**SIDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD AT SIDLESHAM MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND HALL WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025 AT 7:00PM**

**Councillors Present:** Cllr M Mellodey (Chairman), Cllrs D Guest, C Hall, M Monnington, T Parsons, L Ramm, T Tull & N Wade. Cllr P Montyn (WSCC) & Cllr D Johnson (CDC) & the Clerk.

**Also Present:**  48 Sidlesham parishioners.

**Apologies:**  Cllr A Harland

1. **Welcome**

Cllr Mellodey welcomed parishioners and Councillors to the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting.

1. **Chairman’s Parish Council Annual Report**

The Chairman opened the meeting and asked for a proposer and seconder for the approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on the 15th May 2025. Cllr T Parsons proposed, and Cllr T Tull seconded that they be approved and signed. All agreed.

The Chairmen then read his report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A.

1. **Questions from the Public**

The Chairman then opened the session for questions.

Several questions were raised regarding speed within the Parish, particularly Lockgate Road and Paddock Straight. Examples were given of some 30mph signs being obscured by foliage or not there, irresponsible parking down Keynor Lane. Suggestions were put forward to install exit and entry white gates as in other parishes, resurrecting Sidlesham Traffic Action Group (STAG), but with all this the support of volunteers is paramount. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council are fully aware of the issues and are trying to mitigate them as much as possible as can be seen by the Greenways and Quieter Lanes projects. Other issues reported will be investigated and assistance sought from Highways. Another suggestion was a much-needed crossing at the top of Keynor Lane across Selsey Road and possible, top of Lockgate Road. Again, the Chairman confirmed an investigation into the possibilities will be looked at, but support from the Parishioners will be needed.

Parking around the school was also mentioned and the Chair of Governors reported that the Head Teacher had sent out a letter to all parents asking them to be more responsible, but they are also looking into other means of curtailing this problem.

A parishioner asked about the Telephone Box, and it was confirmed that we had adopted it and when the Contract is finalised, we are intending to place a defibrillator in it.

The large roundels were reported as being obscured in Church Farm Lane due to the overgrowth of vegetation and suggested signage for a speed limit should be placed near the entrance to the junction. The Chairman stated the Parish Council will investigate this.

The issues with Melita in Chalk Lane was raised and the Chairman confirmed we had written to CDC impressing upon them the need for action/speed since notification of the refusal of the last planning application. Cllr Johnson kindly spoke and stated that the application had been refused on the grounds of flood risk, which is very difficult to mitigate, and the applicant will need strong grounds to appeal. The applicant has a time period in which to make an appeal and during this period enforcement cannot act. Cllr Johnson also mentioned Enforcement were extremely understaffed and cases of difficulty eat into the number of officers to deal with the problems. Cllr Johnson reiterated that the problems at Melita were well known, and it will not be an easy one to appeal. However, we will be kept informed.

A parishioner reported it was good to hold the APM at the Memorial Hall and asked why all Parish Council meetings were not held there. The Chairman said it was something that will be reviewed.

Finally, it was mentioned about the defibrillator training that had been carried out recently, how good it was and felt that we should look to book further sessions. Could a list of the Defibrillators locations be re-circulated? The Clerk confirmed this would be carried out.

As no further questions were forthcoming, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.32pm encouraging those present to participate in the refreshments before our first presentation by Dr L Bromley.

1. **Presentation by Dr L Bromley on the Sidlesham Highway Pollinator**

Dr Bromley opened her presentation by confirming the start of work on Willow Glen with the support of the Parish Council in having two dead branches taken down before the work could begin. They will be restoring the fencing and also highlighted Florence Pond has Water Vole which is a red listed endangered species. They will be completing some work here to. For details of the presentation, please see Appendix B attached to these Minutes.

Dr Bromley explained this pollinator experiment had started 4 years ago in Selsey where they have 5 sites. They applied for funding to start in Sidlesham and looked at the Paddock Straight as the first possible venue. They met with the Parish Council, WSCC and the Contractor for cutting the grass and decided on a plan.

It was agreed to edge the area by cutting the grass and leaving the middle to grow. A survey will take place in the second week of June, and it will be cut and collected in September. This afternoon, they had planted several plug plants to assist. The Children of Sidlesham Junior School have been asked to design a sign which will be erected and hopefully act as a calming effect on the traffic too.

At the end of the presentation Dr Bromley took several questions encouraging people to have a small patch in their garden, contacting Manhood Wildlife regarding assistance with the Orchard and the Woodland Trust for trees and hedging. However, to carry out any project, volunteers are a big means of ensuring that they happen and she made a plea for people to come forward. Dr Bromley stated she would be happy to look at any project and assist with looking at funding and the viability of it. She was asked about the pond in Cow Lane and Dr Bromley confirmed they are aware of it and that it needs some attention. A question was raised as to will this noncutting obstruct the view of road users, and Dr Bromley stated they felt that the edging would be sufficient to ensure full visibility. If it is successful they are intending to continue up the Straight.

A query was raised regarding the use of pesticide spray to kill the weeds on the footpaths/roads as it was felt it was not needed. Dr Bromley directed them to WSCC, Mr S Hill.

Mention was also made about the abundance of water ditches and riparian rights. Dr Bromley stated that she would be happy to view problematic areas, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the landowner and WSCC.

The Chairman thanked Dr Bromley for a wonderful presentation and introduced Mr R Ryder for the second presentation.

1. **Sidlesham Community Association Presentation**

For details of the presentation, please see Appendix C attached to these Minutes. Mr Ryder went through a brief history of how the SCA came about and the achievements they have made thus far with the support of the Parish Council. Mr Ryder also reached out for volunteers to assist with anything from painting, opening the snack bar, bookings etc and informed us that so much of the hard work has been carried out by volunteers. Cllr Wade proposed a huge thank you on behalf of the Parish Council for all the hard work by the SCA and what a fantastic job they have done. There were no questions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ryder for his presentation and introduced Mr B Martin.

1. **The Selsey Tramway**

Mr Martin passed on his thanks to Mr D Pearce with whom he had worked alongside to make this project possible. Mr Martin spoke about the availability of leaflets, guided walks, Pod Casts for the BBC and signage. He then introduced the film made with Millstream Productions – Mr B Cloud. For details of the film, please see Appendix D attached to these Minutes. At the end of the film, Mr Martin stated he would be making another presentation here at the Memorial Hall in a couple of weeks’ time, 4th June at 6.30pm, a History of Sidlesham.

The Chairman then thanked all those who were present and hope they had enjoyed the evening. He then closed the meeting at 2100 pm.