

Colgate Parish Council Meeting 12th February 2024 at Durrants Village 7:30pm.

Present

Councillors: S Marley, C Crosdil, S Davies, R Calvert, S Garley, N Staff, R. Faith, B Humphreys, and Mrs. V Finnegan.

In Attendance: B. Clayden (Parish Clerk), 6 members of the Public, and Cllr Kitchen.

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Hogben and Cllr Nagel

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors on any matter on this Agenda.

None

3. Agree the minutes of Full Council on 8th January and Planning meetings on 3rd and 24th January. Minutes for the 7th February will be updated and approved at the next meeting.

All Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meetings, and the Chair duly signed them off.

4. Meeting opened.

a) for members of the public to speak on matters connected to the agenda and other matters which can be noted but no decision can be made.

A member of the public reported that the chain had been removed from the Durrant Village gate which was now allowing access onto the permissive path.

A member of the public confirmed that it was a relief that the Fuel House Café application (increase in hours) had been refused. However, the racing of cars along A264 persisted. The police have confirmed that regular patrols would continue to combat this.

Members of the public re-raised the concerns with Faygate roundabout and the inability to have a clear view whilst crossing. The member of the public had contacted WSCC. The Clerk confirmed this had been reported and would be raised with WSCC again.

Members of the public re-raised the fact that despite it being reported the bollard was still knocked over by the crossing point on the A264 in front of the Cabin Café. The Clerk will raise this issue with WSCC again.

Several people voiced repeat concerns about the entrance and exit to the new BP petrol station on A264. The Clerk will raise this issue with WSCC.

b) For District and County Councillors to speak on any matters including updates from the District and County Council.

HDC main priority currently is producing the budget.

Cllr Kitchen highlighted the changes being considered by Gatwick Airport and the potential changes in the flightpaths. There is a flight path that is designated but rarely used over Faygate and she believes this will be used far more in the future.

The consultation for the use of the emergency runway is still live.

For more information on Gatwick Airport consultations follow the link to GACC - <https://www.gacc.org.uk/>

5. Finance-

It was agreed that the Clerk no longer needed to read out all the payments at the meeting as they are distributed prior to the meeting.

a) Schedule of payment-Bills to be paid Dec/Jan

Cheque	£
1165-B Clayden Defib pads	80.58
Online	
WSSC Jan salary	1484.80
Noticeboard – Green Barnes	2052.47
ICT- Vision IT	161.26
Buchanon and Curwen – electrics	105.00
Total	£3884.11

b) Bills to be paid Feb/March/April Estimate.

WSSC Clerk Feb /March/April	£3000*
Clerk's expenses/overtime	£200*
Pension	£600*
Litter Warden	£600*
Litter warden mileage	£40*
Installation Notice board	£200*
Speed gun calibration	£330*

Insurance	£800*
Ill health insurance	£250*
Grants x3	£3000
Subs	£2000

*Potential online banking payments

All Councillors agreed the payments on section 5a and 5b.

On checking the defib pads, they had not been used at Faygate so new ones were not required. The defib pads bought in January will be used on the Colgate defibrillator once the existing ones had expired (March 2024).

c) Report on accounts.

Summary

Income- £0

Balance current account 1.2.2024 **£40763.66**

Electronic accounts reconcile.

Bank statements and electronic accounts reconcile, and all Councillors agreed the accounts summary which were duly signed off.

d) Grant Application

No applications.

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e) Expenses

Total expenses for Clerk-£198.86

All Councillors approved the expenses including 7 hours overtime.

f) NatWest Manager Liquidity Account

Councillors agreed to invest.

- **£8000 in the Liquidity Management fund on a 95 days' notice account. (4.17%). This is circa half of general reserves.**
- **The balance of the Reserves circa £24000 in the instant access account (1.45%).**

It was agreed the Clerk would facilitate the opening of the accounts. Councillors confirmed the Clerk will have the power to transfer monies between accounts when required. This would leave circa £10000 in the current account to cover day to day payments.

Update: Clerk to collate Councillors' details who have a signing authority on the current account. Councillors provided the information after the meeting.

6. Transport/Travel/Highways.

- Racing on the A264
It was noted that racing of cars was still ongoing, but the police report that their presence will be increased to combat the increase in car meets.
- Update on sound barriers and speed/noise camera with number plate recognition.
Cllr Nagel has provided the Clerk with a contact at WSCC to progress these potential works.
- Vehicle Activated Sign. (SD)
All the VAS are working well. The Colgate unit struggles with solar power when the weather is dull for several days in a row so it is anticipated that occasionally the batteries may need recharging manually. A download of the latest data from the Colgate and Faygate VAS units is to be arranged.
- Post-16 Transport Policy statement- A consultation is now open and available via this [link](#) and runs until 17 March 2024 . All responses will be considered before the Council's Post-16 Transport Policy statement is published at the end of May.

Cllr Finnegan stated that the 200 bus would start running again through the night from Horsham to Gatwick

7. External meeting

Opportunity for Councillors to update the Council on any meetings attended.

Cllr Marley and Cllr Crosdil attended the HDC Planning meeting on 6th February (Fuel House Café application) The longer opening hours were refused.

Cllr Calvert attend the GACC meeting. The two principal areas of concern are the opening of the emergency runway and the revision of the flight paths, one of which runs over Faygate. Cllr Calvert urges anyone who wants to comment or understand more to visit the GACC website. <https://www.gacc.org.uk/>

8. Parish Assets

February 2024 defibs were checked and were found to be in good working order. (VF)
Next Report on all assets due April 2024. Next defib check due March 2024. (VF)

Kilnwood Vale noticeboard is the Parish Council's newest asset and was installed on 5th February.

New set of defib pads have been purchased in readiness for the expiry of the existing defibrillator pads located at Colgate Village Hall. (March 2024)

9. Climate Change and Sustainability. (BH)

- Hedgehog doorways-Discuss and agree on distribution strategy.

Councillors agreed that the areas where the gates would be most useful would be Kilnwood Vale and the residential parts of Faygate. The gates would be advertised on Colgate and Faygate's WhatsApp group and on Kilnwood Vale's Facebook page. It will be a first come, first served basis. Cllr Humphreys to coordinate.

- Electric car charging points.
Cllr Humphreys contacted Believ and awaits a call back.
- Workshop with Wilder Horsham District initiative to be organised by the Council and to be held at Colgate Village Hall.
More details can be found here [Wilder Horsham](#)

Councillors all agreed a workshop would be a good idea and ideal to coincide with the Community Meeting in March. Cllr Finnegan to contact Dr Black to assess whether this is possible.

10. Kilnwood Vale

- Noticeboards. Update (BC)
The noticeboard was installed on 5th Feb. A Kilnwood Vale resident has volunteered to post notices and ensure the noticeboard remains in good order. Thank you to the volunteer.
- Discuss request for a litter warden in KVV three play areas. (BC)
Kilnwood Vale resident group requested help with litter picking around the play areas. The proposal was for one hour per month for litter to be picked up at the three play areas- ***(Rainbow Field, Arun Valley Way, and Harrys Way).***

Colgate Parish Council agreed to this request. Mr McGill (current litter warden for the parish would be approached). The monies would come from new earmarked reserves from 23/24 financial year from the underspend on training and would be in the region of £200per year.

11. Faygate Village

Update.

- Durrants Village Permissive path and library use (VF)-update
WSCC and HDC have taken over the meeting with Durrant's Management team with regards to S106 commitments since HDC and WSCC have the agreement with Durrant Village and not the Parish Council. Cllr Finnegan received a report from HDC in this matter which stated that.
 - the permissive path would be open from dawn to dusk.
 - The Spitfire Artwork was available to the public but those wanting access must sign into and out of Durrant Village Reception.
 - Library access is still under negotiation
 - Minibus provision is still under negotiation
 - Doctor surgery was not a viable option, and this will be reviewed during future meetings.

- Petrol station update on littering outside of site, bus stop – change of levels and signage and fly poster.

The Clerk confirmed that there are plans for fencing behind the existing footway to make the bus stop location more suitable. There was some footway that is not considered suitable for fencing because the backdrop is so significant that to install a post would likely mean the soil collapses. Therefore, the proposal will be to remove this section approx. 0.5m of footway and then fence off. WSCC will share the plans with the Parish Council once they are available.

