



Slinfold Parish Council

Cherrytree Farm, Hayes Lane, West Sussex,
RH13 0SQ email: clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Slinfold Parish Council Meeting 21st December 2023

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

In attendance: Councillors Casdagli, Leyland, Pyle, Roberts (Chair), Sherwin-Smith, Slipper, Paula Smith, Nigel Smith, Skeates, Pegg and Walker.

Apologies: Mike Simpson (Clerk), Councillor Youtan.

Also in attendance: District Councillor Greenwood and two members of the public.

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

There were none

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

Two members of the public commented on the dialogue that had taken place between residents of Springwood in Spring Lane, the 'builder' (Elivia Homes) and Horsham District Council (HDC); in relation to the builder's failure/refusal to finish works as outlined in the landscape plan (namely an unfinished footpath and over 20 dying trees that need replacing).

Of note, the chair of Slinfold Parish Council (SPC) had attended the site in recent months, to meet with a representative of HDC Enforcement and one of the two members of the public in attendance, to highlight the concerns of SPC, as the landscaping of this area was important to the wider community, and as such had been the subject of much discussion with the builder through the planning stages of this development.

The members of public in attendance updated SPC, outlining that a subsequent meeting had taken place between HDC and the builder and it remains the case that the builder is refusing to meet its obligations.

Action 1: SPC to write a letter to HDC Enforcement, asking for an update on HDC's plans to pursue this matter (cc'ing in District Councillor Greenwood)

Action 2: District Councillor Greenwood kindly offered to make similar enquiries at HDC

Action 3: SPC to write a direct letter to the CEO of Elivia Homes

The members of public in attendance also enquired as to the possibility of citing a dog bin and signage in the wild area of Springwood. They were introduced to the chair of the Highways & Byways Sub-Committee at the end of the meeting; and advised to make an application in this regard through this avenue.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting on 30th November 2023

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes with two observations of note – namely that items 11F and 14 be deferred to January's meeting, rather than December's.

5. Chairman's Report

No matters to report on this occasion.

6. Councillor Reports

County Councillor Christian Mitchell was not in attendance.

District Councillor Kasia Greenwood updated SPC that the 'Local Plan' had been voted through by district councillors; and it will now enter a consultation period. Looking forward, there are still a number of stages to go through, with full adoption likely to be as far away as 2025.

A member of SPC then questioned Cllr Greenwood on water neutrality, specifically a measure that was readily referred to when considering applications (85ltrs, per head, per day average consumption). Cllr Greenwood explained that this was the realistic figure, as outlined by Natural England.

Finally, Councillor Greenwood promoted HDC's app, which, amongst other things, offered an easy tool with which to check bin collections and report fly-tipping.

7. Planning Applications

(a) To consider any planning applications

Councillors considered the planning report (see appendices) and RESOLVED to approve it.

(b) To comment on any planning appeals

There were none.

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

There were none.

8. Finance & Administration

To review the schedule of payments and bank reconciliations since the 30th November 2023

None presented on this occasion.

Councillor Sherwan-Smith made an observation around the practice of approving spends, and it was resolved that this matter be discussed at the impending Finance Meeting in January 2024.

The matter of a small 'Christmas Bonus', in recognition of the hard (and often unpopular) work that the environmental officers carry out on behalf of SPC, was discussed. Councillors resolved to offer such a bonus at £50 for each officer.

9. Next meeting date

25th January 2024

Planning applications 21st December 2023

DC/23/2141	Bramble Hill Farm Five Oaks Road Slinfold West Sussex	Change of use of land from agriculture to use of land for highway maintenance (storage of rock salt for spreading) and associated hardstanding and concrete blocks
DC/23/2221	1 Streetfield Road Slinfold West Sussex RH13 0SE	Replacement porch and erection of a single storey front extension.
DC/23/2157	Pondfield Farm Nowhurst Lane Broadbridge Heath Horsham West Sussex RH12 3PJ	Application to confirm the continuous use of the cabin as a holiday home for a period in excess of ten years (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing)