FORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2023

Present.

Cllr D Smith. Vice Chairman.
Cllr S Langmead
Cllr D Armstrong.
Cllr E. Stewart.
Cllr. J Pendleton. WSCC (West Sussex County Council) County Councillor.
Clerk: Mrs Carol Hatton.

1. **Welcome & Apologies.** Apologies were sent by ADC (Arun District Council) Cllr A. Worne. The Chairman Cllr T. Ford was unable to attend. The Vice Chairman Cllr D. Smith took the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest**. There were no new declarations of interest.
3. **Public Sessions.** Kevin Owen of ADC Planning attended the meeting. There were many members of the public attending the meeting, with a view to questioning Mr Owen on the proposed siting of a secondary school in Ford Lane. Cllr Armstrong suggested that the infrastructure is not adequate to support the increase in traffic which a school would inevitably bring. He also pointed out that the site is a flood plain. Mr Owen said that a planning application would look at the infrastructure and flood levels on the site, and they have already carried out a strategic level study. Constraints with infrastructure and biodiversity have all been looked at in the study. Ford station was mentioned as the transport assessment relies heavily on the station as part of the active travel arrangements, however the rail authority has stated that the station is inadequate and could not support an increase in usage as the platforms are short and they have no plans to increase them. It was asked what the trade-off would be for deciding on this site. A parishioner said that he heard that 400 houses were to be built. A resident asked how flooding would be dealt with as Yapton is already experiencing issues with flooding. Mr Owen reiterated that this would be looked at within the consultation.

Both Yapton and Ford Parish Councils have rejected this site. The feeling is that the site is unsafe for children travelling to school walking or cycling, as the road is narrow and remarkably busy with heavy traffic at times. Questions were asked as to who would fund the building of the school, and if the planned school does not go ahead, would that land then be used for more housing.

Process Matters (who assist the Parish Council with NP work) were in attendance. They noted that a report was being taken to the Planning Committee at ADC which stated that if the PC did not agree to allocate the land for a school in their NP the LPA would seek to impose a DPD. She asked Mr Owen how this approach supported local democracy. Mr Owen responded that if site F is not chosen, they would look again at the other sites.

Other questions asked; is this not a waste of agricultural land? Where is the water coming from for the 1500 houses already planned and now the other 400? What happens if the price of the land is not agreed upon with the landowner?

Cllr Armstrong said that in the survey sent to the parish he completed a form along with 90% of the residents saying that they wanted the Burndell Road option for the school. Why is the council insisting on site F, if the residents have objected to this site and show preference for another?

Cllr Smith to contact Cllr Worne to ask if she can speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the ADC Planning meeting on the 28th of November 2023.

4. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These wee agreed and signed off by the acting Chairman.
5. **Matters arising from the last meeting.** Cllrs Smith and Pendleton visited the Peregrine Estate and noted the discrepancies on the road makings and listed items which need attention.

   Cllr Pendleton suggested we have a risk assessment from the fire service for the area's residents are concerned about. MC to send the clerk the map location ACTION; Clerk to contact fire service.

6. **Neighbourhood Plan**. Process Matters reported that she is responding to comments made at the REG 14 consultation. She proposed to hold off submitting the Plan at Reg15 until the work on the Design Code, which is a requirement of the planning consent for the airfield, was completed. It could then form part of the NP. Developers cannot start work until the design code is completed. The Parish council agreed to hold off until this is done.
7. **Finance.** The Clerk reported that there is £30088.79 in the current account and in the savings account, there is £3724.95.
8. **County Councillor's Report.** Cllr Pendleton said she is not aware of any link between the proposed School and the 400 houses. She also said that ADC are setting up a forum to identify protection, prevention, and infrastructure. Yapton had been hit hard with flooding recently. She suggested that all parish councils make records of where and when there is flooding. ACTION. Cllr Smith to request a map of the affected area from Process Matters and forward this to Cllr Pendleton.
9. **District Councillor was not present.**
10. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman was not present.
11. **Correspondence**. There was none.
12. **Planning.** This had been discussed in the public sessions.
13. **Allotments.** Cllr Langmead had nothing to report.
14. **Memorial Garden.** Cllr Smith had erected the new plaque commemorating the 18th of August 1940 Ford Airfield. She reported that the Armistice Day service was well attended.
15. **A.O.B**. Cllr Smith reported that at the SALC meeting, she learnt that the police have a new system dealing with young offenders aged 10 to 24. Instead of going through the courts, they are given ASBOS, and they then go with probation officers to make good the damage they have done.
16. The meeting ended at 21.08
17. Next meeting scheduled for January 23rd, 2024.