

## STEDHAM WITH IPING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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**MINUTES:** Annual Parish Meeting of Stedham with Iping

**Held on:** Wednesday 11 April 2018 at 7.00 pm

**At:** The Stedham Memorial Hall

**Present:** Lucy Petrie, Chairman of the Parish Council, was Chairman of the meeting  
Jane Crawford, Parish Clerk, took the minutes

**In attendance:** Kate O'Kelly, County Councillor, Caroline Neville, District Councillor, and 43 parishioners including members of the Parish Council

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Colin Hughes

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The Clerk read a précis of the Minutes, which had been previously approved by the Council

2. **STEDHAM SCHOOL**

Sally Dreckmann, the head teacher, introduced Daniel, Tilly and James who had come, despite it being the Easter holidays, to give reports on life at the school which included a very full programme of visits to Petworth House, the Cass sculpture park at Goodwood, Portchester Castle, the Watercress Line and a whole school day at Stedham campsite. The choir represented the school at the annual Rotary music festival. They had a sports day and summer fair and thanked the Friends of Stedham School (FOSS) for raising money for the school. Most importantly, OFSTED, with notice of 24 hours, inspected the school and rated it as a 'good school'.

Sally Dreckmann gave an overview and forewarning of a school play in June. Thanks to FOSS there was enough money to develop a small playground at the back of school.

The full reports are attached to these minutes.

3. **PARISH COUNCIL**

- a) **Chairman's Report:** The report had been delivered to every household.
- b) **SIPC budget:** A breakdown of the budget was shown on the screen and was explained by the Clerk. It is attached to the minutes. There were no questions.
- c) **Neighbourhood Plan:** The Regulation 14 consultation with parishioners and statutory consultees had started the previous week. The Chairman encouraged everyone to attend one of the drop-in sessions and have their say about the plan.
- d) **Minerals and Minsted sandpit update:** The Minsted residents had found it necessary to fund the appointment of an experienced planning consultant to establish:
  - i. Why the Review of Old Minerals Permissions at Minsted had still not been completed by the sandpit's operators some 5 years after its deadline.
  - ii. Why no action had been taken by the Minerals Planning Authority to address the very long list of planning control breaches at Minsted Sandpit since 2004 which had now made it impossible to restore the sandpit according to the terms of the 1998 restoration plan. All work at the sandpit remained suspended.

4. **PARISH ACTION PLAN**

- a) **Stedham Crossroads lighting to install shuttering:** Completed.
- b) **Faster broadband for Stedham and Minsted:** Completed.

- c) **Recreation Ground parking:** Completed.
- d) **Defibrillator:** It was hoped to obtain a grant for a defibrillator at Stedham.
- e) **Invitation for further suggestions for consideration:**
  - Improve the notice boards to make it easier to stick pins into them:
  - Dog waste could now go in any sort of bin;
  - Parking at the northern end of the RG: the grasscrete should be tapered because the land was being eroded.
  - Works near Meadowhills: The drainage pipe had been filled in and there was still flooding although it was not so deep. SIPC had already raised this matter with WSCC highways engineers who had recommended that the road should be re-profiled.

## 5 REPORTS

- a) **Stedham and Iping Churches:** The Reverend Trish Bancroft reported that on 1 May 2017 the churches became the United Benefice of Linch with Iping Marsh, Milland & Rake and Stedham with Iping. She was licensed as Rector by Bishop Mark at a very well attended service. The congregation processed through the village after the service for refreshments at the Hall.

There was now a new church magazine called S.M.I.L.E. The old parish magazine had been costing the Parochial Church Council about £5,000 per year for printer rental and printing costs so it was pleasing it was no longer such a burden.

There had been a few changes in services, but many of the important services such as the Iping pet service and Christmas wassail were retained. Stedham had a family service on the second Sunday of the month at 11pm when there were Junior Church leaders who looked after the children during the service. The bell ringers from Stedham, Milland and Rogate attended that service and also at weddings.

