

Hooe Parish Council

Public Meeting

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Ninfield Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN39 5JP

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 14th November 2022

Attendees: Cllr Ross Clifton (RC) , Cllr Dick Carey (DC1), Cllr Steve Crawhurst (SC), Paul Yeeles (PY)
Cllr Ann Loyd (AL) and Cllr Gayle Kirk (GK)

13 people in attendance. Meeting commenced at 7pm

1. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AL explained the intention is for the parish council to hold two public meetings a year to give the residents their opportunity to put forward their ideas and suggestions to the parish council, enhance the village for us that live here and any visitors as well. AL informed the meeting that anyone may put forward questions to the chairman at any point as this is not a statutory council meeting.

AL advised the meeting that the parish council had devised a questionnaire designed to help the parish council to identify where the priorities are. AL stated the residents may choose to complete the form now or take it away and send the completed form back to the clerk.

AL asked residents when completing the questionnaire to choose from the list, if you wish to add different issues, please provide the details at the bottom of the form. AL informed everyone to tick the H box for your top four priorities and the L box to identify for the lesser priorities. AL advised the meeting that this questionnaire will be distributed all residents on the parish council's emailing list.

Meeting broke for refreshments and cake.

2. To discuss the priorities of the parish council 2023/24 and beyond

AL reported the parish council wished to continue supporting the **Hooe in Bloom** as it has been very popular and has received positive feedback. AL advised the plan is to put in two more planters in and are awaiting confirmation from the church commissioner's office whether they are to donate a cauldron which the parish council will use as a planter.

A resident asked who maintains them?

AL advised various residents who live nearby have adopted them.

AL advised the meeting that there is already one planter on the right hand side as you come down from Ninfield and the plan is to put another planter on the left hand side as well. AL said that a planter is to go outside the village hall and have removed the hanging baskets as they were difficult to maintain as they kept drying out due to the long hot summer this year.

AL reported the red lion pub have adopted the planter by the sign and have taken responsibility for watering it.

AL said that they were looking at different plants for the winter and bulbs for the spring and will be looking at the planting for next year and as we have the coronation coming up, we may stay with the red, white and blue colour scheme.

Jubilee Woods

AL commented that the parish council would like to put some signage in place from the road to point people down to the woods. AL considered looking at planting some wildflower seeds, possibly finishing off the area where the seating is located and perhaps ask the band or others to play there one evening in the summer, inviting villagers down, take a picnic and a bottle of wine. AL said that it would be nice if we could get people to use the woods, it is an asset and will be beautiful when the trees mature.

RC raised his concern that there is no where to park and if residents park on the road it will be a nuisance.

DC said that if it is a village event locals won't use their cars, they will walk.

A resident stated they didn't know about the Jubilee Woods until recently and a sign would be a good idea.

AL suggested that the Jubilee Woods needs to be advertised around the village and let people know it exists like the ramblers club that regularly meets at the red lion pub.

Coronation Party

AL confirmed the platinum jubilee event was a success and it was a lot of work to get done in six weeks. AL commented everyone enjoyed it and the weather was good. AL said that the parish council is looking at planning something for the coronation on the 6th May 2023 and I understand the Monday is a bank holiday.

AL asked if anyone had any ideas or what they would like to see just to let her know. AL said that it was nice to see the local bands playing at the jubilee and it would be nice to see Hooe turned out and meet everyone again.

Red Phone Box

AL believed the phone box was bought privately and donated to the parish council and we need to decide what we are going to turn it into.

A resident mentioned that they are frequently used as libraries.

AL said that the coffee morning already has a book swop club. AL suggested it could be used as an information point for the village and incorporate with a map of the footpaths around Hooe, directions to the Jubilee Woods and advertise what is happening locally. AL asked for suggestions and just to let her know.

SC asked whether you could fit books in there?

PY asked whether the phone box could be moved to outside the village hall, easier access and to parking.

A resident suggested it could be used as a seed swop or used for giving away surplus fruit and vegetable produce. The resident said that they had figs coming out their ears and would be happy to give the produce to other villagers.

AL said that she had a lot of apples this year, but like the idea of a seed swop.

A resident stated they would not want the phone box moved.

AL indicated that she wasn't sure that we would be able to move it and it is likely to be concreted in the ground. AL also suggested that the phone box is a good visual point to use when giving people directions.

