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Clerk: Mrs. S. Dack

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2019

1. Apologies: Cllr Mr T Piedade, Cllr Mrs L Ketteridge, Cllr Mrs J Robertson
Public Attendees: 4
2. Declarations of Interest: None Received
3. Approval of Minutes: The Minutes from APM 2018 were duly approved and signed.
4. Chairman's Report: The Chairman gave the following report:

Good evening and welcome to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Electors for Kirdford. This is your chance to hear what the Parish Council have been doing over the past year and will include an explanation of the Council's activities and expenditure.

Firstly and most importantly, I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, as well as our District and County Councillors for their continued support throughout the year. I am delighted to report that we have been successful in co-opting some new Councillors this year; what a tremendous difference it makes having some new energy and being able to share the workload!

On behalf of everyone, I would like to say a big thank you to the Clerk who has worked exceptionally hard to keep us on track and ensure we are compliant.

We have had an extremely busy year. Starting off with a wonderful weekend celebrating Prince Harry's marriage to Megan Markle. This was followed by the very successful Open Gardens weekend in June when we welcomed many visitors to the village. Our annual Bonfire Night celebrations were once again very well attended and appreciated by many. In November the village commemorated 100 years of World War 1 with a wonderful display of the men who lost their lives, a highly moving parade through the village and then after the church service we hosted a party in the village hall.

The Parish Council have helped to organise and have supported all of these fabulous and very successful events which have also raised much needed funding for facilities within the parish. We have of course also had the usual collection of potholes, ditches, drains, floods, footpaths, CIL money, planning applications, Operation Watershed, Winter Management Plan and Health and Safety matters to deal with. Training for Councillors this year has included GDRP, Resilience, Fire Awareness and Emergency First Aid at Work.

For a small parish council we have had a number of significant projects which have taken up a tremendous amount of our time and energy. Crouchlands Farm has been sold and we are now waiting to see how the site is to be restored and developed.

The proposed replacement of Boxal Bridge continues to be a worry so we are monitoring the situation closely.

Cala Homes proposed development on the Plaistow Road has once again caused us concern. We have objected to the recent planning application to develop the site with no phasing. We are quite determined to remain true to our Neighbourhood Plan and have the site developed over a number of years providing the type and number of housing the village requires. The expansion of Gatwick and the Noise Management issues are still ongoing. We are kept well informed and are regularly updated on relevant issues.

The replacement play equipment on Butts Common is progressing slowly. The National Trust have supported our application to obtain a license as Butts Common is registered as an Open Space. Hopefully, the equipment will be installed this May.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is in the process of being reviewed in order to ensure it stays relevant and feeds in to Chichester's Local Plan Review. Part of this process has involved an updated Housing needs Survey which was undertaken at the end of last year. Parishioners have also recently been asked to submit their comments and ideas so they can be discussed and included.

The cuts being made by Central Government to local councils has resulted in many services being reduced or cut. We have received requests from a number of local organisations who have had their grants reduced or removed and we are doing our best to support them in order to protect the services we value.

Attending Parish Council meetings is only one small part of being a parish councillor. There are a number of committees that they are representatives on; some meeting within the parish and others within the district. To support our parish your councillors work with enthusiasm, dedication and tireless commitment. They donate their time, expertise, energy and support which makes Kirdford the village we all love and care for.

On behalf of the village I would like to thank to Josef Ransley our District Councillor who has worked tirelessly for us over for the past eight years and we give him our best wishes. We thank Janet Duncton for all her advice and support. We also wish to congratulate her on her new role as Chairman of WSCC.

We say a massive thank you to all the Parish Councillors; we really do appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm you generously give to KPC.

A very special thank you goes to Jennifer Robertson who after 28 years has decided it is time to retire from KPC. We are so very grateful for all the time and energy you have given to the village. You have been such a valuable member of the council and we appreciate all you have helped us achieve.

Thank you.

Amanda Gillett

15th April 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm