

POYNINGS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Mr Colin Warburton

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Minutes of the meeting of Annual Poynings Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Airey Chair
Sheila Marshall
Matthew Cutress
John Digby
Jan Nichols

Mr Colin Warburton Clerk to the Council

Peter Griffiths - County Councillor

Apologies
John Wilkinson - District Councillor
Colin Trumble - District Councillor
Anthony Watts-Williams - District Councillor

25 members of the public attended

1. Welcome

Mike Airey welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. JD proposed Mike Airey continue and JN seconded this.

The council agreed that there was no need for a Vice Chair

3. Chairman's Report

In last year's report I commented on the sad loss of our friend and fellow councillor Jake Richards. His death was a shock to us all and we did not rush to seek a replacement but have subsequently co-opted Jan Nichols to join us.

About Easter time last year, most of us became aware of the illegal destruction of Pondtail Wood. All councillors were involved in a variety of ways in helping to prevent further destruction. Various authorities were not acting in a unified way and we arranged meetings that involved the District Council, Southdown National Park Authority and other agencies. I became the central reporting point in relation to further activity in the area of the wood until it was established that the SDNPA would take the lead and also liaise with the Environment Agency and Forestry



13/5/17

Commission. This was successful and we thereafter received weekly reports on what was happening regarding the site and the enforcement orders. The situation is far from resolved but the wood has since been sold and undertakings have been given by the new owner. We will continue to monitor what is happening and very much appreciate the assistance given by everyone who helped.

Looking at achievements over the last year:

We had a very successful Firework Night which is a village initiative that the Parish Council supports. I'm grateful to Mark Lee and family for the use of the field and their assistance in setting up the event and all those who helped, especially Helen Woodhams at the Garage.

A Public Access Defibrillator has been installed at the Forge Garage and we have organized two training sessions in the use of the equipment and are grateful for all the assistance given by Henfield Area Response Team.

We have continued to look at road safety within the village. Everyone will have seen the Speed Indicator Device in a couple of locations collecting basic data. We hope to be able to have slower and safer traffic without invasive traffic measures. We will continue to investigate the possibility of a safe path between the village hall and the church.

Flood prevention measures have been continued and we have agreed certain other works which include the uneven footpath surface behind School Cottages across the way from the village hall.

Keeping the village clean and attractive has been important to us and we have arranged additional road sweeping. We failed to attract helpers to join us on a litter pick throughout the village and will have another go at recruiting help. Replacement of the old benches along Cora's Walk will be supported by the council. We have assisted in installing a bench provided by Amber in memory of Jake and a second bench provided by the Cutress family will be installed in memory of Margaret. In due course other benches may be replaced.

The roundabout at Poynings crossroads has now been replanted by its new sponsor from the village, Lotus Gardens. There may be some further planting still to be done in due course.

The village church is now on show more with the cutting back of old shrubbery and trees. This was supported by the parish council but organised by the church and carried out by Mark and Michael Lee with assistance of others. There is further replanting to be done.

With Caroline Currer and Alan retiring later this year, we are pleased to nominate them to attend the District Garden Party, if it goes ahead, in acknowledgement for their work in the village during their years here.

We are all willing to listen to concerns and hope that meetings will continue to be well

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Lee', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

attended.

4. **Financial Report - Clerk**

Unlike 2015 -2016 the cemetery made a small profit so it hasn't put a strain on the council funds. A grant of £46,522 plus Vat has been obtained to alleviate some of the drainage problems in the village. The precept for this year including funds for the cemetery is £5,806

5. **Local Talks**

Peter Griffiths

Peter Griffiths was presented by PPC with wine, flowers and a card for the work he has carried on for Poynings Parish Council over the last 12 years. It was felt that his input would be difficult to replace.

National Trust Charlie Cain

Gave his annual update on what is happening on Devils Dyke.

The "Rainbow Warriors" are by Dyke Golf club and are expected to be there for a bit longer.

There have been no raves this year.

They hope to have more cattle to manage the land and keep the diversity of the Dyke.

The Ash "Die back" is huge and they are still deciding how to deal with it.

They are hoping that more money will be available from the Grampian scheme when the houses by King George XI avenue are built.

The scrub has been pushed back with the help of the friends of Devils Dyke.

Bolney Parish Council Tony Steer

Tony gave a good talk on how volunteer a volunteer group was set up in Bolney with the help of WSCC. They now have 93 volunteers who can help with snow clearing etc. They have been able to obtain grants for equipment.

They are directed by, but not run by, the PC. They must be volunteers even if they are on the PC. If a group was to be up, an action plan would be needed, a constitution agreed and a bank account opened. A good idea is to have a day for possible volunteers to get together.

Senior Project Manager BT - Paul Boichat

Paul gave a talk on BT superfast broadband.

It was explained that 8 providers were going to roll it out however only 2 were left BT and Fujitsu. Fujitsu then pulled out leaving only BT to bid on 44 contracts which they won!

He then went into more detail on the future.

6. **Open Forum**

Alyson Cook asked if the rubbish from Pondtail could be re-used. It was agreed that as it is not known what is in it the rubbish will be classed as contaminated.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting
Refreshments followed**

