



Slinfold Parish Council

Cherrytree Farm, Hayes Lane, RH13 0SQ

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Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council meeting from the 27th July 2023

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

To accept apologies for absence

In attendance: Casdagli, Roberts (Chair), Sherwin Smith and Walker

Apologies: Councillors Leyland, Slipper, Nigel Smith and Paula Smith

Also in attendance: Mike Simpson (Clerk)

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation

To receive any declarations of interests from Members in respect to items on the agenda.

There were none.

3. Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to five minutes at the discretion of the Chair) To note any comments

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting on 29th June 2023

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting on 29th June 2023 as a true and accurate record.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chair thanked Councillors for their hard work and commented that the recent committee meetings were covering lots of items. He also advised that the Council WhatsApp group was now in operation.

6. Councillor Reports

To receive reports from the District and County Councillors

Councillors received a written report from County Councillor Stuart Mitchell which councillors noted. The Clerk advised that Councillor Youtan was unable to attend in person due to accessibility reasons.

Planning Applications

(a) To consider the applications in the planning report (see appendices)

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the planning report.

(b) To comment on any planning appeals

APP/Z3825/W/23/3321658 Lower Broadbridge Farm: Councillors **AGREED** to approve the draft statement (see appendices). Councillors also discussed the rescheduled date for the Lyons Road planning appeal which was 23rd August but were unsure if anyone could attend as most councillors were away.

(c) To consider any planning applications received since the publication of the agenda

There were none.

7. Finance & Administration

(a) To review the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation since the 29th June 2023

Councillors considered the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation since the last meeting on 29th June 2023 and **RESOLVED** to approve them.

(b) To review the latest variance report for budget vs actual expenditure

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the most recent variance report.

(c) To consider a grant application from Slinfold Primary School

Councillors considered a grant from Slinfold Primary School to help fund a security fence to prevent children absconding and others gaining access to the site. The Headteacher of the school had attended a previous meeting to explain they had encountered several such incidents, and the fence was necessary to keep children safe. The application requested £8,918 to cover the shortfall in funding they required which was £62,065 in total. Councillors discussed the application and were happy with the design and agreed it was important to support the school in keeping pupils of Slinfold safe whereupon they **RESOLVED** to approve the grant for £8,918 which would be allocated from CIL reserves.

(d) To receive an update on advertising for Environment Officers

Councillor Casdagli informed the Council that there had been four expressions of interest and that one had his own equipment so he could be employed as a contractor instead of an employee. The Clerk advised that if he was a contractor then any work would be subject to the Council's Financial Regulations so it was agreed that it could tie in with reviewing the Grounds Maintenance Schedule and any potential re-tendering. Councillor Casdagli said he would meet some of the potential applicants and then make a recommendation to the Council.

(e) To consider contributing to CAGNE's legal challenge to Gatwick Airport's application regarding a Development Consent Order for a second runway

Councillor Sherwin Smith believed the Council should not donate towards CAGNE as it was a political campaign and that Gatwick brought many jobs to residents. She added that she did not believe many residents had complained about the noise and that engines were getting quieter and would not increase noise pollution over the parish. The Chair disagreed and believed it would increase noise as it would be doubling the capability at Gatwick which would lead to more planes and added that house prices would be devalued. Councillors Casdagli and Walker believed the Council should do anything it could to reduce plane traffic whereupon Councillors **RESOLVED** to donate £2,000 to CAGNE's legal challenge which was in line with other Parish Councils who would be affected in a similar way as Slinfold. (Councillor Sherwin Smith voted against).

10. Grounds and Buildings Maintenance

(a) To receive an update on works to Slinfold football club

The Clerk advised that after trying to contact LB Property Services several times again since the last meeting he had not received a response. He had contacted another contractor who said he would not get involved if LB Property were still interested in doing the work. The Council agreed that it should leave LB Property Services and look for other quotes.

(b) To receive an update on Slinfold Stores

The Clerk advised that the extractor fan at the shop had been fitted. Councillor Sherwin Smith suggested that, as the existing blind was long enough, the worn part could be cut off and the leftover blind could be used instead of purchasing a new one which would be expensive. Councillors agreed and would ask one of the Environment Officers if they could do it.

(c) To receive an update on Six Acres playground

There was no update.

(d) To receive an update on the parish tree survey

The clerk presented a quote from T J Edwardes to fell two ash trees and cut back a blackthorn on the Six Acres footpath. As the Council had not been able to acquire any other quotes, Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve this one for £2,500 under Financial Regulation 11.1(a ii) as the trees were high risk and therefore an emergency.

(e) To receive an update on the grounds maintenance schedule

The Chair explained that Grasstex had been unable to cut the kickabout area at Six Acres as they could not access it via the footpath due to low hanging trees or by the road as the bollards were padlocked and they did not have the key. Councillors were unsure who had the key so the Chair was going to meet Grasstex to try and resolve it as well as discuss general maintenance around the village. He said the longer term plan would be to analyse the overall schedule and establish what needed to be tendered.

11. Cosy Café

Councillors Sherwin Smith and Walker said the Café was still going very well and now had enough volunteers to alternate turns.

12. Parish Magazine

To discuss any contributions for the parish magazine

Councillors **AGREED** to include items about trees at Six Acres, the security fence at the school and the Cherrytree committee.

13. Committees and those on Outside Bodies

To receive an update

Councillor Casdagli informed the Council that the Cherrytree Committee comprising the Community shed, football club and tennis club had a meeting recently. They had created a WhatsApp group and were still discussing the barrier and were going to obtain quotes to get the keypad and post replaced. There had been a TV licence dispute as the inspector had got the tennis and football clubs confused. Installing a padel court at the tennis club was also discussed and whether or not the Council could potentially contribute. Councillors agreed it sounded like a good idea but any contribution would have to be formally presented as well as carry out a public consultation. The Chair advised that Councillor Pyle had been elected Chair of Highways and Byways and the committees covered a lot of issues at the recent meetings.

14. Items for the next agenda

Padel Court

15. Next meeting date

28th September 2023

Planning Reference	Location	Description	Decision
DISC/23/0147	Dedisham Farm Guildford Road Slinfold West Sussex RH13 0RA	Approval of details reserved by condition 3 (finished floor levels and external ground levels) to planning permission DC/22/1947 (agricultural barn, storage tank and infrastructure)	No Objection
DISC/23/0146	New Barn School Rapkyns Care Village Guildford Road Broadbridge Heath Horsham West Sussex RH12 3PQ	Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (foul water disposal),4 (surface water drainage) and 7 (materials and finishes) to planning permission DC/21/2350 (primary and secondary school buildings, new playing fields, car parking)	No objection
DC/23/0540	7 Greenfield Road Slinfold West Sussex RH13 0SF	Creation of new access to the rear.	No objection
DC/23/1346	19 Streetfield Road Slinfold West Sussex RH13 0SE	Surgery to 1x Oak	No objection
DC/23/1283 No objection	Friendly Cottage Park Road Slinfold West Sussex	Demolition of existing attached garage, and erection of replacement attached garage with storage space above. Erection of a two storey rear extension and associated alterations to the roof including provision of 4no roof lights and PV Solar panels.	No objection

<p>DC/23/1402</p> <p>No objection</p>	<p>Five Oaks Farm Haven Road Five Oaks West Sussex</p>	<p>Removal of Condition 2 of previously approved application DC/11/0090 (Installation of a solar farm with a power capacity of up to 5MWp, comprising the installation of photovoltaic panels, associated boundary fencing, security and CCTV cameras, landscape planting, site access and associated electrical infrastructure - including 4 No. inverter units and a transformer compound) Relating to the extension of planning permission.</p>	<p>No objection</p>
<p>DC/20/2126</p>	<p>Lower Broadbridge Farm Billingshurst Road Broadbridge Heath West Sussex</p>	<p>Variation of conditions 5 and 6 of previously approved application DC/20/2126 (Change of use of the land and buildings for the blending, screening, storage and distribution of landscape materials (Class Sui Generis). Extension of an earth bund along the northern boundary and erection of 2.2m high wall to the western boundary) to allow for the removal of the hopper and in relation to the noise levels on site.</p>	<p>No objection</p>

Planning Appeal Statement- Lower Broadbridge Farm

DC/22/1052 | Outline application for the development of the site to provide up to 133 dwellings including the creation of new vehicular access, public open space, landscape planting, surface water attenuation and associated infrastructure with all matters reserved except access. | Lower Broadbridge Farm Billingshurst Road Broadbridge Heath DC/22/1057 | Outline application for the development of the site to provide up to 147 dwellings along with formal and informal open space, landscaping, surface water attenuation, footpaths, access and parking with all matters reserved except access.

Dear Sir(s).

Slinfold Parish Council would like to reiterate its **STRONG** objection to this planning application. Previous objections raised in our letter of 27th July 2022 remain as do those in earlier correspondence. We would like to additionally raise the following points:

- 1. Landscape Impact / Settlement coalescence.** We fundamentally disagree with HDC's decision to remove its objection to this most serious issue. The reason given being that the applicant has chosen not to appeal the decision under DC/22/1057. The applicant does not own this land. It is therefore highly likely that another development proposal will be brought forward for this site. With the development at Wellcross Farm (DC/19/1897), the proposed development at Lyons Farm (DC/19/1723) and the other potential developments detailed on our letter of 27th July 2022 there can be no doubt that the landscape impact would be **Moderate / Moderate-High adverse significant effects**. This level of impact cannot be left to chance and the impact of all potential developments **MUST** be considered at this stage.
- 2. BUAB.** Both the Slinfold and Broadbridge Heath Neighbourhood Plans seek to protect the space between Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold by not building on the land to the west of the A281 as this will effectively merge the two parishes. The A281 is a defensible boundary. If building is permitted beyond this, that boundary will be eroded with each new planning application and development will move inexorably towards Slinfold. In our view and the view of residents of both parishes that voted for the Neighbourhood Plans, it is hugely important that this boundary be respected and protected for future generations.

3. **Flood Risk.** The area forms part of a natural, ancient and working flood plain. As detailed in the correspondence from Field Place Farm the site has, in the past, been subject to flooding on a number of occasions. The seriousness of this, the increase in water flows from other developments and climate change cannot be ignored.
4. **Water Neutrality.** A workable proposal detailing fully agreed water neutrality measures must be presented as part of this stage of the planning process.

Slinfold Parish Council asks that the Planning Inspector **REFUSE** this application.

Bank Reconciliation 18th July 2023

COOP

Bank balance 18th July 2023 71,916.75

Add outstanding receipts 0.00

Less outstanding payments 0.00

71,916.75

Cashbook

Opening balance April 2022 27,060.78

Receipts 72,358.74

Payments -27,502.77

Total 71,916.75

Schedule of payments since 29th June 2023

Date	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT
06.07.23	Slinfold Village Hall	Hall hire youth club1749	£168.00	
06.07.23	Slinfold Village Hall	Cosy Café Hall Hire 1738	£290.00	
06.07.23	Inca Creative	Newsletter printing	£825.00	
06.07.23	HMRC	PAYE 1st Quarter	£1,694.44	
18.07.23	HDC	Bin collection	£27.00	
27.07.23	Grasstex	Grounds maintenance	£1,973.00	£394.60
27.07.23	Jane Slipper	Cosy café May/June	£120.76	
27.07.23	Andy Winyard	Shop extractor fan	£230.00	£46.00
27.07.23	WSALC	Annual subscription	£500.27	
28.07.23	Mike Simpson	July salary	£1,138.36	
28.07.23	Sam Bell	July salary	£701.48	
28.07.23	T Harrison	July salary	£206.75	
28.07.23	J Pilkington	July salary	£225.87	
28.07.23	Mike Simpson	Home office	£15.00	
28.07.23	LGPS	M Simpson July	£393.22	
28.07.23	NEST	S Bell July	£72.83	
		Total	£8,581.98	£440.60