

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PLAISTOW AND IFOLD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2008 AT 7.30pm AT WINTERTON  
HALL, PLAISTOW**

**Present:** Councillors - Mr J. Kirby (In the Chair), Mr D. Clement, Mr S. East, Mr B. Gravestock, Mr T. Laidlaw, Mr D. Lugton, Mrs R. Perrin, Mr D. Ribbens and Mrs P. Ryder

The Chairman welcomed **Daniel Duthie, the National Trust's Property Manager for West Sussex Countryside Properties**. Mr Duthie commented briefly on the National Trust land in the Parish and how it is the responsibility of the National Trust to manage the Trust's own land. He commented that there was no 'top-down' budget from the National Trust for the Slindon area, all work outside of Slindon was funded by the rents etc. garnered from the Slindon tenants.

Questions were asked about the management of Todhurst. Mr Duthie commented that, as from next season, there would be a hay meadow cut in June, not in November as last year. Further that the second cut would be mid to late September. When asked if the arising would be removed, Mr Duthie stated that only one cut was allowed in the Trust's contract and the contract did not include taking away the arisings. Mr Duthie commented that a National Trust volunteer group could undertake baling at Todhurst.

The Chairman asked if a Licence could be granted to the Parish Council in respect of Todhurst. Mr Duthie thought that this might be possible.

When questioned about the ditch at the side of The Green, Mr Duthie commented that he had looked at the ditch within the last two weeks and wouldn't advise any clearance work.

The Chairman commented that the pond adjacent to Plaistow Stores, in the ownership of The Trust was very overgrown. Mr Duthie commented that a Trust volunteer groups might be available for this work.

The Chairman thanked Mr Duthie for attending the meeting.

The Chairman then welcomed **Ray Fildes from Woodcon Ltd.**, the supplier of the notice boards at Kelsey Hall. Mr Fildes gave an outline of the company and the development of the product. He gave an apology for the problems that had been experienced and went on to say that Woodcon had very recently gone into receivership and that the agreement to replace the notice board was with Woodcon and not the new company; which was embarrassing for him.

Mr Fildes agreed that he would liaise with the Clerk as to a resolution to the issue within 14 days.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fildes for attending the meeting.

## COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were 10 members of the public present.

**Mr Ridout** commented that the AGM of the Plaistow Trust would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 8pm at The Sun Inn.

### 0181. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Forwood (illness) and Councillor Wheeler (personal)

### 0182. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 having previously been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true record

(b) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were received and noted

(c) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were received and noted

### 0183. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

### 0184. Declarations of Interest

The following **Personal Interests** were declared in agenda item 9(b) – to approve the Council's Budget for 2008/2009 -

(a) **All Members present** in any matter relating to Winterton Hall, as the Parish Council was the custodian trustee of the Hall

(b) **Councillor Kirby** – Plaistow Youth Club, as Chairman of the Youth Club

(c) **Councillor Gravestock** – Kelsey Hall, as Chairman of the Kelsey Hall Management Committee

(d) **Councillor Perrin** – Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School, as a School Governor

(e) **Councillor Ribbens** – Ifold Scouts, as Scout Leader

**Councillor Ryder** declared a **Prejudicial Interest** in matters relating to Plaistow FC, as her company was a sponsor of the Football Club

### 0185. Chairman's Report – including Urgent Matters, as appropriate

Members noted receipt of the written Chairman's Report.

#### (a) WSCC Bus Shelter Grants Scheme

Members noted the details of the Scheme

- (b) **CDC Local Character Enhancement Grant Scheme**  
Members noted that WSCC appeared to be working on the finger posts at Todhurst and opposite The Sun Inn. It was considered that the signs at Lyons Corner and at the bottom of The Green might come within the remit of the scheme.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That enquiries be made of WSCC as to whether the finger posts at Lyons Green and The Green were to be repaired and if not, costings be obtained, with a view to obtaining a grant.**

- (c) **Bus Service No. 64**  
The Chairman reported that Bus 64 to Horsham would now run on Mondays and Thursdays, instead of Fridays and Saturdays. This was for commercial and operational reasons. The Chairman asked that any queries on the change be directed to Compass Travel direct.

