

**Pulborough Community Partnership
Management Group meeting held in the Parish Room of the Sports & Social Club
on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm**

Minutes

Those present

Roger Paterson – chair	RP
Ray Quested	RQ
Edna Henly	EH
Rob Aylott	RA
Pat Arculus	PA
Andrew Cox	AC
Les Ampstead	LA
David Hurst – minutes	DH

Apologies: Peter Jones, Richard Keatley, Ben Sheldon, Debby Worster.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18th January were agreed.

2. Financial report

AC reported that the financial year ending February 2017 had been completed in profit and he would be finishing the accounts shortly for filing. He said that the Harvest Fair had an income of £5,000 showing a net profit of £2,000. Rob Aylott was congratulated and asked to forward congratulations to the team.

3. Horsham Rural Towns Forum

LA reported the following items from the January meeting of HRTF:

a. Funds: HDC are offering a grant towards revenue costs of Community Partnerships up to £1000. They require to see the Community Action Plan, Accounts and a safeguarding policy. Since the accounts seen by LA did not allocate the reserves he did not see that applying would be justified. DH said that he had a call from HDC saying that if the reserves were earmarked then an application would be accepted and put before the council committee. A response was required by the coming Monday first thing.

DH was asked to action this and LA undertook to send various papers to assist in this.

b. Economic Strategy: HDC now have a strategy and work on a development plan was underway.

c. Men in Sheds: there was a presentation by HDC and WSCC about the concept of Men in Sheds offering support for men in the community needing companionship. There are some 350 groups across the UK with, currently, seven in West Sussex. One was being set up in Horsham. There is advice and support from the councils if one is wanted in Pulborough.

d. Safeguarding: Lisa Boydell, HDC Community Development & Safeguarding Manager, gave a presentation advising that if we are involved with young, elderly or vulnerable people we should have a policy. A copy of the Horsham Town CP policy is attached. A similar policy will be placed before the next PCP meeting for approval.

e. AiRS support: Owing to funding being withdrawn, AiRS will no longer provide support to HRTF or the Partnerships or the Pulborough Neighbourhood Plan. Rowena Tyler has been made redundant from AiRS. DH said that she has since accepted the job of the Arun Valley representative of the

Sussex Community Rail Partnership based at Pulborough station but since this has fewer hours and less money than AiRS she is looking for further work and is open to offers.

f. WSCC report: Rachel North has been appointed Communities Director. Grant funding for social enterprises will be available from the SPARKS project. Information about more funding for local groups and projects will be available later.

g. Millennium Trail. Plaques were placed around the district at the Millennium and HRTF undertook to survey these and write a report. Only one was missing but some needed repair. Pulborough's plaque is on Old Rectory Close at the north end of the Glebe Field footpath.

A meeting is being held with Horsham Museum to discuss repairs and promotions.

h. Car Park charges: Charges for some rural car parks are being introduced on 3rd April. HRTF, along with many others, are concerned about the village economy and HDC's one-size-fits-all approach.

i. Visitor Strategy: HDC have secured £52,000 of EU funds to develop a comprehensive Visitor Economic Strategy. HDC have appointed Acorn Tourism Consulting Ltd. (www.acorntourism.co.uk) to help with this and have a Strategy in place by the end of September 2017. HRTF have asked to be represented on any steering group.

The next HRTF meeting will be in Henfield on 15th March. LA said that someone would be required to take minutes at the Steyning meeting in July and Pulborough would host the following meeting in September.

4. Parish Council Report

RQ said that traffic calming measures would be put in place on Broomers Hill Road in the near future. Also work will be undertaken on the A29 between the pedestrian crossing north of the railway bridge and New Place Road to increase safety for the many children using that way to school.

The village wardens were proving successful and popular and were attending various parish meetings and events.

A project manager would be appointed to handle the entire project to replace the Sports & Social Club from design through to completion.

Grants had been given for the floor to the Youth Centre and to the Parent Teachers Association of St Marys School.

5. LEADER funding

DH, as Chair of Central Sussex LEADER, asked members to spread the word that EU funds were available for rural industries and communities but that the government had decided that budgets had to be allocated by the end of next year, 2018, instead of 2020. Maximum grants were now £75,000 and some projects may be eligible for 100% funding. Contact Richard Chalk at WSCC for details.

6. Piazza Italia Tour 2017

This will visit Pulborough on 2nd April and is likely to be the last. Plans are in hand, publicity is underway and DH had ordered posters for the event on the PCP budget and asked for volunteers to help on the morning. He said that the Mary How Trust had been offered the opportunity to have a bucket collection at the event.

7. Car Park charges

There had been many protests about this action by HDC. It was allegedly understood that the machines had been ordered before consultations had been completed.

RA said that he had not had responses to points he had raised about volunteers for community events such as the Hub and action for disabled drivers.

It was understood that people applying for a disc will get a free second one up until the end of April.

8. Lower Street

PA said that there was a meeting with WS Highways officers on 16th March regarding the alterations to the road layout at the shops.

There was a meeting with Nick Herbert taking place on 10 March at Andy Tilbrook's house.

9. A27 improvements

The government had confirmed that the changes to the A27 at Arundel would start in 2020. They had also removed any plans for changes at Chichester as local councils and groups in the town could not agree.

10. RSPB projects

See the list of proposed projects in the previous minutes.

RA said that the map is going ahead. DH was asked to forward results of the Neighbourhood Plan survey. He also outlined the plan for a visitor trail starting from the station and going to the RSPB.

There was a meeting planned with the RSPB on 17 March.

LA said that Horsham Town Community Partnership organised an Annual Walk of their Riverside Path and this now had hundreds of people attending.

11. Local Action Team/Good Neighbour Scheme

Peter Jones, who could not be present, had asked the following in writing:

"The update on the LAT is that now we have Village Wardens we believe the original purpose of the LAT is now passed but HDC and AiRS are trying to start a "Good Neighbour Scheme" which is meant to provide a single point of contact for all Pulborough activities and a helpline for those in need in the community with the purpose of trying to meet those needs from within the community. I have volunteered to be the first point of contact and other volunteers will be needed in due course. As the LAT is currently run under the umbrella of the PCP are the members happy to see the same arrangement continue with PCP being in a position to receive funding from HDC and WSCC as necessary for the running of the Good Neighbour Scheme?"

The meeting agreed with the proposal in principle and offered support and, if necessary, finance to help the group into being.

12. Community Hub

RA reported that the Hub continues to be popular.

13. Community Action Plan

LA said that Horsham Town CP had reduced their CAP to three achievable actions rather than a lengthy list of things that never happened. They had also produced a leaflet that described their CP and included a flyer about the particular actions in the CAP.

The meeting decided to bring the subject forward at the next meeting.

14. Youth Centre

Ben Sheldon, Youth Leader, had asked in writing for members to circulate the information that the Youth Centre needs an extra Leader to help. Anyone interested to contact Ben Sheldon on:

ben.sheldon@horsham-matters.org.uk.

15. Any Other Business

There was none.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th May at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room of the Sports & Social Club. The room has been booked with the Parish Office.

David Hurst
10 March 2017