- Play area improvements at Faygate Village Hall.

Cllr Finnegan and Cllr Staff will discuss the situation with Faygate Village Hall Management team with regards to the broken fence and broken equipment in Faygate play area. Several residents have raised this with the Parish Council.

Cllr Staff to chase.

12.Re Adoption (no changes required) of All Colgate Policies including

Financial reg and Standing orders but excluding Code of Conduct.

<https://v6-6-admin.visionict.com/Sites/153/Documents.aspx>

All Councillors agreed to readopt all Colgate PC policies with no amendments.

Agree changes made to Code of Conduct

All Councillors agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct Policy.

13.Local Plan (All)

Discuss Comments for the consultation on the local plan. [local plan](#)

Consultation finishes on 1st March 2024

The following comments were made:

- We are already seeing huge problems in the area with doctors' surgeries being unable to cope. In some surgeries you can wait 3 weeks for an appointment. With the additional proposed housing this will only become more of an issue unless surgeries are committed to in advance. This concern needs to be addressed now, and not wait until after proposed development sites are already in build status.
- There is a growing strain on pharmacies in the area, even more so now with the government initiative to allow pharmacists to issue certain drugs without the need to go to a GP. In the area we have seen several pharmacies reduce their hours, and again you can wait 3 weeks for a prescription to be fulfilled.
- The plan already notes concern in the area regarding hospital facilities, and that East Surrey hospital is running at maximum capacity. Hospitals must be built and up and running in advance of the housing. If we wait until certain levels of housing are built, it could take several additional years for the required hospitals to be up and running.

- Water neutrality remains a huge concern, and though the plan notes that the area is at a water crisis, these needs addressing before planned housing is built. The plan does not set out any plan or timescales for this issue. It states in the plan that 85L per person is the average usage. The govt figures state 150 L. There is a significant difference between the HDC figure and the govt recommended figure. Why is there this under estimation on HDC Local Plan? Also, how will be monitored in the future to ensure the 85L per person is being met.
- With the planned development at the west of Ifield, the projected number of extra cars on the road is 4200. Our roads are already not in a fit state due to lack of funding to keep them maintainable and vehicle worthy. With that number of additional cars at least, this will be a growing problem.
- We have seen numerous instances of flooding in the area, and the reduction of greenspace must be a contributing factor to this. By removing more greenspace to build developments and required roads will only increase this issue
- More housing will increase usage for public transport. If you live in a rural area, then there are limited bus and train options. Take Faygate as an example, if you work in London, you generally have to drive to another station to get a train as there are no trains after 7pm from London that then stop at Faygate, and none at all on weekends. This also affects travel into Horsham. Whilst there are buses that can be taken from the main A264, they do not run late and therefore cannot be used as an alternative in the evenings.
- Specific to Faygate, concerns regarding increased levels of traffic through the village with the proposed west of Ifield development.

Whilst the Council understand the local plan doesn't not have the remit for major infrastructure projects to support new developments, surely there should be a mechanism identified to raise the concerns of the local residents at government level as it seems all to easy for the local plan to show developments but no mention or control over major infrastructure.

Concerns were also raised specifically with the fact the Kilnwood Vale is categorised as a Large Village/Small Town. The definition of a small town is that it should have significant amenities, so it is self-supporting. Kilnwood vale has no amenities other than a school at present. Is it reasonable for this development to be categorised as a Small Town/Large Village?

14 Census. (SD)

Data from the 2021 census is readily available and can be useful when planning ahead for facilities or assets. Below is some basic data extracted from the Colgate Parish data.

- **Number of households**

Number of households -1534

- **Sex**

Female	1,881
Male	1,844
Total	3725

- **Age**

Aged 15 years and under	775
Aged 16 to 64 years	2,452
Aged 65 years and over	498
Total	3725

12. Dates and times of next meeting: Locations and dates may be subject to change.

Monday at 7.30pm on

11th March-Colgate VH – (Community meeting)

8th April -Durrants village

13th May-Colgate VH (Annual Parish Meeting)

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed by Chair.....