

Shipley Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2019 at the Andrew Hall, Shipley commencing at 8:00pm

1 Present.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Lindsay was nominated by Cllr Emrich to chair the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr de Zoete and approved unanimously.

Those Present: Cllr Lindsay (Chair), Cllr Baxter, Cllr Emrich, Cllr Huggett, Cllr Roggendorff, Cllr Woodage and Cllr de Zoete.

Also Present: Paul Richards (Clerk) and one member of the public.

2 Guest Speakers

- The report from the Shipley 1st Scouts group was read out by the Clerk (attached at Appendix A);
- The report from the History Society was read out by the Clerk (attached at Appendix B);

3. **Chairman's report** - The report was read out by the Clerk (attached at Appendix C).

4 **Knepp Castle** – Jason Emrich presented his report (attached at Appendix D).

5 **Coolham Village Hall Management Committee** – the report was read out by the Clerk (at Appendix E).

6 Approval of the Minutes from the meeting held on 22nd March 2018.

The minutes having previously been circulated were taken as read. Cllr de Zoete proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed as a correct record, this was unanimously **AGREED**.

7 **Question and answer session** – none.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Signed by Chairman.....

Date.....

Appendix A

1st Shipley Scouts

For those of you living in Shipley village and indeed the nearby area, I would be amazed if you had not encountered our group, 1st Shipley Scouts at one time or another during the past year. If a member of your family is a 1st Shipley Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer you will be familiar with their weekly fun and action packed evenings at our Scout Hut in Dragons Green where our devoted Leaders provide both traditional scouting activities and new and exciting challenges in a happy and safe environment.

Throughout the year we have also been involved in many activities supporting the local community, for example we manned a water station and provided marshals for the Barns Green Half Marathon, we honoured Armistice Day at Shipley Church in November, we held Jumble Sales, carried out catering jobs, put up numerous marquees and many local residents were treated to (endured) our carol singing at Christmas, you may have even spotted our minibus ferrying wedding guests to and from the church in the Summer!

This year through fund raising and the kind donations and the work of our friends and supporters, we are improving facilities at our headquarters by building a new shower and toilet block which will include disabled facilities. This should be completed in the next couple of months, hopefully in time for the Group to celebrate its 85th year in existence, which is an amazing achievement.

We are incredibly proud of 1st Shipley Scout group and the activities we provide year after year for a wonderful group of young people. If your child is interested in joining us, please get in touch as we do have a few spare spaces at the moment, likewise if you could spare some time to help out or even wish to hire a marquee we would love to hear from you.

Please go onto our website which is WWW.1stShipleyScouts.co.uk and fill in the contact form.

Peter Sutton
Chairman

Appendix B

Our guest speaker in April 2018 was Martin Hayes who is County Librarian for Sussex based in the Records Office in Chichester. William Penn and his life in Sussex was the topic which was of particular interest because William Penn was such a local man living between Warminghurst and Thakeham. Quakers were persecuted as non-conformists but here in the depths of Sussex, William Penn, his family and Society of Friends found peace in which to practice their beliefs.

On the evening of 21st June, about 30 members arrived at The Old Vicarage for our mid-summer walk led by Lucy West. This was followed by refreshments in the gardens where members could enjoy socialising in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The long, hot summer of 2018 provided us with perfect weather for our August visit to Parham. The glorious garden and house were at their best in such beautiful weather. The tea-rooms proved very welcome at the end of our visit and the cakes were irresistible!

Our October speaker was Janet Pennington who spoke about "Sussex Inn Signs and their History". We learnt about the different signs used to advertise whether ale, beer or wine was sold, the difference between ale houses, taverns and public houses and also the significance of the name of the pub. Many of the signs refer to the coat of arms belonging to the land owner. This topic was the subject of Janet's thesis for which she was awarded her doctorate and so she spoke enthusiastically and knowledgeably. A most interesting and informative evening enlivened even more with coloured slides.

November is the time of year when we hold our AGM. This year, after the main business was complete, mulled wine was served together with festive treats from the food table while being entertained by Gary Holder and the Boxwood String Band. An evening full of good foot-tapping music and Christmas fayre to prepare us for the Festive Season.

In February 2019 we welcomed Mark Perry Nash to speak about the Sussex Coastline and its role in British History. The talk began with the quote - "One noted historian observed that "The southeast coast of England has witnessed more 'history-making' and history-changing events than any other area of similar size on Earth (with the obvious exception of what we know as the Holy Land). This laid the foundation for a comprehensive history beginning with the Celts at 600BC and through the ages to the present. As always Mark delivered his talk not only with great knowledge but with wit and charisma which keeps his audience spell-bound.