Recreation Grounds

The parish council would like to know what residents would like to see happening on the recreation grounds and ideas for future use? AL suggested the coronation party could be held there. AL remembered the Michaelmas fair held in the field behind the pub, maybe we could have something similar up at the recreation grounds and the band playing in the evening?

RC said that they use to have the tug of war.

AL explained she had been framing some pictures for the village hall and some are of the tug of war team in the past.

GK said that her husband was in the team.

A resident pointed out that they weren't just a tug of war team but national champions. AL passed the photographs round the room for everyone to see. AL asked if anyone would like to be part of a tug of war team?. PY said that he would.

AL asked everyone if anyone had any more photographs that could be put up in the village hall, if so to contact her and she will put them up in the village hall with all the other photographs.

A resident asked do you know what year the photographs were taken?.

AL said that some of the dates are on the back of the photographs.

Emergency Plan

AL explained the parish council must try and get this off the ground, as following the storm incident with the village being without electricity, it is important the village comes together to help each other in a time of need. AL explained we need volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, be it to check someone to see if they are ok, collect prescriptions, disseminate information about what is happening and who can help or in bad weather having residents with 4 x 4 to get about and much more. AL said that we also need to know the residents who will need our assistance.

AL asked if anyone would like to sign up, please take a form or contact the clerk. AL outlined that the parish council's intention is to set up a working party to bring this plan together.

A resident asked when will this happen?. AL answered the sooner the better.

The clerk added if the emergency plan is to move forward, volunteers are needed to help and commented that three people had offered their assistance. The clerk reported that she had been in contact with the various services to ensure the parish council knows who to contact should an emergency arise again.

A resident said that this is about disseminating the information to everyone.

Speed Watch

AL considered that everyone agrees that there are speeding cars through the village, but what can we do about it.

A resident asked why can't we have one of those flashing signs to slow the traffic down?.

AL reported that a resident had written in requesting an illuminating sign like they have at catsfield.

A resident said that there are other signs to show they are going too fast.

GK considered if it shows the speed the driver is travelling, it has more of an effect rather than just flashing.

AL asked where would we put it, possibly approaching the village where it spurs off?.

GK suggested it is that end where they get up their speed. AL said that they also speed up past my house too.

AL reported that she had spoken to highways and have been advised that we are one of the designated routes to divert traffic when there is a problem with Marsh Road. AL explained highways are reticent on doing anything up through Hooe.

AL added that if we were to go ahead in trying to progress this further, we would need the opinion of the residents where we would put the traffic calming. AL suggested coming down pass the fruit farm, somewhere around there.

Most attendees of the meeting acknowledged agreement with AL's recommendation.

DC said that they had tried out the smilers before, but the cars slowed down when they saw people in the yellow fluorescent jackets.

AL explained Steve O'Connell is the policeman in charge of speed watch and would ask him to come and visit the parish council meeting. AL mentioned that we would require a traffic calming at the bottom of the village as well as the top. AL asked if anyone had any suggestion where to nominate the location.

DC said that at a previous council meeting the policeman stated the best road calming is for the village residents to keep to the speed limits so other road users will follow.

AL suggested we need to highlight the speed of the cars as they drive through the village and make them aware of the 30 mile per hour speed limit especially where there are no pavements. Ninfield and Catsfield parish council are keen to work together with Hooe to undertake a joint speed check exercise.

AL asked for any suggestions on the resident's ideas on how the traffic calming should work, what and where.

A resident commented that a few of us residents completed the speed watch training but in practice as so many cars look the same it was not easy to do.

DC said that the highways use to put the cables across the road and record the number of cars that went over it so we knew the volume of cars coming through Hooe.

AL suggested she might ask Steve O'Connell to come along to a future council meeting.

Recreation Grounds

AL explained a few residents had asked about increasing the seating on the recreation grounds and that the dog walkers were in agreement. AL advised other suggestions included picnic benches and a children's play area.

A resident suggested the benches should be taken from the Jubilee Woods as the area can be difficult to use as it becomes a bog at times. The resident complained that it was cut when it had rained which is not acceptable as the pathway was damaged.

AL pointed out that someone had tried to steal the two benches on the recreation grounds and tried to break the concrete to get them out. AL stated the existing benches are well used.

A resident suggested the seating in the Jubilee Woods is not used and the seating has been down there for two years now.

Another resident responded by saying they use it, and three other people were using the seating last Sunday.

Signage

AL said that a request had been received to put no dog fouling signs on the gates to the BOGS to encourage people to pick up their dog mess.

GK asked will they take any attention to the signage if they don't pick it up anyway ?.

AL said she had no idea, but the nearest dog bin is at the recreation grounds and back in the village.

GK said that the dog walkers should be responsible and take a bag to pick up their dog mess like I do, and you do.

A resident reported that where we live a lot of people pass and their dogs mess outside the gates and I put up two dog signs and this has help reduce the amount deposited outside.

AL said that a request had been received to put up two slow down for horses signs on the highways. AL explained the resident ask for one outside the red lion pub and Straight Lane.

A resident commented that a lot of horses come through the village.

3. Residents were asked to raise matters or ideas for discussion.

AL explained this is the list sent in so far and with the completion of the questionnaires the parish council would wish to try and set the priorities for the coming year and long term as well. AL said that if any resident has any ideas to contact the parish council as our aim is to improve the village for the residents that live here.

A resident indicated that it is not a good idea to have a children's playground at the recreation grounds. The resident said that it would be a huge on-going cost with lots of health and safety obligations and that is why the last one was removed. The resident suggested that you will find where other villages have them, the outside kids from the villages come in, teenagers end up using the equipment inappropriately and get used by all and sundry.

AL stated if we did go ahead with such a project, we would need to look at it carefully and what we put there but felt that people would have to travel to Hooe and this would put a lot of people off. AL explained it would have to be sited in the right place and install the right equipment. AL confirmed the parish council would have to consider the maintenance and ongoing costs carefully. AL explained this recommendation has been put forward by some residents and the parish council must take into account the views of families with young children.

AL noted that there are quite a lot of children in the village, and I didn't realise how many until we held the platinum jubilee event. The clerk added there are grants available to encourage the use the facilities in our open spaces, Ninfield have received grants for this purpose.

AL said that the parish council will need to look at this carefully, as the request for a playground is raised by residents quite often.

DC said that if you look up the minutes the playground fell apart due to lack of maintenance and insurance issues.

A resident pointed out that Ninfield and Catsfield parish councils have playgrounds and a zip wire that the children from Hooe can use.

A resident acknowledge that it is very nice to have these meetings, but I thought more people would be here. The resident suggested unless more people are on your email system, people won't know about the meetings, and you need to encourage more people to attend somehow.

AL explained that all information is posted on the village notice board and soon all information will be posted on the recreation ground notice board as well. AL indicated that all meetings are published in the parish news and information will become available on the parish council website.

A resident asked whether the website is live yet?.

AL explained the website is under construction and work will continue until it is fully operational.

The clerk explained that unfortunately there had been higher priorities due to the parish council's problems, but the website will be live by the next council meeting.

AL said that she would make sure that the website is advertised and as many questionnaires are distributed around the village as we need the opinions of the villagers.

The clerk added that Hooe parish council has a good turn out to their meetings compared with other parish and town councils, for example Ninfield has no more than two people and Battle with 6,000 residents has no more than six people attending their meetings.

A resident asked that the parish council must carefully consider the precept this year (council tax) due to the cost of living and what households are facing. I know Hooe is a relatively rich village, but the costs should be reduced where possible.

AL explained at our first meeting with the new councillors, we agreed we wanted to see the precept lower, and it is the parish council's aim, although it may be a small amount to start with.

The clerk stated the parish council has a better understanding of the financial costs due to the new financial management system. The clerk explained that the fixed costs cannot be changed, but it is for the parish council to decide what additional expenditure is required for 2023/24.

The clerk explained that the parish council is price checking and entering into arrangements to bring down regular costs to ensure value for money.

A resident asked about the email sent out by Wealden District Council regarding the parish boundary as there isn't enough detail.

Another resident commented that they believe the proposal is to move from Wealden District Council to Rother District Council.

DC suggested that if you look at where Ninfield and Hooe are on the map, they should be part of Rother.

A resident agreed with DC.

SC stated the river forms the boundary so it is logical.

DC said that it was Hailsham Council's boundary.

AL said that she would look into this but was aware Ninfield had voted to move to Rother, but I am not aware this applies to Hooe.

