

FERRING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on **Monday 20th May 2024** held at the village hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Councillors Clare Royal, Simon Bromley, Roger Elkins & John Tero.

West Sussex County Councillor: Roger Elkins

Arun District Councillors: Roger Elkins

Residents: Three residents in attendance

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and commenced the formal proceedings.

A01-05-2024 Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15th May 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2023 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A02-05-2024 Annual Report from the Chairman of Ferring Parish Council

Councillor Clare Royal read the Chairman's Annual report as attached.

A03-05-2024 To receive report from Arun District Councillors

In the absence of Councillor Mark Turner, Councillor Clare Royal read his annual report.

My apologies for not being in attendance but the Annual Parish Meeting conflicts with the 2nd Meeting of the Arun Flood Forum.

This has been a busy year for me as a new District Councillor and I am delighted and honoured by the support that I have received from Residents and the Parish Council.

There are a number of issues that have been of huge significance throughout the year.

The District Budget. This has been under pressure and a number of savings and other measures are being pursued by the Administration that have hit reserves and reduced staffing levels. Council Tax increased to its maximum allowable level and rises to car parking charges are just two of these unpopular measures. Your District Councillors will continue to press for a budget that is taut and realistic.

Planning & Housing Development. Planning applications to build on our green gaps continue and even when initially refused are often subsequently allowed following appeal. Success in defeating the Landsdown Nursery Planning Application was most welcome but recently tempered by the approval of the Kingston Lane Planning Application (47 Houses on the western edge of the Kingston-Ferring Gap). Whilst not a planning application the defeat of the alcohol licence application on the SE quadrant of the Goring Gap was also most welcome and likely only a temporary prevention of a future planning application on that site. Sadly, the development of our green spaces remains a political and financial aspiration for many. If you have not already done so then please look for the Arun District Council's (ADC) "Direction of Travel Document" on its website and register your views. Your comments will shape and

hopefully control the extent of the developments that we will face when our new Local Plan is written and published (due 2027). We will continue to protect our green spaces.

Flooding. The levels of rainfall experienced over the last year have caused significant issues across the District including in Ferring. As a consequence ADC established a Forum tasked with understanding the key issues and then to make recommendations on practical and deliverable measures to reduce the impact. Although we are not members of the Forum we will attend, observe and report on its progress

Car Parking. Car parking is a problem and an issue that the Parish Council and The Ferring Road Scheme Association constantly wrestle with. We have pressed Arun District Council to survey the Car Park to the rear of the Blue Bird Café and then put in place an appropriate level of drainage and maintenance whilst retaining free parking.

Anti-Social Behaviour. Ferring is a quiet and law-abiding village and it is this tranquility that contributes to the quality of life for all residents and visitors. Recent instances of graffiti are annoying and disrespectful to everyone. Posters produced by ADC providing details of methods for reporting incidents of anti social behaviour will be distributed soon by your District and Parish Councillors. (Copies are available from the Parish Office).

Clappers Lane Railway Crossing. The unmanned Clappers Lane Crossing is currently of significant interest to Network Rail and the next twelve months will see crucial analysis on its safe use and future.

Beach Huts. A plan to increase the number of Beach Huts across the District on ADC owned land has stalled after its first exposure to Councillors on the Economy Committee. The initial assessment of potential new sites for beach huts in Ferring was deemed, by your councillors, to be overly optimistic due to the lack of available parking, no disabled access and shortage of other essential facilities (such a wash pipes and public loos). The Plan will now be reviewed with input from your Ward and Parish Councillors and ultimately from you the Public.

The Next Year. Whilst your two District Councillors are not part of the governing Administration in Arun District we will continue to use our informed voice for the benefit of all residents.

Colin Oliver-Redgate. I would like to join the many residents of Ferring who will rightly mourn Colin who, on Friday 17 May 2024, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family after a long battle with cancer. I am honoured that I was elected to take his place after he was forced to stand down due to ill health in May 2023. A kind and generous man who stood strong in so many areas of public, private and sporting life in Ferring. He will be sorely missed.

Councillor Roger Elkins

- The refusal of the Landsdown Nursery Planning Application is significant with regards to protecting the green gaps.
- As mentioned in the Chairmans report, the successful installation of the new gated play area.
- In relation to the ADC Local Plan 2023 – 2041, the Direction of Travel Document is available on the ADC website where residents can register their views. Noting that that the recent drop-in session on 18th April held at the library was well attended.
- ADC has appointed a new CEO who will commence the role late July.

A04-05-2024 To receive report from West Sussex County Council Councillor Councillor Roger Elkins

- There is an additional £10 million for the county's highways works including repairs to pot holes.
- In relation to flooding, WSCC has the high-level responsibility and has formed a Task and Finish Group to assess the issues. It is expected that the group will produce a report early 2025 with their findings.
- Central Government has provided funding for the 'bring back buses' project offering a flat £2 bus fare and reduced bus fares for 16 – 20 year olds.
- Funding has been secured to instal overhead passenger information boards to provide accurate information of the time of buses.
- The County Council are financially sound moving forward with challenges but without reducing any of their services.
- Solar panels have been installed at 80 schools in the county.
- In relations to highway matters, the A259 improvements are now complete and it was noted that the Arundel bypass has been delayed.
- WSCC has also appointed a new CEO.

A05-05-2024 Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Daniel West

Sergeant Daniel West advised that a few years ago Chichester & Arun joined forces for community policing and is overseen by one Chief Inspector with an Inspector covering each of the two areas.

Sergeant Daniel West provided an overview of the role of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and reported the crime in the last year recorded in Ferring (14.05.2023 to 13.05.2024). It was also advised that with the recruitment of an additional PCSO, this resulting in the allocated PCSO for Ferring being able to focus his time in a more manageable region.

He would like to return to the next Annual Parish Meeting to provide a further update.

Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Daniel West was thanked for the police update and for attending the meeting.

A06-0502024 Public Question Time

A resident referred to the 700 bus route, claiming that the busses are not used due to their timings are unreliable.

Councillor Roger Elkins advised that with the installation of the new overhead passenger information boards, that this will provide accurate information of the time of buses.

Mrs Nadine Phibbs
Clerk to Ferring Parish Council