

Agenda Item No 4 Unconfirmed minutes

Joint Downland Area Committee

21 September 2015– At a meeting of the Committee held at 7.00 p.m. at The White Swan Hotel, Arundel

Present:

West Sussex County Council: Mr Peters, Mr Whittington, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Urquhart

Arun District Council: Councillors: Mr Charles, Mr Bicknell, Mr Wensley, Mr Dingemans and Mr Haymes

Town/Parish Council representatives: Councillors: Mr M Beaton (Aldingbourne), Mrs S Francis (Angmering), Mrs A Harriott (Arundel), Mr Phillips (Barnham), Mr Humphris (Clymping), Mr Allington (Eastergate), Mrs Mackerel (Findon), Mr Ford (Ford), Mr Curtis (Poling), Mrs Brimblecombe (Slindon), Mrs Wallsgrove (Walberton), Mrs A Standing (Warningcamp) and Mr Pickthall (Yapton)

Officers: Karl Roberts, Director (ADC), Monique Smart, Democratic Services Officer (WSSC) and Pete Lawrence, Principal Community Officer (WSSC).

Chairman's Welcome

35. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Charles, welcomed everyone to the meeting

36. Apologies had been received from Councillors Mr Dendle, Mr Goldsworthy, Mr Brown, Mr Looker and Mr Hulmes. It was confirmed that Cllr Mrs Standing was substituting for Cllr Mr Brown. It was also noted that the representative for Arundel Town Council was Cllr Mrs Harriott not Cllr Mr Stewart as stated on the agenda and the representative for Aldingbourne Parish Council was now Cllr Mr Beaton.

Appointments

37. Following the decision that the Chairmanship of the Joint Arun Area Committees should rotate amongst the three tiers, the Chairman for 2015/16 would be a Town or Parish Councillor and the Vice Chairman would be a County Councillor.

38. The Chairman explained that following the elections in May 2015 JDAC had a number of new Town and Parish Council representatives. To allow new Members the opportunity to see a JDAC meeting in action and have time to decide if they wish to nominate themselves for Chairman, it was agreed that the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Charles, remain as Chairman for the June meeting. Therefore a Town or Parish Councillor was now sought for the remainder of 2015/16.

39. Nominations were received from Cllr Mrs Francis (Angmering), Cllr Beaton (Aldingbourne) and Cllr Pickthall (Yapton).

40. **Resolved** that Cllr Beaton be appointed as Chairman of JDAC for the remainder of the 2015/16 municipal year.

41. Nominations were also sought for a Town or Parish Council representative to the Community Initiative Sub Group.

42. **Resolved** that the Town or Parish Council representative on the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) Sub Group for 2015/16 be Cllr Mrs Harriott.

Declarations of Interest

43. No declarations of interest were declared.

Minutes

44. Resolved – that with the amendment that Jean Goad was awarded an MBE not an OBE, the minutes of the Joint Downland Area Committee (JDAC) held on 22 June 2015 are confirmed as a correct record and are signed by the Chairman.

Progress Statement

45. The Progress Statement was noted.

Talk with us – public question time

46. The Chairman invited questions from members of the public. Questions were asked to which responses were given, including those set out below:

- Mrs Gaylor from Hammerpot was grateful to JDAC and particularly Mrs Urquhart and Kevin Macknay for helping to progress the proposed Highways England works at Hammerpot as detailed in JDAC Area Action Plan. In relation to this Cllr Bicknell stated that the ditches on the northside of the A27 had still not been cleared.

Community Policing Update

47. The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Chris Pickton who provided an update on current issues in the JDAC area. A number of issues were discussed including those set out below:

- The changes to Neighbourhood Policing, introduced in July, were showing real benefits across the Districts and provided much more flexibility with deploying resources.
- Some Members raised concern about increase in crime statistics. Sergeant Pickton stated that these are reviewed each week and resources are targeted where appropriate. He also stated that the recording of crimes has improved.
- Some positive action had been taken following reports of noisy and disruptive mopeds.

Area Action Plan

48. The Chairman referred Members to the Area Action Plan previously circulated. The Committee noted the Area Action Plan. A number of issues in relation to the plan were discussed including those set out below:

- 2 – It was confirmed that the EA had published the approved plan for the maintenance of coastal defences at Clymping. Mr Roberts undertook to provide a copy to Clymping Parish Council and a link would be added to the Area Action Plan for the next meeting.
- 3 – It was suggested that some Broadband suppliers do not have the means to provide super-fast broadband in areas it should be available. It was agreed that Monique Smart would feed this back to the Broadband team at WSCC to see if any pressure can be put on suppliers.
- 4 – In relation to improvements to the A27 Cllr Bicknell asked if JDAC could be provided with more information about the proposed routes for an Arundel Bypass. It was confirmed that published information was on the Highways England website and a link could be provided for the next meeting. However it was noted that some information being shared with key stakeholders may not be in the public domain.
- 4 – It was asked if there were any timescales for the proposed A29 realignment. Mr Roberts confirmed that there were no confirmed timescales and in the light of changes to the Local Plan timetable he would update the Area Action Plan for the next meeting.

Community Initiative Funding

49. The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law, Assurance and Strategy, West Sussex County Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the County Council Members of the Committee on the applications received under the Community Initiative Funding (CIF) scheme. The Committee debated the respective merits of the projects for which funding was sought.

50. Before going through the CIF Sub Group recommendations Mrs Urquhart reminded JDAC that the fund had £13,654.00 remaining and encouraged Members to promote the fund in their communities.

51. The application from 'Walk This Way' provoked much debate. Mrs Urquhart raised concern that the group was only for women and could go against the County Councils equality policy. Concern was also raised about the equipment that the grant would be used for and that walkers could supply their own equipment. It was also suggested that a number of walking groups were already established in the area. Mr Peters spoke in favour of the application as it promoted exercise and social interaction. He also stated that the County Council had previously given awards to all male groups such as 'men in sheds'. It was agreed that Monique Smart would seek legal advice that the 'Walk This Way' application did not go against the County Council equality policy before any grants were released.

52. The County Councillors on the Committee resolved that Community Initiative Funding be allocated as follows:

The following application was approved: -

782/JDAC – Walk This Way, £1,145.82 to help set up a women's walking group.

The following application was declined: -

763/JDAC – Walberton Parish Council £3,675.00 for a new wooden bus shelter in the village. This was declined as it does not meet the criteria for CIF as Walberton Parish Council are a precepting authority.

Community Grant Applications

53. The Committee considered a report by Director, Arun District Council (copy appended to the signed minutes), which sought a decision from the Committee on the applications received under the Community Grant fund.

54. Mr Roberts confirmed that an Arun Cabinet had recently allocated an additional £25,000 to the fund.

55. Members requested clarification on the ownership of the Victoria Institute building but as this could not be determined it was agreed that the recommendation would be altered to say that any funds awarded would be dependent on confirmation of this.

56. Members stated that the panels for the Arundel Festival had been used this year and therefore sought clarity if the grant could be awarded retrospectively.

56. The Committee resolved that Community Grant be allocated as follows:

- Subject to The Victoria Institute gaining charitable status within 12 months of this meeting, the sum of £8,500 be set aside for the repair to the frontage of the building and that the money be released once charitable status and written confirmation is received that the Victoria Institute is a charity that has a full repairing and insuring lease.
- Subject to confirmation that the grant is not retrospective, the bid of £1,728 for funding the panels for the Arundel Festival be approved.

Appointments and Nominations to School and Academy Governing Bodies

57. The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Care, Wellbeing and Education (copy attached to the signed minutes).

58. Resolved –That the Committee approves the following nominations under the 2012 Regulations: -

Appointment:

- Ms Nikola Scott to Walberton & Binstead C of E School for a four-year term.

Items to be raised by Town and Parish Council representatives.

59. The Chairman invited questions from Town and Parish representatives on the Committee. There were no questions but it was noted that some Parish Councils had no appointed representative on JDAC. It was agreed that contact would be made with those Parishes seeking a representative.

Items for Future Meetings

60. The following items were agreed for consideration at future meetings:

- Update on Cycling and Cycling Strategy - 2015
- A27 (once details become available)
- Lidsey Surface Water Management Plan update – March 2016
- Hydro Carbon Licence

61. With regard to the Lidsey Surface Water Management Plan update it was suggested that a workshop for Members, particularly Parish Councillors, may be more appropriate than an agenda item at JDAC. Members agreed that a seminar should include a simple explanation of what the reports mean and how they impact on current and future drainage and building in the area. Mr Whittington suggested this would be more beneficial once the remaining six villages surface water management plans had been completed. It was agreed that Monique Smart would liaise with the relevant officers at West Sussex County Council.

62. Speeding on raised as an issue of concern. It was explained that a Task and Finish Group (TFG) had been established by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport at West Sussex County Council, to review the process of prioritising Traffic Regulations Orders (TRO). It was anticipated that this would report back to all County Local Committees including JDAC later this year. Until this TFG had concluded no new TRO requests could be progressed.

Date of Next Meeting

63. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Monday 14 December at the White Swan Hotel, Arundel.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm