The Chairman read out the suggestions which had been received following the article in the recent newsletter and asked the Assembly to indicate which ones they liked. The numbers favouring each name were as follows:

Tumble Bay Meadow - 1

Meadow Place - 5

Old Canal Court - 9

Old Canal Close - 1

Pullen Close - 1

Roger Withy Way - 0

Hyde Park - 0

Canal Mead - 21

The Chairman thanked the team for their hard work and the tremendous responsibility that the Parish Councillors undertook.

And finally don't forget to buy your open gardens tickets this evening.

Q: Can you give any details of options available for the safe crossing at the Walnut Tree pub?

A: There were six options, two of which West Sussex County Council have recommended although none of the options completely solve the problems at this location.

The resident stated that it would be an improvement even if the solutions available only went partway solve the problems at this location and she offered feedback the options available. The Chairman thanked her and agreed to take her details after the meeting.

Q: When will the Stoney Meadow Close Appeal be decided?

A: The Planning Inspectorate had visited the site, however, they had not yet published their decision.

Q: The new grain drier on the Horticultural Development Area; where the access be?

A: From the A27 via the Food Park entrance. There is no access from the Vinnetrow Road.

Q: What controls are in place on the noise from the grain dryer?

A: The Parish Council does not have the details of the restrictions.

#### A06.14 Open Floor Discussion

The "VR" had been removed from the post box on Saltham Lane -please can the Parish Council arrange for this to be replaced.

**CLERK**

John Alywin Memorial Bench requires work or replacement

**AGENDA**

Can you arrange for any improvements to the disused canal between the S-bend and Hunston Diary? The Chairman responded that the Parish Council had investigated this sometime ago but there were issues with water pollution, road safety and the width of the bank.

Helpers required for the pensioners lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 - please speak to Jeanie Down if you are able to assist

Please give careful consideration before closing the layby there is a shortage of places to stop, however, it does need tidying up.

The bus shelters are in good repair however, there are issues with the bus stops; are you able to improve the situation? The Chairman responded that Parish Council had some limited funding available. The Parish Council had been looking at solutions to provide a better alighting point at the end of Marsh Lane following comments from residents previously on this subject. As well as improvements being made to the bus stop on the B2166, if funding was available a footpath might be installed to the Runcton Farm Shop, however, the quote received for this path was in the region of £106,000. The resident responded a footpath to the farm shop would be a great asset. There was also criticism of the bus shelter opposite the Walnut Tree which continues to attract a puddle in wet weather which makes it unusable.

The chairman thanked everybody for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_