Also on the programme for this year are more walks and visits as well as our ever popular summer social evening which will be held on Thursday June 20th. More details, dates and venues will be published in the Shipley Parish News and on the Shipley Parish Council website.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for providing us with space on their website where we are able to post not only our programme of events, Shipley Memoirs but also transcriptions of Shipley School Log Books. These not only give a fascinating insight into the life and times of the children and staff, but also the health and poverty of those in the Parish.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for his efficiency in updating our page. Many thanks Paul.

Gina Larcombe

Appendix C

Shingley Parish Council – a year in review 2018/2019

Firstly, I would like to start my review by thanking my fellow Councillors for all their contributions and hard work over the last year. As volunteers, our Parish Councillors devote a lot of their time to their role, contributing to several activities outside of the formal council meetings to help our community. I know we all take our responsibilities very seriously, and it has been great to see everyone working together this year to resolve issues and progress key projects.

Lee Lovett took on the role of Vice Chairman and I would like to thank him for his help and support this year. Philip Baxter has continued with his important role as our representative at the Horsham Association of Local Councils, and has worked hard to ensure we are kept fully informed and that our voice is heard on important matters within our broader District community.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our Parish Clerk, Paul Richards, who works incredibly hard on behalf of the Council and the Parish as a whole. I would also like to thank him personally for the help and advice that he has provided to me as Chair throughout the year.

Another busy year for the Parish Council saw continued significant progress with our local Neighbourhood Plan and a continued focus on addressing traffic calming measures within the Parish.

Neighbourhood Plan

As mentioned last year, most parishes across England are required to create a Neighbourhood Plan (NHP). This Plan gives local communities an opportunity to shape development in their areas. These plans then become part of the broader Local District Council (Horsham) Plan and the policies contained within them are then used in the determination of planning applications.

The Shingley NHP Steering Group has continued to be very active throughout 2018/2019. The Steering committee this year focused their attentions on completing an exercise in association with South Downs National Park, to identify any Local Green Spaces within the Parish formally requiring designation. This links closely with areas identified in the community survey undertaken in 2017. They have also dedicated much time to finalising the details of the draft plan and this was formally submitted to Horsham District Council for review in January 2019.

Unfortunately, there have been a number of frustrations this year caused by heavy delays to timescales due to the high number of other Plans being reviewed by HDC and changes to legislation earlier in the year. The steering committee has done extremely well to reach this key stage and having completed the review process with Horsham District Council, we are now in a strong position to move forward to the Public Consultation stage, placing us well on the path to completion.

I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the Steering committee for all their contributions and hard work, and their patience and perseverance in getting us to this point.

Further details of our progress can be found on our website www.shingleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

Traffic Management

The Parish Council continued to focus on traffic management this year as issues continue to be evident, particularly at the junctions of Pound Lane and the Coolham Crossroads. The Parish Council has continued to escalate concerns via our District and County Councillors and has also engaged directly with WSCC Highways Management to discuss the various ways we may improve our traffic management systems within the Parish. Solutions that we are working on include speed indication devices and the installation of gates displaying 30 mph signs positioned at key areas (Coolham crossroads) to encourage drivers to slow down. We are also engaging in Community Speedwatch which is a campaign run by Sussex Police.

Other Parish activity –

Regrettably, we have also seen an increase in reports of litter in the parish and poor parking adjacent to the McDonalds outlet at Buck Barn crossroads, due to irresponsible drivers/consumers. Our Clerk wrote to McDonalds on behalf of the Council and we have arranged to meet with the owner and managers of the local McDonalds imminently to discuss these issues.

The Parish Council met formally 12 times in the year, with a further 5 Planning Sub-committee meetings attended, where we reviewed almost 50 planning applications. The Parish Council also made £900 of charitable donations to local good causes.

Regrettably, Parish Councillors Jamie Coad, Nigel King-Tours and Thomas Hayes offered their resignations during the Spring of 2018. The Council is indebted to them for their significant contributions over the last few years. With several vacancies on the Council, I am delighted to report that Anthony Burrell, Harry Woodage and Bridget Huggett were co-opted to serve as Parish Councillors this year.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers from the Parish to help us with a variety of activities; from being a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to litter picking events and traffic management volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would be interested to help and keep an eye out on the local Shipley Community Facebook page where we list details of upcoming activities.

