

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF SEDLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1 OF THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2006, 10:00 TO 11:58

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr R Dellow, Cllr Mrs P Glew, Co-opted members: Mrs S Martin, Mr R Glew
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs P Raymond

Also present:

Peter Crotch – Police Community Support Officer

Cheryl Creaser – Orbit Housing Manager – up to and including Agenda item 9

Bob Perry – Rother Anti-Social Behaviour Officer – up to and including Agenda item 9

CS06/07.1 **CHAIRMAN.** It was moved by Cllr Mrs Glew and **RESOLVED: THAT CLLR R DELLOW BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

CS06/07.2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr Mrs Wright (holiday), Mrs J Dellow (home commitments).

CS06/07.3 **MINUTES.** The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 07/03/06.

CS06/07.4 **INTERESTS.** Members were reminded to declare interests as they arose.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that Agenda item 15, Anti-social behaviour at the East View Kickabout Area and Riverside Playing Field, should be taken next.

CS06/07.5 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT THE EAST VIEW TERRACE KICKABOUT AREA AND RIVERSIDE PLAYING FIELD**

Cheryl Creaser reported that some unruly young people are causing noise, disturbance and harassment and using threatening behaviour at the Kickabout Area, not only during the day but also at all hours of the night, even up to 04:30 in the morning. These are aged between about 16 and 20, are drinking heavily and using the area as a toilet. The Clerk has photos showing this behaviour. Names are known. Some of these people live at East View and some do not. Orbit HA and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer are putting together a case and will take action against these people and their families, although it will probably be a slow process. Rother Homes will be brought in if necessary. The ultimate action is to seek re-possession of the family homes. Craig Atkins had sent out a warning letter to all Orbit tenants at the end of April.

Cheryl reported also that accusations of homophobic abuse and racial harassment at East View are being investigated.

Bob Perry's report that the Kickabout Area appears to be being used almost only by the young people referred to by Cheryl was disputed by parish councillors who are aware of use by other youngsters for playing games and football.

The bushes growing around the edges of the Kickabout Area are, it was suggested, used by youngsters to hide in so as to avoid paying taxi fares.

Bob has asked the Police to provide extra cover at East View in the evenings. He is also referring the names of the culprits to the Anti-Social Behaviour Panel.

The Clerk informed the Committee that the Parish Council has agreed to repaint the shelter in one colour and to ensure the surrounding area is tidy.

The Clerk reported that she has a photograph showing discarded tissue at the Kickabout Area probably used for sniffing propellant and another showing the leftovers from a drinking party at the Riverside Playing Field.

CS06/07.6 **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER PETER CROTCH.** Peter was welcomed to his first meeting of the Committee. He reported three crimes in Sedlescombe last month involving theft from a garage, damage to a car and a break-in at the Sawmills. When asked about the

recent stabbing incident at East View Terrace, Peter was not able to comment other than to confirm that alcohol was involved and that he had obtained information through a house to house investigation at East View. Although Peter confirmed that he had worked 22 days last month, he was not able to tell the Committee how much of his time he had spent in Sedlescombe. However, on one occasion he had been at the Kickabout Area until 01:00 trying to usher the youngsters to their homes.

CS06/07.7 **HOLIDAY COVER.** PCSO Crotch had offered to visit, from time to time, outlying secluded homes in the parish when residents are on holiday. The Committee considered what method should be used for local residents to contact Peter to engage his services. Members were horrified to find that Peter still does not have a mobile phone – Cllr Dellow will raise with Inspector Franklin at this evening's Anti-Social Behaviour Meeting. The other methods currently available are to send Peter an e-mail or to pass the information through Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Watch Group.

CS06/07.8 **PAYMENT FOR PCSO OVERTIME.** The Parish Council had, at last week's meeting, agreed to pay for overtime for PCSOs where there is a particular problem in Sedlescombe. However, members would like further information regarding the cost that would be charged for the overtime so that value for money can be considered. Cllr Dellow was asked to try again to obtain the information.

CS06/07.9 **PCSO CAR.** Following withdrawal of cars for Battle PCSOs in April, PCSOs are finding it difficult to reach their patches. An article on the front page of last week's Battle Observer covered the problem. The car previously used by PCSO Sharon Eldridge is still available from SLM Motors but Inspector Franklin would like the cost of it to be met by Sedlescombe Parish Council (probably about £100/month). Although the Parish Council is very keen for Peter to have transport to reach the parish and is willing to contribute, further information is required about the allocation of costs if the car is to be used for other areas as well as Sedlescombe. A suggestion was made in Committee that, if Sedlescombe pays for the car, and it is used in other parishes as well, those parishes should reimburse Sedlescombe Parish Council. However, a co-ordinator would need to be found.

It was noted that the Parish Council has allocated up to £2,000 to cover PCSO overtime and the car contribution for 2006/7.

CS06/07.10 **ORBIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION REPORT.** Cheryl reported that a new gardening contract has been let. Bushes around the flats are being lowered. Unfortunately, the grassed area in the playground, which has caused many complaints in the past, is not included in the contract because some of the houses surrounding it are owner-occupied. If the playground is refurbished as expected, this grass will be removed altogether. Craig Atkins is still working on refurbishment of the playground.

Cheryl Creaser and Bob Perry were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

CS06/07.11 **SPEED REDUCTION METHODS.** Cllr Mrs Glew reported that she had found 25 people willing to take part in the week-long free SID initiative. She still had some others to contact. It was agreed that the week beginning 25 September should be booked for the initiative and a day in mid-late August allocated for training.

The Committee considered whether it would be worthwhile having a road safety campaign at the same time. It was agreed that David Yates would be asked to come to the next meeting to explain what sort of thing is available.

CS06/07.12 **MINI-MOTORBIKE PROBLEMS.** The Chairman reported that he had seen the mini-motorbikes in Hurst Lane. Some people are now aware that it is an offence to ride these small bikes on the road without tax and insurance but some still need educating. Incidents should be reported to the Police on 0845 60 70 999.

The Clerk objected to Jayne Cleverley's recent NHW by e-mail message which encouraged people to offer a waste piece of land so that youngsters can ride "in safety". No mention was

made of issues such as insurance, planning, noise nuisance for neighbours or access via local roads. Cllr Dellow to bring up at tonight's meeting.

- CS06/07.13 **ELECTRICAL SAFETY LEAFLETS.** Alan Birtwistle had agreed to obtain the leaflets but nothing heard from him lately.
- CS06/07.14 **CCTV VEHICLES.** The Chairman mentioned the importance of PCSOs being in the right place at the right time as was suggested at the last Anti-Social Behaviour Forum. Jayne Cleverley is drawing up a patrolling plan for the CCTV to include surgeries for local people. However, at the moment the only vehicle is being used as transport for the PCSOs. Peter would like to drive the CCTV vehicle but has still to pass the Police test.
- CS06/07.15 **SPECIAL CONSTABLES.** The Special Constable Pack is disappointingly brief being simply a 2-sided A4 sheet. The Chairman had been told by Inspector Franklin that the Parish Council can advertise locally for a Special for Sedlescombe. A commitment of at least 200 hours/year must be made and the maximum age is 50. Expenses for a 4 hour shift are £9.51. The Police will select and train successful applicants. The problem of where to advertise and whether it is legal for a Parish Council to advertise for a Special Constable for the parish were discussed. The Clerk will write to the Police to obtain verification in writing about the proposed advertisement and the legal situation will be investigated. Some members believed it would be better to draw people's attention to contact numbers for Special Constable Recruitment either by speaking to them directly or by including an item in the Bulletin. For bring up at the next meeting.
- CS06/07.16 **DJ WORKSHOPS.** Craig Atkins, Orbit Community Support Worker, had been pursuing this idea as well as football training. Bob Perry had reported that he had recently attended a meeting at East View with Craig and a Youth Officer regarding funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund. This is a grant for a group of young people themselves to apply for and could be used for this purpose. However, with applications having to be in by noon on 23/06/06, time is short. The Rural Rother Youth Forum's AGM is to be held this evening but no-one from Sedlescombe is able to attend. The Clerk will write to Craig and the Rural Rother Youth Forum to try to progress this matter. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council might be able to provide some funding if necessary.
- CS06/07.17 **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.** CLLR DELLOW DECLARED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST AS THE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NHW COMMITTEE. CLLR MRS GLEW, MR GLEW AND MRS MARTIN DECLARED THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS AS MEMBERS OF THE NHW COMMITTEE. THEY STAYED IN THE ROOM DURING THE REPORT. Members were provided with copies of reports of the AGM and Ordinary Meeting held on 04/04/06. Public liability insurance cover for NHW volunteers when fitting security items has not been renewed. The situation will be reviewed if there is renewed demand to fit door chains, locks etc. Volunteers will no longer offer engraving but loan out the appliance after a demonstration and the borrower signing a disclaimer. New NHW signs will be provided and fitted. Introduction packs are to be made up and distributed to co-ordinators.
- CS06/07.18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** 1st choice – 4 July, 2nd choice – 27 June.

Chairmn.....

Date.....