



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Kirdford Village Hall, Kirdford on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. Miss S Pinder (Chairman)  
Cllr. Mrs. A. Gillett  
Cllr. Mrs. J Robertson  
Cllr. Mrs. N. Goddard  
Cllr. Mrs K Fenney  
Cllr. Mrs L Nutting

39. **Apologies for Absence:** - Apologies received from Cllr. Mr J. Ramsley and Cllr. Mrs J Duncton
40. **Public Participation:** To receive and note questions, comments or representation made by members of the public. - No members of the Public present.
41. **Disclosures of Interest:** to receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters considered at the meeting. – No disclosures.
42. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** To resolve that the minutes from the last meetings of the Council held on 9/17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 be signed as a correct record. UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

Finance Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 4pm.

43. **Reports from District and County Councillors:**  
Josef Ransley

Ward report to Parish Council **June 2016**

1. Parish Council's wishing to deliver new Housing can have access to £2.5m housing fund CDC has available for delivering new and much needed affordable housing in the district.
2. New school provision in the ward – I have on going correspondence with CDC/WSCC and will keep Parish Council's advised but suggest PC's keep an eye on CIL allocation relative to the

Horsham/CDC border crossover issues (Horsham District children placed in Chichester District schools and visa versus)

3. CDC Local Plan – the budget costs for a 5 year review of the Local Plan (due in 4 years time) were approved by CDC Council as required by Planning Inspectorate. Parish Council's should note that if CDC Housing numbers are increased in such a review it may require their own Neighbourhood Plan's to be reviewed.
  4. We await a decision on Crouchlands Cert. of Lawfulness appeal but it would appear that the efforts of local people and the Parish Council's in presenting evidence and making representations in all the various hearings are highlighting how Crouchlands may have been misleading the various authorities.
44. **Crouchlands Biogas:** Nothing to report at this time.
45. **Butts Common:** Cllr. Mrs L Nutting has consulted with a solicitor, and had been advised that The National Trust are responsible for the upkeep of the Common. After discussion Cllr Miss S Pinder proposed and was seconded by Cllr. Mrs A Gillett, that up to £500 of legal advice be paid for if necessary. UNANIMOUSLY AGREED
46. **Aircraft Noise:** Cllr. Miss S Pinder proposed that the Council join APCAG at a cost of £100.00 as this will give us a vote at further meetings. Cllr. Mrs L Nutting seconded and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
47. **Proposed Development for Plaistow Road:** (Cllr. Miss S Pinder)

Cllr Pinder had a meeting with CDC Planner Jo Bell and CDC Cllr Ransley.

Chichester have not made any decisions. Cllr Pinder advised CDC that Phasing has to be part of the build.

To this end KPC has agreed to have the Financial Viability report analysed by professionals. KPC agreed the funding of same.

48. **Think Villages:** (Cllr. Miss S Pinder)

There has been some confusion caused by a dispute between Garry Colligan and Tim Bryant who both claimed to have controlling interest in the Townfield Site. This has now been clarified. There will be an informal meeting with Mr Colligan in July

49. **Correspondence:** The Clerk read out a letter of Thanks from WGPC thanking the Council for the Grant towards the upkeep of the Public Toilets. Also an email received from the Secretary of the Boules Club regarding the parking on Butts Common.

50. **Chairmans Announcements:**
51. **Insurance renewal:** The Clerk reported that the Insurance renewal had been paid.
52. **Co-Option of New Councillors:** The Chairman reported that there have been no parishioners co-opted as yet, and that the Councillors need to approach prospective candidates.
53. **Review Terms of Reference for Committees:** Carried Forward
54. **Recycling:** The future arrangements for the village were reported. The Clerk to forward to Cllr. L Nutting the presentation attended. Cllr Mrs L Nutting to consider whether it would be possible to arrange a public viewing for the parishioners.
55. **InTouch Training:** The Clerk to chase InTouch for a detailed format for the training, and possible dates.
56. **Documents For Councillors to Read:** Documents were distributed.
57. **Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations:** - Update from Cllr. Mrs A Gillett. A Vote of 'Thanks' was given to Cllr. Mrs A Gillett for the organisation of the day's event. Cllr. Mrs A Gillett thanked everybody for their help to make the event successful, despite the weather, over £1200.00 was raised towards new Play Equipment for the village, and this has been banked.
58. **School Court:** The Opening of the new Play Equipment was well attended and Cllr. Mrs L Nutting thanked everybody for their help, particularly Lisa Sanderson for all her hard work both before and during the Opening.
59. **Minerals Plan:** (Cllr. Miss S Pinder)
- Cllr Miss S Pinder submitted online comments to WSCC as per the consultation. On behalf of KPC Cllr Miss S Pinder expressed doubts as to whether or not the vulnerability of our parish has been considered properly in the light of new activity by Cuadrilla.
- (Please see attached report)
60. **River Works Update:** Works at Isling Bridge and Boxall Bridge have been completed by the contractor. The works due at Bridgefoot have been deferred, as the work necessary is quite extensive and will have to be carried out by WSCC. The Council is waiting a report from WSCC.

61. **Footpath Resurfacing Update:** Cllr. Miss S Pinder to contact Mr J Beckett and ask for update regarding Herons Close footpath.
62. **Parish Notice Board:** Cllr. Miss S Pinder reported that after several remarks from Parishioners that they were unaware of the PC meetings, it was decided to seek prices for a further Notice Board to be erected at the Village Shop. Cllr. Mrs L Nutting to gather information regarding the costs and report to the next meeting.
63. **Nat West:** The Clerk to acquire information regarding On Line banking and DD's and necessary signatories.
64. **Drains and Ditches:** The Contractors have attended to Isling bridge and Boxall Bridge. The works at Bridgefoot are to be surveyed by WSCC.
65. **Councillors to report any possible Health & Safety Matters:** No further matters to report.
66. **Follow up on Action List:** The Clerk to update the Action List and circulate to all councillors.
67. **Accounts to be Paid:**

**ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID**

**JUNE 2016**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>ChqNo</u></b>	<b><u>To Whom Paid</u></b>	<b><u>Supply</u></b>	<b><u>Net £</u></b>	<b><u>VAT £</u></b>	<b><u>Total £</u></b>
20.06.16	001615	Miss S Pinder	Mileage	62.64		62.64
20.06.16	001616	Mrs L Nutting	Refreshments Open Meeting	49.75	0.00	49.75
20.06.16	001617	Peter Evans	Int. Audit Services	90.00		90.00
20.06.16	001618	Mrs S Dack	Office Expenses	52.96	8.18	61.14
01.04.16	DD	InTouch	Website Apr	29.99	6.00	35.99
01.05.16	DD	InTouch	Website May	29.99	6.00	35.99
20.06.16	001619	Cane & Company	Insurance	1468.42		1468.42
20.06.16	001620	Playdale	Part Payment	5235.45	1047.09	6282.54
20.06.16	001621	Mr Illston	Repair of Notice Board	58.90		58.90
20.06.16	001622	SSALC	Chairmans Training	55.00	11.00	66.00
20.06.16	001623	SSALC	New Clerk Training	90.00		90.00
20.06.16	001624	Playdale	Final Payment	1308.86	261.77	1570.63

20.06.16	001625	Mrs S Dack	Salary	1339.08		1339.08
20.06.16	001626	HMRC	Mth 3 Contributions	467.36		467.36
20.06.16	001627	Mrs S Dack	Mileage	67.50		67.50
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 10405.90</b>	<b>£ 1340.04</b>	<b>£11745.94</b>

68. **Bank Reconciliation:**

69. **Public Participation:** No Members of the Public attended.

70. **Date of Next Parish Council Meeting:** Next Meeting to be held on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 commencing at 7.00pm in The Chapel, Kirdford

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

The University of Glasgow has been accused of trying to silence dissent on fracking after withdrawing online access from one of its prominent professors.

[David Smythe](#), an emeritus professor of geophysics and a leading critic of the fracking industry, has had his university email address cancelled, and his access to scientific journals cut off.

The action was taken without notice by the university authorities in January a few days after Smythe [posted online a discussion paper](#) critical of fracking safety and regulation in the UK. He has since been attempting to persuade the university to reinstate his access, but so far without success.

Smythe has submitted a series of objections to fracking plans in England, and appeared as an expert witness for community groups opposing plans to exploit coalbed methane near Falkirk in 2014. He has had [a bitter public row](#) with Glasgow University's energy engineering professor, [Paul Younger](#), who has voiced support for fracking.

Smythe, who held a chair of geophysics at the University of Glasgow's geology department for ten years, was made an emeritus professor and honorary senior research fellow when he retired in 1998. Until January this year, he was allowed to use a university email address and to access scientific articles using a university pass.

The university's abrupt decision to end his access could breach his retirement agreement, he claimed. He is currently taking legal advice on the matter.

Professor David Smythe

According to Smythe, the fundamental issue was freedom of expression. "Some people at the university do not like my views on fracking, and they are seeking to silence me," he told *The Ferret*.

"I am surprised and saddened that my alma mater and former employer is now stooping to such base tactics."

He questioned whether Younger, who is a member of the university's governing court, had exercised his influence. This is denied by Younger.

Scientists should be allowed to "slug it out" in public, Smythe argued. "But I cannot now fight my corner since the institution providing me with the essential access to the academic database has unilaterally decided to remove that access," he said.

"The university seems to be adopting as their corporate view the opinions on fracking promoted by Professor Younger." Smythe has published his correspondence with Glasgow University, and

email exchanges between the university, Lancashire County Council and the fracking firm [Cuadrilla](#) released under freedom of information law. He said that the documents, which amount to nearly 100 pages and are available below and on [his website](#), back up his allegations.

Some people at the university do not like my views on fracking, and they are seeking to silence me Professor David Smythe

Younger, a former fracking advisor to the Scottish Government, has frequently been quoted on the prospects for onshore oil and gas. Last month he attacked the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, for taking “flight from reason” by hardening her stance against fracking.

He was [reported in The Herald](#) saying that he was “flabbergasted” that all but one of Scotland’s main political parties were “trashing” an industry that would re-employ North Sea workers “in a far safer environment”.

In 2014 Smythe was [told by the university](#) to make clear that his views on fracking were his own and did not represent the university’s current researchers. He was also attacked by Younger for allegedly misrepresenting his credentials as a chartered geologist.

Younger insisted, however, that he had nothing to do with the latest decision to cut off Smythe’s online access. “I have no control over such matters,” he said.

“His allegations are baseless speculation – which sadly is something Professor Smythe specialises in. I was elected to the university court by my peers, and have very specific duties in that capacity.”

Smythe’s name had never come up in his court duties, Younger said. “I have far more important things to do with my time than indulge in the sort of behaviour Professor Smythe fantasises about.”

Smythe was backed, however, by [Dr Damien Short](#), a fracking and human rights expert from the University of London. “The pro-fracking lobby would dearly love to see Professor Smythe silenced,” he said.

“In the interests of open, honest, evidence based academic discussion, I hope the University of Glasgow will ensure that this does not happen and reinstate Professor Smythe’s research privileges immediately.”

He was also supported by the Scottish political satirist, [Alistair Beaton](#), author of ‘Fracked! or ‘Please Don’t Use The F-Word’, a new play to be [premiered at the Chichester Festival in Sussex](#). The play deals with university politics on fracking.

Mary Church, head of campaigns for [Friends of the Earth Scotland](#), said: “It’s remarkable that Glasgow University would risk its reputation by apparently stifling debate and freedom of expression around one of the most important issues of our time...It’s vital that academics who voice concerns about fracking, a new and particularly damaging frontier of fossil fuels, are not silenced.”

The [University of Glasgow](#) denied that it was stifling freedom of expression. “Professor Smythe has every right to express his views,” said a university spokesman.

“His email access was terminated earlier this year, as part of a routine review of email accounts in the [School of Geographical and Earth Sciences](#). Professor Smythe left the University in 1998 and, while he retains the title of emeritus professor, he has no continuing practical association with the work of the university.”



[Prof David Smythe.jpg](#)