Nicky Wiltshire, Chairman

Appendix D

Jason Emrich – Estate Manager – for Shipley Parish AGM 28th March 2019

Since the publication of Isabella Tree's (Lady Burrell) book, *Wilding* part way through 2018, interest in the Knepp Estate has been staggering. The family and management team have been overwhelmed with requests for access and to give talks. We have a massive outreach program and have even travelled the UK meeting prominent landowners advising them on nature conservation; we really feel that we are at the forefront of a zeitgeist!

- Visitors to our rewilding project - 6645 official visitors in 2018 – an increase of 45% from the previous year
 - 366 through educational access visits
 - 3292 via Safaris
 - 2937 campers
 - c50 landowners and officials
 - Overall 23,201 visitors to Knepp since we started showing visitors around our conservation project in 2002.
 - These numbers obviously exclude footpath users; we have just built a new visitor's car park for walkers at Newbarn Farm, Dial Post, (and improved the access road) both with the generous support of a LEADER grant
 - We are re-launching our subscription horse-riding routes in 2019. Anyone interested should contact us.

- Events (excluding the rewilding stuff)
 - 11 Weddings at Springwood over the summer
 - St Catherine's gift Fair in September
 - 6341 visitors to the FFF in June. We are sorry to stop this event as it was lovely, but are really excited to be doing something a bit different too...
 - Looking ahead at 2019 we are hosting open air Shakespeare with HDC as part of the Year of Culture and hope that everyone has a chance to come and see A Midsummer Night's Dream outside the castle

- Employment - 30 FTE equivalent employees and contractors engaged in property maintenance, farming, tourism, conservation, administration, gardens and housekeeping, and increase of 3.5 people in the past 12 months. This excludes the dozen ecologists who help out with our safaris and all the wonderful volunteers and interns who get involved here too.

- Over 200 people work on the estate in lots of fantastic local businesses (55,000 sqft of offices and light industrial space + equestrian yards)

- Wildlife –some highlights as follows:
 - So far...30,000 species records of about 3000 species – including 1,611 different species of insect!
 - In 2018: 19 singing nightingales (stable compared to national decline by 1/3) & 18 singing turtle doves (up two!)
 - Great White Egret – 7 present over winter, loving the floodplain areas
 - Record numbers of purple emperor butterfly – 388 peak count in one day (more than doubled from last year)
 - Amazing dung beetle research showing 11,000 individuals compared to 200 on nearby organic farm!
 - Lots of soil sampling showing great results in terms of mycorrhizal fungi doubling the amount of carbon sequestered since the beginning of the rewilding project, and also doubling of microbial biomass (bacteria that make the soil function)..and the worms are back!

- Three cuckoos satellite tagged in May, and all are in sub Saharan Africa on their way back (4000 mile migration!)
 - Our white stork reintroduction programme is going really well – we now have a volunteer group to help with feeding etc. They are due to breed this year so look out for free-flying storks looking to nest on your chimney!!
 - St Catherine’s New Horizons Gift Fair had another great year.
 - Lake dredging to commence this summer – the lake is drained and the silt drying...
 - Sawmill – 5000 sqft of new office space ready to build once we know what the economy is doing and whether Brexit will ever happen!
 - Swallows – Farm shop and restaurant (subject to planning) pre-let to a local business about to be submitted for Planning
 - My house extension is fantastic – a real credit to the Knepp Estate building team. Can’t wait to move in!
 - Shipley Arts Festival Rewilding Concert in June
 - HDC’s Year of Culture Shakespeare in June
 - St Catherine’s in September
 - Plus Yoga Garden and forthcoming coffee roaster at Newbarn, campsite and safaris ongoing... we are 80% let so hurry!
- Farming – Once again our cattle and deer were mainly wholesaled, but we are working hard to develop a processing and retail outlet. We do have beef, pork and venison available in our small seasonal campsite shop at Newbarn Farm.
 - Forestry – we finished planting the Eucalyptus wood on Hooklands Lane (which will fire the biomass boilers in the years to come) & despite the very dry summer, they have grown well. We have also continued planting the bunds at Hillhouse.
 - Sadly we lost three veteran trees in the park this winter, and Ash Dieback is upon us and we are felling considerable numbers where they pose a safety risk. Happily we are using & selling this wood in our campsite and also chipping it to fire the boilers.
 - Renewable Energy – our field array had an excellent summer as the sun shone and shone and we had our best year for electricity production. We also ran our boiler entirely with our own home-grown timber this year, which may sound simple...but it isn’t!
 - Superfast broadband - our private network is now reaching 58 business & residential customers (we extended it to Hillhouse Farm and added 8 new customers). I wish we could get it to everyone as it is amazing!
 - Gardens – we are setting up a new business centred around organic gardening at Knepp and our team have been working hard all winter preparing the way for this.

2018 Annual General Meeting Monday 21st January 2019

Chairman's Report

This report provides an overview of the activities of the Coolham Village Hall Management Committee (The Trustees of Coolham Village Hall) during the 2017-2018 financial year.

At the previous AGM, four Committee Members / Trustees confirmed that they were willing to stand again for Officer positions and were voted in as follows; Tanya Barnes (Chairman), Iain Gibbs (Treasurer), Julia Perthen (Secretary). Steve Tully (Booking Secretary).

In addition, Bridget Huggett, Liz Gibbs, Sue Tully, Pam Knight, Martin Hathaway and Ken Egan all confirmed their willingness to remain as Committee Members and were thanked and welcomed.

At the end of 2018, unfortunately, Martin Hathaway advised the committee that due to work commitments, he would need to stand-down from the committee with immediate effect.

Key points to note during the year:

General

- General upkeep and maintenance of the hall continues, to ensure the facility remains in good order following major works and investment over recent years.
- Major works that were undertaken during the year, was the refurbishment and repair of the hall floor.
- Since the end of the financial year, a full decoration of the hall has been carried out and new curtains have been installed throughout.
- Following the installation of CCTV at the end of 2016, additional cameras were installed during the year to give wider external security coverage.
- The Website and Facebook pages continue to be updated and are proving to be an increasingly primary source of contact for further information and booking enquiries.
- The online committee bookings area, which was introduced during the latter part of 2016 to support administration, has proved to be an essential tool and continues to be used as the primary record for bookings and hall administration.

Finance

We continue to maintain a sound financial position and as reported earlier due to significant investment in the fabric and structure of the building in recent years, the focus during the year remained to ensure we continued to look for ways to make best use of funds for running costs, maintenance and general improvements, so that we can continue to provide a great facility for users and the community.

At the same time, it is important to ensure we have a reasonable contingency fund should any significant investment be needed.

Total income for the year was £13,559.44. The Treasurer's report will provide further details.

Bookings

- Hire bookings increased throughout the year with the regular term-time daytime bookings of Coolham Montessori Nursery continuing as they have for several years and we thank Mrs Tully and her staff for their support.
- Regular weekday evening bookings remained steady during the year, which includes a weekly Dance Club, Morris Dancers and Dog Training Classes and, new in 2018, Yoga. Enquiries for more regular bookings also increased during the year with the Booking Secretary now maintaining a 'waiting list'.
- Coolham Music Club run by local resident Graeme Tame has become very popular with 2018 bookings increasing significantly and many events have already been booked throughout 2019.
- The British Horse Society also continued to be a regular hirer of the hall during 2018.

- The hall continues to be a popular venue for children's parties and in 2018 also hosted a Wedding, a few adult birthday parties and it is noted that we have seen returning hirers. At the time of the AGM, a number of bookings for 2019 have been made so this is a pattern that seems to be continuing.
- The Parish Council have continued to use the hall for their meetings on a bi-monthly basis as well holding a few meetings in relation to the new Parish Plan.
- Overall, it is pleasing to see that the hall continues to be in frequent use and bookings have increased. Monday evening's during term-time are now the only evening where we do not have a regular booking and we intend to maintain this pattern for ad-hoc weekday bookings.
- Also of note is that 37 weekends out of the year were booked, 10 of those having bookings on both Saturday and Sunday. An increase on the previous year.
- During the year, Steve Tully (Booking Secretary) continues to seek hirer feedback and comments received have been supportive and encouraging.
- We thank all our hirers for their support and particular thanks go to Sarah Foster – Dance Club, Mythago Morris Dancers, Mark Bridger, Bone Canis dog training, Laura Kingdom, Yoga and Graham Tame for their support as regular hirers.

In summary, Coolham Village Hall continues to be an important facility for the Village and the surrounding community it serves.

Without the Management Committee it would not be possible to continue to run the facility and I would like to offer my sincere personal thanks to all members of the committee for their work, support and commitment during the year, all of which is given voluntarily.

Particularly I would to thank Julia, Iain and Steve who have made a significant contribution in their support and work as officers.

Tanya Barnes,
Coolham Village Hall, Chairman