**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on held on Wednesday 23rd May 2023**

**at 7:30pm in the Beeding & Bramber Village Hall.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors:Bob Harber (Chairman), Simon Birnstingl, Frank Bull, Jill Cannon, Alan Chilver, Fred Heaver, Tom Kardos, Chris Warren

Parish Clerk: Stephen Keogh (minutes)

Cemetery Clerk: Colette Harber

Residents and members of the public: approximately 7

Horsham District Councillors: Mike Croker and Roger Noel

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| **2023:01** | **Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**  The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed all present and thanked everyone for attending especially to those presenting. He advised that questions could be asked at the end of each session.  Stephen Keogh, Clerk to the Parish Council since October 2018 was also introduced and welcomed. |
| **2023:02** | **Apologies for absence** |
|  | Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the following: West Sussex County Councillor – Paul Linehan.  Parish Councillors – Chris Deadman, Ian Ivatt, Sean Teatum |
| **2019:03** | **Community First Responders**  David Lott from the Community first Responders was welcomed and gave a presentation regarding the role of the Community First Responders. He gave an overview of the group including how it works, the number of volunteers required, and the time expected (up to 20 hours a month). The benefits were also highlighted along with the information regarding the opportunity for the group to attend to provide training in the use of the defibrillator.  David reiterated that the group had a high level of training but are not first aiders and only deal with life threatening situations.  The group can be instructed to attend when a 999 call is received, and call handler knows there is a responder available.  New defibrillators can instruct in emergency.  Cabinet c ode is given by the call handler if requested.  There was no funding from the Ambulance service although they work alongside them.  The group are all volunteers and do not get paid.  The equipment they carry, to an emergency can cost £2,000 and this is funded from events, fundraisers and donations.  The static defibrillators in the district are all sponsored, and this helps to ensure that they are managed and maintained in case they are needed.  Questions were invited.  One resident asked how they can sponsor a defibrillator.  They were invited to speak after the meeting.  Cllr Cannon asked how the rota was worked out.  The Volunteers try to work 20 hours a month. This may be in a pair or individually, the volunteers make themselves available and let SEACAM know.  A residn4et asked how many call outs there are per year.  There are, on average, 40 – 50 call outs per quarter. 70% arrive before the ambulance.  Cllr Warren asked if there was a defibrillator in mall Dole.  This was managed by the Henfield Community team, but they were certain that there was a defibrillator in the area on Small Dole. |
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| **2019:04** | **Wilder Horsham District**  Richard Black, Wilder Horsham District Projects Officer (Sussex Wildlife Trust) was welcomed to the meeting and gave a very informative presentation regarding the Wilder Horsham District project  The key areas of the project to restore nature in the district.  The key aspects were:  Organisation Resilience  Landscape Resilience  Community Resilience  The project encouraged planners and developers to include ethe aspect of nature in their proposals and to help with this the WHD Group were advising and informing how it is done.  Some areas which appear to be thriving are in fact failing and this needs to be relayed to the public.  The project encourages the Laughton Principles – Bigger/Better/More/Joined up.  These principals are reflected in the way WHD are working.  Natural Process  Natural Grazing  Natural Succession  Natural Food Management  Working with landowners and farmers to encourage more sustainable farming which could be more profitable.  Everyone was encouraged to visit KNEPP where they had reintroduced a variety of species back into the area – Beavers, Long Horn Cattle, Pigs  Volunteers carry out much needed work, either to improve the habitat for the nature, or to try to revert back to older ways of dealing with trees and plants, allowing seeding and breakdown of the older trees.  The WHD Team are also asking for help with their survey which is also a national survey of animals and wildlife, there are a number of websites where members of the public can record sightings of any animal or bird or insect.  There is also a tree survey.  In conclusion questions were invited and all encouraged  Cllr Noel asked if there was good Government support.  There are a number of areas where the Government are very helpful and some areas where the support is needed more. There are also some areas where the Government have been fortunate to have made a decision on EU laws which may have had a drastic effect on the ecology of the country.  Cllr Frank Bull asked if the supermarkets could help?  The best way for the consumer to help would be to shop locally and more sustainably. |
| **2023:05**  **2023: 06** | A resident asked if there was a concern that by reintroducing Beavers, it could lead to a loss of trees.  There is no reason why the two would be linked. The Beavers have their own way of working and there are control measures available.  **Steyning Grammar School (Towers Site)**  Emer Nicholson Harris was welcomed to the meeting and gave an overview of the projects which are being progressed using community groups and looking at ways that the school can be involved in the community more.  Harvest Festival – The first time at the school the products provided where donated to the Shoreham Food Bank the school would like a local option- Cllr Heaver commented that the Hub may be the link for this.  Roots Gardening Society – This has proven to be a good project as the greenhouse which had lain empty for some years, has been restored using people from the greening Steyning repair café.  The staff and pupils have been very active in garden and horticulture providing flowers and crops for consumption.  The Cemetery Clerk asked if the school would be willing to open their gates for the Open Garden event in the summer.  This would be a great start to the pupils involving themselves with the community.  Also, the students may be interested in working with the Parish Council to improve the planters and flower beds in the Village.  Outdoor Classroom – This project is in its infancy as the school is encouraging it sue despite being in a poor condition.  The school are looking for a person from the community to help repair the canopy and reinstall the structure, so this useful facility can be used more.  The primary school is also going to be encouraged to visit.  **Open Forum**  The floor was opened to residents for questions and comments.  With no other questions, the Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.15pm. |