

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

held at Wilmington Village Hall on Friday 24 May 2024 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors: Tyler Butterworth (Chair), Claire Church (Vice-Chair), Lizzie Chisholm, Michael Bridges, Jeremy Christey, Ann Osborne and Jeanne Peterson (clerk).

County Councillor Stephen Shing, District Councillor David Greaves
Alison Cotton (Tree Warden), Ruth Zacharewicz (Chair, Wilmington Village Club).

43 members of the public.

1. The Long Man Parish Council Chairman, Tyler Butterworth, welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Annual Report from Long Man Parish Council - Councillor Tyler Butterworth (Chair)

Last year the Parish Assembly was part of the Annual Council meeting, but the council wanted to create this stand-alone event to encourage more people to attend and meet members. The Annual Parish Council Meeting itself had also been held recently where Councillors Tyler Butterworth and Claire Church were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair.

Cllr Butterworth noted a huge thank you to the parish council, a really good hardworking team, and to the clerk. A short update followed on what the council has been doing this last year on behalf of the parish:

- Local community groups and charities have been supported through our grant scheme, for example Wealden Citizen's Advice, Cuckmere Flood Forum, Parish Magazine and Cuckmere Community Bus, and we attend when we can local group meetings like the Cuckmere Community Bus and the Cuckmere Flood Forum and report back.
- We have been attending training sessions periodically throughout the year – planning awareness, conflict resolution, and Claire and myself liaise with most of the other local parish councils through regular chair/Vice chair update and awareness sessions hosted by East Sussex Assoc of Local Councils ESALC and feed that back into our council.
- Contact has been initiated with the area PCSO to establish local relations and inviting them to attend parish council meetings to report on activity relevant to the parish.
- We've been getting involved in bigger issues like the lighting at the A27 junction – bringing together National Highways and our local MP to keep urging them to make changes to resolve the issue of degradation of quality of life. The more people who become involved the better the chance of a good resolution. But powers of parish council are very limited, so we need to lean against any doors that open to improve our way of communicating our very local needs.
- Continuing that, we have been working to build a closer relationship with ESCC Highways with their initiative Strengthening Local Partnerships – this is just starting off and we'll meet with them twice a year to discuss things that affect us all – potholes, hedgerows, local road markings, signage. A good opportunity to raise very local issues. Please do tell us.

- In the same vein we have been in touch with ESCC Rights of Way team to keep footpaths clear as things seem to be growing more wildly than ever - and any paths you come across with clearance issues please tell us and we will get it actioned.
- Think the parish has coped well with the flooding over the last 12 months which will only get worse. Particularly affects Milton Street – but power outages at South East Water resulted in a loss across the parish. Local emergency water distribution done by community minded people – thank you Darren. In relation to that, we contacted SE Water to be on their distribution list so water delivered here too and not just in Alfriston. Milton St – flood gauges found and costed, Claire took waste water emptying tankers to task – responsible for blocking culvert under A27 and closing off Milton St.
- With this in mind we are working on a substantive Emergency & Resilience Plan for the community to coordinate and organise the parish better in case of emergency of any utility failure impact – major floods, power outages etc and providing safe havens in all three villages, drawing up lists of volunteers and collating any local skills that could be useful. This is in the first stages but it's coming together well. This will act just as an interim, designed to provide temporary assistance until the emergency services arrive.
- We continue to have a list of village assets which we keep an eye on and maintain – the Milton Street phone box – due to be repainted when we have a few dry days, village notice boards (a replacement board is under construction for Milton Street), certain benches, trees that are on parish land.
- I want to thank John Marshall for continuing to edit the Parish magazine and for publicising Parish Council events and meeting minutes.
- And thank the village hall for the use of this great space for our parish council meetings – also we have CIL money to put towards the much-needed new external lights.

3. Annual Reports from the County and District Councillors

a) County Councillor Stephen Shing

Cllr Shing was delighted to see the meeting so well attended. Reports on County matters are given to the parish council at most meetings and can be found within the council minutes. Briefly to note this evening, there are still ongoing issues throughout the county regarding pot holes and there is concern that the standard of repair has not been adequately checked, with a maximum rate of 10% review. It is anticipated that this will be improved and should take into account best value of cost against quality and longevity of repairs.

b) District Councillor David Greaves

The reports which are presented to the council for its bi-monthly meetings can be found on the parish council website as part of meeting minutes. Cllr Greaves gave a resume of District issues to note which have occurred over the last year or are ongoing:

- There are changes and new requirements to proxy and postal voting procedures.
- Wealden District Council have passed a motion to improve river damage, and those in poor or bad condition.
- There are concerns about the final costs of new proposed sports hub opposite the A22. Planning has been approved for the 28acre site and 13m already allocated to the project.
- Wealden is the 2nd least violent crime area in England & Wales
- The council has pledged to keep pressure on Southern Water for its failings on sewage discharge.
- The Wealden Local Plan pledges to build 15,729 new homes by 2040
- A new Business Support programme is making funds available for start-ups and details can be requested via the clerk.
- There is a District project to curb unlicensed fly tipping

- Major cliff collapses on the coast have caused concern and there is a multi-agency approach to look into it.
- A food waste collection point has been set up in Newhaven after a 1.5m grant was received to support the initiative.
- Outdoor gym equipment has been installed at the Cuckoo Trail, items stolen have been replaced.
- Work is being carried out on the Hailsham swimming pool which is currently closed.
- A Health Check is being offered to residents in the District within age restriction guidelines.

4. Long Man Tree Warden – Alison Cotton

Regular updates are given by Alison at the bi-monthly parish council meetings and the end of year report was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13 May 2024. These are available with parish council minutes on the council website.

Going forward there may need to be a call out for help in the parish with watering the new trees and shrubs at Wilmington.

Also to note is that Ash die-back is gathering pace so there are many dying around the parish. It was suggested that Field Maple are a good replacement.

5. Wilmington, Milton Street and Folkington Village Club – Ruth Zacharewicz (Chair)

The Village Club at the Village Hall in Wilmington was created for social and recreational purposes for all residents of Wilmington, Folkington and Milton Street.

There is no endowed income stream so the upkeep of maintenance and running costs rely on funds raised from hall rental charges, grants and fundraising.

Social events and Fundraising:

A free celebratory lunch had been arranged for the coronation, and other events during the year have included a pop up village archive, open air jazz evening, film night, “getting to know your parish council” and a Christmas Fair.

Funds obtained through the Lottery and Sussex Community Foundation enabled the replacement of the external access lift and copper pipes in the roof. New fencing has been erected for safety around the lift, and a new cooker installed in the hall. The defibrillator has been moved to the Long Man Inn.

In June there will be a boules tournament, practice nights have been arranged and teams are most welcome to join.

Following a short break for refreshments, attendees returned to their seats and the guest speaker was introduced.

Rod Barker gave a fascinating talk on the “Ups and Downs of a Sussex Village”, the Landscape & Historical Background of Wilmington and a look at how the Cuckmere Valley was formed and the influence of the Downs on ancient settlement patterns.

These Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed:

Position:

Date: