

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday 24th October 2017 at The Barn, Long Platt

ATTENDEES

Committee Members:

Brian White (BW)	<i>Chairman</i>
Bob Allison (RA)	<i>Treasurer (see apologies)</i>
Carole Martin (CM)	<i>Secretary</i>
Andrew Moffat (AM)	<i>NHW Coordinator</i>
Jilly Marcuson (JM)	<i>Alternate Secretary</i>
Ruth Simmonds (RS)	<i>Social Secretary</i>

Residents:

Lynne White	Chris & Jeanette Brickell	Jim & Gill Shaw
Robin Martin	Peeta Keown	Fraser Norton
Rod & Gil Wilson	Barry & Heather Davis	
Frank Riddle	Andrea Lawson	
John & Pam Wellard	Roger & Susan Burroughs	
Mary Smithers	Audrey Rose	
David & Sara Faithfull	Jane Allison	

*Carol Boniface
(Neighbourhood Warden)*

*Ray Quested
(PPC)*

*Cllr Paul Clarke
(Pulborough &
Coldwaltham Ward, HDC)*

Apologies:

Bob Allison	Peter & Lynda Williams
Bridget Gladwin	Peter & Margaret Gregory
John & Nadine Guest	

WELCOME

The Chairman (BW) welcomed residents and expressed pleasure at the good turnout.

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25th JULY 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

1. MATTERS ARISING

- 1.1) Precept Presentation / Discussion

BW introduced Councillor Paul Clarke (PC) who kindly agreed to attend the meeting to explain the precept and how it is derived and approved each year. He explained that the majority of the precept was used to cover staff costs such as the part time clerk and deputy clerk, groundsmen, cleaners, common and recreation site maintenance. There is also a rolling programme of surveying trees with resulting maintenance and upkeep. Other funding requirements include outside sports equipment (although there is a grant from Government towards this), the rebuilding of the sports centre meeting rooms in Pulborough and ongoing funding for the neighbourhood wardens.

Andrew Moffatt (AM) expressed concern as to why the precept in Pulborough was so much higher than that of West Chiltington, especially since he felt there was little discussion or consultation with residents. Furthermore, he felt there seemed to be little emphasis on looking at areas where cuts could be made. PC told the meeting that council and finance committee meetings where these issues were discussed, are well publicised on the council website and notice boards. Also, Pulborough has a social and recreation centre and many more play centres and sports opportunities than West Chiltington, so it is unrealistic to make comparisons.

The discussion continued on a range of issues, in particular the increase in housing in Pulborough in recent years and why this additional income did not reduce the precept for residents. AM asked if it would be possible to forecast the annual increase for residents so people were aware in advance and also to benchmark against other parishes. PC stated that this information was available each year via the rates bill received from HDC.

It was suggested that PC attend an NRA meeting, say once a year, before the precept was agreed. PC advised that he would be happy to do so but did emphasise that he would be speaking as an individual and not the finance committee.

Pam Wellard (PW) then asked PC a question regarding what was happening to the proposed building of 9 flats at Swan Corner as planning permission had been

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

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granted some considerable time ago but the building remained undeveloped and an eyesore. PC informed the meeting that there was an ongoing dispute about access for building materials, removal of rubble etc, which has not yet been resolved.

Frank Riddle (FR) concluded the discussion with the suggestion that the council considers using 'survey monkey' to ascertain residents' views on the precept and a range of other issues. This can only be accessed via the internet, however this plus libraries and notice boards should be sufficient.

- **1.2) Parish Neighbourhood Wardens - Report**

Carol Boniface (CB) reported on a few of the areas she and Vanessa had been involved in recently:

- Referrals of vulnerable elderly people for a range of support services
- Helping older people report possible scams / incidents to the police
- Fly tipping
- Help with a missing dog
- Stickers on public waste bins to inform that they can be used for dog waste
- Attending forums with the police regarding online crime
- Regular patrolling of the area

CB also informed the meeting of the introduction of free badminton in the village hall for older residents and also an abseiling session that has taken place at Lodge Hill, working with Ashington.

Finally CB brought a sample of a light timer which is available free to older people, to leave on when they go out in the evening. BW asked the meeting to let him know of any residents who might benefit from a timer and he would ensure they receive one. **ACTION – ALL / BW**

The meeting expressed their thanks to the wardens and agreed they were doing a very useful and important job.

- **1.3) Broadband for Nutbourne – Update**

BW said he was not aware of any specific issues following the recent introduction of high speed broadband, but asked people to inform him if they had any problems.

Rod Wilson (RW) mentioned that during the following week, Open Reach would be working around the area of the cabinet in Nutbourne Road. However this

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday 24th October 2017 at The Barn, Long Platt

was only to solve a problem for one resident who was unable to be connected following the original work.

- **1.4) Travellers' Site – Lane Top**

At the last NRA meeting, a Consultation Paper from the council on potential new sites for Gypsies and Travellers was discussed. Such sites are necessary to conform with Government requirements. BW said that confusion remained around the Lane Top site, so he had written to the council asking for clarification. He received a response which stated that the number of pitches at Lane Top would not be increased from the existing 3, but the proposal was to remove the restriction on these sites being approved for one family only, to being permanent non restricted sites. BW wrote back to say that Nutbourne residents would be concerned about this but has not yet had a response.

PC said that Horsham has a problem identifying the required number of sites for the travelling community, set down by Government. A lengthy discussion ensued emphasising , in particular, the limited and difficult vehicle access to Lane Top, which would become a real problem if the 'personal' restrictions were lifted. PC concluded the discussion by saying that he believed there would be a further consultation before any strategy was finalised.

- **1.5) Drilling on our doorstep - Update**

BW has received a letter from the Action Group opposing drilling at Broadford Bridge, outlining their recent activities. They claimed to have detected some changes in the water quality even at this early stage. BW would be happy to email a copy of the full letter to anyone interested. **NOTE - ALL**

- **1.6) Roadwatch**

BW has been in touch with the Highways Department on a number of occasions, regarding potholes on Nutbourne Lane. Some have been repaired but others remain so he will continue to pursue this with WSCC. **ACTION – BW**

- **1.7) Social Events 2017**

Pumpkin Roll – 5th November

Christmas Drinks at the Rising Sun – 10th December

Christmas Carols at the Rising Sun – 17th December

Ruth Simmonds (RS) asked if anyone had a particular charity they would like to benefit from these events, to please make BW aware. **NOTE – ALL**

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday 24th October 2017 at The Barn, Long Platt

2. AOB

- FR has been in touch with WSCC about putting in a swing gate on the public path by Lower Nash Farm. This would enable older people to make a circular walk without having to climb over a stile. He also highlighted a few other awkward styles and will keep the NRA informed.
- Audrey Rose alerted the meeting to a call she had received before 8am one morning, from what turned out to be 'windows 10 scammers'. She said this was very upsetting given it is unusual to receive such an early call unless it is regarding something important.
- Ray Quested (RQ) reported on a number of relevant issues:
 - At a full council meeting held the previous night, a decision was made to join the Arun Valley Railway Users Group, as Pulborough station is becoming very run down. This group will hopefully help us to upgrade the building but still maintain its character
 - The introduction of the new parking regulations seems to have adversely affected businesses in Lower Street, so the possibility of introducing some form of free parking for one hour is being looked at
 - There is a plan to build a new 2 storey sports pavilion with McConnells as the main contractor. This will be expensive but there is money put by and some grants are available
 - The Pulborough Community Partnership is progressing well with plans, together with the RSPB, to create a nature trail from the station to the brooks. This will cost £150,000-£200,000 but there will be no cost to the village
 - Harwoods have obtained permission to move all their business to Brinsbury. They have applied for around 700 parking spaces but note that Brinsbury is not in fact in our parish. However a concern remains about what will happen to the existing Harwoods site.
- AM advised that all was quiet on the NHW front, except for some reported break-ins to garden sheds.
- BW reported that he and FR had attended a parish meeting about Nutbourne Common and the ongoing concerns regarding the lack of vegetation. It has been agreed to replant some indigenous shrubs. BW suggested that the NRA

NUTBOURNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

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contributes £100 to buying seeds/plants and the meeting agreed to support this.

- BW updated the meeting on a letter he had received regarding potential mineral extraction in the area, specifically silica sand. The issue is whether it is acceptable to extract this within a national park. Apparently it has to be proven that there is a *national* shortage of silica sand before it can be extracted from a national park and only after the pros and cons are considered will a Government inspector make the final decision. RQ said he had heard that the proposed site was not commercially viable in any case.

3. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 in The Barn, Long Platt, at 7.15pm. THIS WILL BE THE AGM.

Accepted as accurate

----- **Chairman**

-----**Date**