- (d) **Remit of the Finance Committee**  
The Chairman drew Members' attention to the Clerk's Report for the Finance Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Councillor Lugton commented that, at times, the Finance item on an agenda could be rushed. Following brief discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That a Report be prepared for an additional meeting of the Finance Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 to discuss proposals to extend the work of the Committee**

- (e) **Parish Web Site**  
The Chairman commented that the web site was not up-to-date. Councillor Laidlaw commented that the diary of events was showing the wrong schedule of meetings.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That the Chairman and the Clerk meet with Councillor Wheeler to discuss the way forward**

**0186. Reports of County and District Councillors**

**County Councillor Duncton** commented that the issues of St Richard's Hospital and the future of Plaistow Post Office were currently undecided.

With regard to Highways, Mr Duncton commented that Steve Johnson from WSCC was visiting Loxwood on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and that it might be possible for him to visit the Parish at the same time.

Mr Duncton commented that he had recently visited Plaistow Stores and Plaistow & Kirdford Primary School and that he was very impressed with both facilities.

**0187. Finance Matters**

**(a) Accounts submitted for payment**

A schedule of Accounts submitted for payment for the period 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008 was circulated to Members and is attached to the end of the Minutes.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That the payments submitted for payment be approved**

**(b) Council Budget 2008/2009**

Member noted receipt of the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and the proposed draft Budget for the forthcoming year.

Councillor East commented that whilst he did not have an issue with the detailed Reserves, he was concerned that every £1 spent cost another £1 to spend. He was concerned that the percentage spent on administration is high and that the current year's expenditure particularly was high on administration, rather than on items for the community.

Members noted that many of the items in the administration category were not, in fact, administration e.g. printing costs of Parish Up-Date, subscriptions. Members further noted that the largest item of expenditure was the Clerk's salary. The point was made that as a Parish Council, there has to be a Clerk.

At this point, the Clerk left the meeting room to allow free discussion. On the Clerk's return, the Chairman asked Council to approve the Budget for 2008/2009.

**Councillor Perrin moved that Council approve the Budget for the financial year 2008/2009. Councillor Gravestock seconded the motion.**

**Councillors Kirby, Clement, Laidlaw, Lugton, Ribbens and Ryder voted for the motion, by show of hands.**

**Councillor East voted against the motion**

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That the Budget for the financial year 2008/2009, encapsulating the recommendations of the Finance Committee, be approved**

(c) **Parish Precept requirement for 2008/2009**

Based on the approved Budget

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That the Parish Precept requirement for 2008/2009 be £27,500.**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council thanked Councillor Lugton and the Clerk for their work on the Budget.

**0188. Situation Report on previously reported matters**

(a) **The Green at Plaistow**

Following Mr Duthie's comments

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

(i) **That the Open Spaces Working Group meet at The Green on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 at 9.30am; and**

(ii) **That a Report be prepared for the next Council meeting**

(b) **Play Area Repairs**

Members noted that the minor repairs would be effected in drier weather.

(c) **Notice Board at Kelsey Hall**

Members noted the comments of Mr Fildes from Woodcon Ltd. earlier in the meeting

(d) **Village Design Statement and Action Plan**

Members noted the Village Design Statement was now available for sending to CDC for their comments

(e) **Resurfacing of the footpath from The Drive to the Loxwood Stream**

Members noted that the issue had not been progressed. Following discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That confirmation be sought from WSCC that the previous permission was still valid and that quotations be sought**

(f) **Police Issues in the Parish**

Councillor Laidlaw confirmed that he would arrange for an officer to attend the March meeting.

- (g) Plaistow Post Office**  
Members noted that the outcome for the future of the Post Office would be known within the next two weeks or so
- (h) Post Box at The Ride, Ifold**  
Members noted that the Post Box had been repaired. Members further noted that the telephone box in Ifold had still to be repaired.
- (i) Dunsfold Park**  
Members noted that there was no current information available.

**0189. Highway Matters**

- (a) Councillor Perrin commented that the sign post at Chalk Road still bore graffiti
- (b) Councillor Gravestock commented that there had been sewage discharge in Ifold and asked that a letter (as drafted) be sent to Southern Water
- (c) Councillor Perrin commented that the recurrence of flooding problems at Pittsgate was believed to be due to a blocked culvert under the road

**0190. Matters raised by members for the next meeting**

There were no matters raised

**0191. Date of next meeting -**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30pm at Kelsey Hall, Ifold**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm