



Fishbourne Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Residents' Meeting
held at the Fishbourne Centre on Thursday 4 April at 6pm

Present: Cllr. L. Hunter (Chair), Cllr. G. Hand, Cllr. H. Marshall, Cllr. G. Mason, Cllr. A. Porter & Cllr. A. Relf.

In attendance: Mrs. L. Wright (Clerk), District Councillors A. Moss and S. Johnson, County Councillor J. Joy and 49 members of the public.

A24/01 **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllrs. Bates, Gubbey and Stone.

A24/02 **Declarations of interest**
None.

A24/03 **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 May 2023**
It was RESOLVED TO APPROVE the minutes and the Chairman duly signed them as an accurate record of that meeting.

A23/05 **Chairman's Report:** Cllr. Hunter delivered the following report:

20mph in Fishbourne

66% agreement at last year's Annual Parish Meeting to investigate further which resulted in a Village Survey – Main outcomes:

60% wanted 20mph in Blackboy Lane, Salthill Rd, Clay Lane, Old Park Lane, Mill Close /Mill Lane. 42% disagreed , 41% agreed with 20mph on the A259 (17% unsure).

Since then:

Sept 2023 – FPC were advised that PCs had to design their own 20mph road structure for A259. FPC have no expertise in this area and were unhappy to take on this role.

Dec 2023 – Advised to do nothing. WSCC Highways will now take back design of 20mph infrastructure. Action awaited.

Some local Parish Council applications for 20mph have been refused despite the new policy.

Planning Matters:

Bethwines – no current applications or live appeals

Land on Clay Lane – no current applications or live appeals

Land North of Godwin Way – appeal is current

Land at Langley Cottage, Clay Lane – current application is under consideration by CDC for 6 dwellings. FPC did not object but made comments about sewage provision because the site is outside the Settlement Boundary, safe access onto Clay Lane and onwards for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists and lack of amenities for family homes.

Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan:

Neighbourhood Plan - ongoing with severe delays due to Local Plan

Local Plan - due for submission imminently

Roads and Transport:

Speeding and heavy vehicles/tractors continue to be a major problem.

Pavement on Clay Lane from Hannah Place to Humphrey Place – no further action by WSSC due to the high cost of lighting and drainage.

SIDs – continue to be a useful and effective measure in Salthill Rd, A259, Appledram Lane South. Thanks to all volunteers who move them and charge and change the batteries.

Road resurfacing - improved along the A259 between Salthill Rd and the Church carpark.

Police, Crime and Vandalism

Continued liaison with Sussex Police via PCSOs, Sergeant and Chief Inspector ensuring improving and ongoing communications at all levels.

Community ACTION: PLEASE REPORT ALL CRIME - 101 for non-emergencies, 999 for crimes in progress or online <https://www.sussex.police.uk/reportcrime> and Sussex Alerts

Miscellaneous:

Emperor Way Lights vandalism – most lights have been damaged despite work by Cllrs Mason & Relf to repair / secure. New tall lights are being considered and a funding bid is being decided.

Sea wall collapse & closure of Footpath 3059 – continuing with onsite meetings with Harbour Conservancy, WSSC, Harbour Trust, Environment Agency and Sussex Ramblers. Tentative agreement to consider an alternative circular footpath, inland on higher ground – awaiting updates on feasibility study & funding.

Footpath along the Mill Stream – resurfaced March 2024.

Bus Shelter at bottom Blackboy Lane delayed by local landowner objection. FPC continuing to explore this possibility.

Village Voice – The Clerk has trained in new software and has taken over design and editing.

Additional duties

2 Parish Councillors provide support as Fishbourne Centre Directors with involvement in various improvement projects and matters arising.

The Parish Council provide Fishbourne Playing Fields Association (FPFA) with Trustee support and ongoing financial support for the running of the Centre and the Fields, and have provided £18000 towards the “Lets’ All Play” playground project for 2022 - 2023.

A24/05 **Financial Report:** Cllr. Porter delivered the following report:

For the financial year just ended, we set a precept — our income collected through the council tax — of just under £62,000. This was a rise of 0.69 per cent for a band D property which amounted to £57.35 for the year, a rise of less than a penny a week.

Our accounts show that we underspent by £5176 during the year. However, this figure includes £3,750 which is being moved to our earmarked reserves, for the asset replacement fund we have been building up for the past few years. The remaining underspend is largely due to the fact that we had budgeted for expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan, which hasn’t yet happened as the process has been delayed.

During the year, we gave a number of grants to organisations which are either based in the village or work with people in the village. These were:

- 4Sight — £550, to provide support for 13 blind or sight impaired people in Fishbourne, including advising on specialist equipment and tech, and a newsletter.
- Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex — £300, as a contribution to operating costs.
- Chichester Forest Schools CIC — £300, for educational equipment used by children from Fishbourne school and others.

- Citizen's Advice — £350, to help manage increased demands due to the cost of living crisis, including digital services to enable Fishbourne residents to benefit from video appointments from their own homes.
- Fishbourne Companions — £415, towards improving storage facilities at the Fishbourne Centre, and buying more games.
- Friends of Fishbourne Primary School — £500, towards a new outdoor area in the school grounds.
- Home Start — £285, to help recruit and train volunteers to provide support for families in Fishbourne.

All recipients have confirmed that they have spent the grants as intended.

In addition, we contributed £100 towards a fundraising campaign by twelve year old Kitty Primrose Alden, to go on a residential musical theatre course this summer.

The FPPA continues to get a lot of support. We have made our regular grant of £6000 in to the FPPA towards the costs of grass cutting and Public Liability Insurance at the playing field, from which all Fishbourne residents can benefit. We also pay £1000 a year towards playground inspections and insurance. Our Asset Replacement Fund has also contributed a further £8,300 towards the refurbishment of the children's play area, as planned, taking our total contribution over the past few years to £18,000.

The repayment on the long-standing loan which paid for the expansion of the Fishbourne centre continues to be one of our biggest expenses, at more than £13,000. We also pay for the maintenance and cleaning of the outside toilets at the Fishbourne Centre, which will be almost £1,800 this year. In the past year, we secured a £500 grant for the Centre, towards the celebrations for the Coronation.

We have applied for a grant for the replacement of the vandalised solar lights on Emperor Way. If we are successful, the new lights will be taller and more sturdy.

Looking ahead briefly, our precept for the year we have just entered is just above £65,000 — a rise for a Band D property of 4.27 per cent, giving a yearly charge of £59.80, which is an increase of 5p a week. At the time we set the budget, this was still below inflation. It also follows a period when our increases have been minimal, in order to protect residents going through the cost of living crisis. We are continuing to use underspends from previous years, and multi-year deals on items such as insurance mean some of our cost rises are kept down. But we are subject to rising prices in the same way as every other organisation. Spending for the coming year includes a bench which is currently being installed at Deeside Avenue, a project which was suggested by residents.

A24/06 County Councillor's Report

C/Cllr. Joy reported that Chemroute, the cycleway between Emsworth and Chichester, requires partnership working between West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways, National Highways and Active Travel to put together a workable, funded scheme. The pinchpoints in Fishbourne are a problem and a design needs to be created which works for pedestrians, cycles and motorised vehicles. 20mph limits will only be needed at the pinchpoints. A plan should be ready by the summer.

A24/06 District Councillors' Report

D/Cllr. Moss reported on:

- the election results from 2023 and the appointments of the local Councillors
 - the Midhurst fire which has needed considerable investment to reestablish the businesses affected
 - investment in temporary accommodation for unintentionally homeless people
 - investment in the City's parks
 - £220k invested in local economy, businesses and community groups
 - more events in the City to create a vibrant economy
 - preparation for food waste collections to start in 2026
 - intense work on the Local Plan to get it ready for inspection
 - environment and biodiversity plan to link the Harbour to the South Downs National Park
 - delivering a balanced budget whilst maintaining the level of support including Supporting You and the Council Tax reduction scheme.
 - Funding to be identified for the Chichester Coastal Adaptation Plan
- [Full report available online](#)

A24/07 Guest Speaker – Rob Bailey from the Clean Harbour Partnership

The speaker gave a very interesting presentation on the state of the water in Chichester Harbour. Government monitoring is inadequate. The major polluters are: water companies; farming; highway run-off; leaching from landfill; water (boat) users; and chemical by-products from general living.

Domestic cleaning products, laundry detergents and microfibres are a big problem, as are the drugs ingested by human-beings which end up in the water and are then ingested by the animals which live in the harbour.

People power can be harnessed to try and raise awareness of the issues and what we can do to make a difference. There have been good press articles and photographs and street protests about pollution. Wetlands have been established which make a difference. Investment in sewage works is improving the situation. The Three Harbours Partnership has been created to bring together the power of smaller groups. Inspections are taking place, the Water Restoration Fund identifies where investment is needed and a 'whistleblower line' has been set up. Highway run-off is being looked into and legal action and fines for offending water companies are being imposed.

Work is going to start on sampling the water quality in local rivers and volunteers are being sought who can help with this. If interested please contact the Clerk.

This year the Clean Harbour Partnership has plans to carry out more study to give the evidence needed to show the scale of the problem. It is a start, but work needs to continue.

A24/08 Public Questions

Q The new reservoir being built at Havant was planned for leisure but that has been now scrapped because sewage is due to be discharged into it.

A Rob Bailey: Yes. It is shocking that £550m is being spent on recycling sewage into the drinking system.

Q Are the SSSI and AONB designations of the Harbour going to be lost?

A Rob Bailey: No, but the designations do not work well.

D/Cllr. Moss: Natural England (NE) have produced a report to say that action needs to be taken and the Three Harbours Partnership will bring this together.

Q The markings on the Fishbourne roundabout have worn away and it is dangerous. It needs traffic lights.

A D/Cllr. Moss: National Highways were considering improvements to the Fishbourne roundabout which included lights, but now this has been replaced by a 'monitor and manage' approach where the situation will be monitored and then managed appropriately. D/Cllr. Moss agreed to report the faded lines.

Q There are queues at peak times back to Fishbourne from the Fishbourne roundabout due to motorists using Appledram Lane South as a rat run from the A286. There should be a dedicated turn left lane for the A259 from the westbound A27. People on the A27 approach the roundabout too quickly

A Cllr. Hunter: These are all points that the Parish Council has reported these issues and continues to raise them.

D/Cllr. Moss: the problem is that National Highways will not spend the money required.

Q The access from Clay Lane into the Whitehouse Farm development looks very substantial if it is supposed to be temporary.

A This will be used to access the Community Centre but there are no plans for it to link to the main estate.

Q Newport Drive needs double yellow lines as people park too close to the junction with Salthill Road.

A Cllr. Hunter: send in photographic evidence to the Parish Council so it can be considered.

The meeting was then closed and residents were invited to stay on to talk to councillors and to look round the room where representatives of community organisations had set up displays to show their activities in the parish.

Signed.....

Date.....