A resident commented that since I have sat in the hall tonight, I must say it looks very nice inside but it is a shame about the outside.

AL explained the parish council have only spent money to meet health and safety standards and our insurance requirements. AL said that the parish council cannot spend too much as we are looking at the long term requirement of the village hall facilities, whether we keep this one, extend it, develop it or add a car park. AL indicated the parish council has done enough to keep it going for a few years yet and to make it accommodating for those who may wish to use it.

AL informed the meeting that lots of remedial work had been done from work to the toilets, installing a fire alarm system, sensor and emergency lighting, updated the electrics and plumbing work to meet water regulations.

DC suggested the windows are quite rotten on the inside.

SC replied you don't invest the money in the windows until we know whether we are staying here or not.

AL asked if anyone had any more questions or anything to add.

AL informed the meeting to send their questionnaires back to the clerk and the clerk will send out the questionnaire to all those residents on the emailing list asap.

AL thanked everyone for taking their time to come to the meeting

Meeting finished at 7.50pm

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoire for the clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record. Members of the public should be aware that being present at the meeting will be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, film or audio recording) at the meeting. The press have the same rights of attendance as at a Parish Council Meeting, and should be afforded the usual facilities.

Questionnaire and Emergency Plan Volunteer Form below

Hooe Parish Council

Business Planning

Hooe Parish Council is to prepare a Business Plan over the next 12 months to look at the short and long term needs of the local community. This will be community led through public meetings and feedback from residents. Hooe Parish Council will be open and transparent in the operation of the business of the parish council moving forward.

Your Opinion Matters

Hooe parish council is keen to hear about matters that are important to you, and for you to have your say.

The parish council would like to ask residents to rate the **Top Four Priorities** from the list below that are **most important** to you by ticking the box under the letter **H**.

Should you wish to select any further options, please tick the box under the letter **L**. Please add any comments as you feel necessary, more space is available overleaf.

- | | H | L |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Concerns with crime in the village | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • Concerns with speeding / traffic calming / speed limits / signage /other highway issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • Resolving the parking around the recreation grounds and elsewhere in the village | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To consider the current and future use of the recreation grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To review and provide additional infrastructure on the recreation grounds such as more seating, dog bins or litter bins etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To hold parish community events during the summer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • Is there a need for a children's playground or other facilities on the recreation grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To work closely with the allotment holders to develop a management plan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To provide signage and to improve the surroundings of the Millennium Woods to increase usage of the green space | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • To develop a biodiversity plan for the green spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| • Management of the footpaths (including the BOGS) / maintenance and the signage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| | H | L |
| • Verge maintenance and hedge cutting around the village | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

NEEDS YOUR HELP

Hooe Parish Council is in the process of developing an **Emergency Plan** to support the local community in the event of a major incident occurring.

Hooe Parish Council is looking for **volunteers** to assist with tasks at short notice to help the local community should a major incident situation arise.

If you are willing to help, please tick any of the areas listed below that you may be able to assist with in the event of a major incident. A detailed Emergency Plan is to be drawn up and all those potential responders will be provided details of how the plan will operate and managed. Such areas may include:

Manual / Communications

Community Assistance

To make available:

Tractor / Trailer

4X4 Vehicle

Generators

Chain Saw

Two Way radios / other communication

Basic equipment such as shovels etc.

Use of land, services or other facilities

To assist with the dissemination of information and communication arrangements to the residents and third parties

Check up on vulnerable residents

Assist with delivering items to residents

To collect and deliver prescriptions

To provide transport to take to a safe location

To provide hot meals to vulnerable residents

To provide temporary accommodation in extreme need

Provide any other assistance they may be needed

The above list is not exhaustive and will be dependent on the nature of the emergency that arises.

The Parish Council **can only enact** an **Emergency Plan** with the assistance of the **local community** and would **ask for your support**.

I agree to put my name forward to **volunteer** as part of Hooe Parish Council's **EMERGENCY PLAN**.

Name:

Address:

Home Tel: Mobile no.:

Email address:

Signature: Date:

I accept and understand that my personal information such as a name, postal address, telephone numbers, email address recorded on this form to be only used for the purpose to which it is intended. Such information will not be disclosed to any other third parties without your permission or unless it is required to do so by law. All information is held by the Clerk on behalf of Hooe Parish Council.