She thanked all who helped at the churches: flower ladies, sacristans, lesson readers, choir, organists and retired priests who took the fourth Sunday service. She was particularly indebted to the two church wardens who worked so hard on behalf of the churches.

The full report is attached to the minutes.
- b) **Stedham Memorial Hall:** Bill Crawshaw, the chairman, said the hall was much used and financially was running a small surplus. He thanked Sue Payne for all she had done for the hall and lunch club over very many years. At a summer fund-raising lunch he congratulated John Hills on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and thanked him for his work on the hall garden. He also congratulated Eddie Lintott on the award of his BEM and thanked him for his support for the hall over many years with fund-raising and a lot of behind the scenes back-up.

The hall was grateful to Stedham Doorstep and the old Grange Community Centre which had both provided funding for a new overhead projector and screen. This had proved to be a useful system and the hall was now able to have regular film shows. A live theatre group was due to visit in the autumn.

They were hoping to get an internet connection although it was uncertain if the cost would make it worthwhile.

He thanked the Hall Committee for their enthusiasm and commitment which was very much appreciated.

The full report is attached to the minutes.
- c) **Stedham Sports Association:** Richard Pett reported.

A lot of damage had been done to the grounds in the wet weather.

Summer sports had been a success last year and there had been a tennis bar-b-cue.

On August 19 there was to be 1940s day and on 11 November there would be a beacon at the sports field in memory of WW1.

All sections were run by volunteers and he thanked them and especially Trevor Benton who spent hours working on the sports ground.

- d) **Iping and Stedham Commons LNR:** David Saunders Sussex Wildlife Trust Director of Land Management reported in Jane Willmott's absence on holiday.

**Funding:**

- The Countryside Stewardship Scheme would partly fund the Iping fencing and clearing 23ha of scrub, rhododendron and 9ha of bracken control. It would also fund 5ha of tree thinning and scraping to restore heathland in the south and west of Stedham.
- Other funding for the fencing, gates and scrub clearance had come from Heathlands Reunited, SDNPA and SWT.

**Practical works:**

**Iping Common**

- A serious fire broke out on Iping common on 28 February 2018 when a spark from a bonfire ignited dry Molinia grass. The fire service attended in force to protect neighbouring houses and roads. SWT had apologised for the disruption and drastic change of landscape character of 30ha at the north western part of the common.
- The SWT site management was being reviewed with the fire service and SDNPA. The effects on biodiversity would be closely monitored.
- Over the year 3.5ha of scrub and trees had been cleared and 5ha of bracken was sprayed across the common. The Roman Road was also completely cleared to protect the ancient monument and from the brow of the hill it was now possible to see its line in both directions.
- The fire breaks were forage harvested and several areas were mown to create shorter turf for silver studded blue butterflies and to create the right conditions for turf-stripping next year.

**Stedham Common**

- Rhododendron was being removed from the southern edge to remove the risk of a further outbreak of Phytophthora fungal disease although an outbreak had occurred on a neighbour's land.
- A contractor with a mini digger had pulled up 1.5ha of scrub, creating scrapes and also pulled up gorse along the gas pipeline.
- There was an unsuccessful attempt at burning old heather.

**Grazing:** 6 cattle were grazed on Stedham from December to mid-September and their return was anticipated in September 2018. Grazing on Iping was due in May with 15 cattle.

**Gates:** A request had been made for the gates on Stedham to be locked open while cattle were not present. However, several dog walkers had objected to this and SWT would consider the best solution for riders, dogs and breeding birds.

**Wildlife:** The total species list was now 2,843 and the 204 spiders was the most found on any SWT nature reserve in Sussex.

The full report is attached to the Minutes.

- e) **Women's Institute:** Vanessa Blaber, WI President, reported that the WI was now 99 years old and next year it was hoped to celebrate their centenary with a village event. Their membership was 39 and during the year they had 7 talks and a Christmas concert given by a visiting choir.

## Draft minutes to be agreed at the SIPC meeting on 18 July 2018

As well as normal meetings, they had been eating their way around Sussex: supper club at pubs and restaurants once a month, walking group based on a pub lunch, bring and share supper and croquet at Duncton Croquet Club also with food.

The full report is attached to the Minutes.

- f) **Horticultural Society:** Hannah Stanley, the Chairman, reported that they were now in their 39<sup>th</sup> year and the membership was 45-50. As usual they had a varied programme of talks, garden visits including an annual free visit to Wisley, and the village school “grow seeds in a pot” competition. They had an annual bring and buy plant sale and the main flower show in July. The subscriptions was still only £6 per household and members could have a 5% discount at the local garden centres.  
The full report is attached to the Minutes.
- g) **Neighbourhood Watch and Lunch Club:**  
Sue Payne, the local area co-ordinator, explained that the NW objectives were to prevent crime by improving security, increasing vigilance and prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity; and to reduce the fear of crime by providing accurate information and promoting a sense of security. The police weekly bulletin was forwarded to those on SP’s list.  
40 people regularly attended the lunch which was held on the last Tuesday of every month. A hot main course and pudding was provided for £5 and there was space for a few more people. She thanked Brian, who cooked the lunches, and also said that he had painted the mural on the hall wall.
- h) **Stedham campsite:** The Clerk reported in Colin Hughes absence. They had about 1,500 children camping at the site last year. A new oak shelter dining and meeting area was being built to replace the old white marquee. They had worked on the hedges and fences with SDNPA and WSCC volunteers. They were hoping to work with SDNPA on a large area of woodland which needed clearing with the ultimate plan to provide information about the trees and other plants in the area.  
The full report is attached to the minutes.
- 6 **Report from County Councillor:** Kate O’Kelly reported.  
**Bus Update:** WSCC had announced that Stagecoach would be taking over the 54, 91, 92 and 93 services from April 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.  
**Health update:** A network of health providers and local voluntary and other community organisations were looking at social prescribing and rural isolation. This would start at the Riverbank surgery from this Summer.  
**Community grants from WSCC:** Crowdsourcing model to be introduced in May.  
**Community Highway Schemes:** There was only one bid last year from the Chichester area and MAC were hoping to bid for funding for 2 bollards to improve visibility at the Half Moon Crossing.
- 7 **Report from District Councillor:** Caroline Neville said the Stedham with Iping APM was the best attended of all the meetings.  
**Finance:** CDC was working hard to save money. They had considered moving their offices to somewhere smaller, but it was not financially viable. They had now freed up much space in their present building by desk sharing or officers working at home and some officers had taken early

**Draft minutes to be agreed at the SIPC meeting on 18 July 2018**

retirement. This space was row being rented out. CDC would also be letting out its conference rooms for pop-up courts in future.

**Chichester Vision** was involved with the re-development of the land near the railway including the bus and police station to provide an attractive development to include homes, living work spaces, shops, a concert hall and hopefully a hotel.

**Midhurst Vision** was looking at what was needed North of the Downs. Grants were available for new shop fronts as long as the shop keepers had taken the course on how to run a business.

**The Community Safety Partnership** was the gathering together of multi-agencies to help the vulnerable, those suffering from abuse, slavery, drug use and the exploitation of children. This aided the police due to changes in policing. There was to be an increased precept for the police of £17 million so that more police could be employed.

**The new homes bones scheme** provided funds for parish councils to help enhance their communities. Applications must be in by 30 July 2018.

**Midhurst waste and recycling site:** Planning applications were due. A new site had not been found and there were concerns that if it was not close to its current site, it would lead to fly-tipping.

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Chairman thanked Eddie Lintott who had left the Council (after over 51 years) and Debra Chalton who was leaving the Council in May.

9 **DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** Wednesday 10 April 2019.

**CONCLUSION 8.50**

**Chairman**..... **Date**.....