FINDON VALLEY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 267009

Findon Valley Society AGM

Wednesday 17th May 2006, All Saints Church Hall, Cissbury Drive

Apologies – Tim Loughton MP, Cllr Mark McCarthy, David Morgan, Chris Stephens.

Introduction

The meeting started at 7.35 pm. The Chair welcomed all present, and introduced and welcomed Cllr Reg Green, County Cllr Colin O'Neil, and Findon Valley Community Police Officer Sharna Bowen. He expressed his sadness at having to record that the long standing Treasurer of the FVS, Robert Walker, and the Auditor, Gerry Rosen, had both died during the past year. He also advised that Angela Giles had resigned from the posts of Secretary and Treasurer earlier in the year, and that Dianne Culling would not be standing for re-election, and recorded his thanks to all the Committee, and in particular the President, for their assistance and advice over the past year. A volunteer to become Auditor would be welcomed. It was noted that the Accounts were up-to-date and would be audited next year. The minutes of the AGM for 2005 were unanimously agreed. The Chair then gave his report on the activities of the previous year.

Motion

The Chair reported that the following motion, proposed by Guy Osborne and seconded by Leroy Bryan, had been received: "That Findon Valley Society and Residents Association make application to West Sussex County Council for the status of FINDON VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA." The motion was passed unanimously.

Committee Election

The Chair stated that the existing members were prepared to stand. He proposed David Goncalves as Vice Chair. Committee members standing for election were:

President :	John Langridge	Chair:	Leroy Bryan
Vice Chair:	David Goncalves	Secretary:	Pam Pilbury
Treasurer:	Donna Denham	Membership Sec:	Doreen Tickner
Webmaster:	David Goncalves	Asst Membership Sec:	Betty Quinnell
Publicity:	Susan Smith	South Downs Rep:	Rosemary Hook
Planning Officer:	Chris Stephens		

Proposed by Geoff Dean, seconded by Hazel Fry. There being no other nominations, the Committee was duly elected.

The Chair asked for volunteers to become road representatives, and Doreen Tickner added that volunteers were desperately needed. The Chair then expressed thanks to Penny Forbes who produced the Findon Valley Directory for her support of the FVS and other organisations within the Valley, and stated he would write to thank her. He also thanked the local Estate Agents for their assistance with the Newsletters.

Questions and Responses: Cllrs Green and O'Neil

Elections: Cllr Green referred to the elections that had taken place recently, and to the 438 votes in Offington that had been declared null and void due to incorrect handling at the

polling station. He stated he, with Cllr O'Neil, was taking the matter further as he felt that 438 people had been disenfranchised.

Postal Vote: In response to a query from the floor, Cllr Green stated that, once a postal vote was granted, it became permanent unless the Council was notified in writing that it was no longer required.

Community Support: Sharna Bowen, the Community Support Officer for the Offington Ward, which included Findon Valley, explained her role and stated she hoped to set up a monthly surgery, for which she was seeking an easily accessible location. She reported on car break-ins, burglaries, and nuisance issues, but stated that, overall, Findon was relatively fortunate with regard to crime.

Bus Shelter: The vandalism of the shelters was noted. From the floor, the possibility of an accident occurring owing to the re-location of the bus shelter from the lay-by was raised. Cllr O'Neil responded that the bus shelters were provided by the bus company. The shelter and bus stop had had to be moved to make way for the pedestrian crossing.

Congestion in the Service Road: From the floor, the fact that a grey car had been parked opposite the greengrocers for weeks was highlighted. Ms Bowen responded that the registered owner had moved to Cambridge, but the vehicle was now on the list of those to be moved and should be gone shortly.

Traffic Wardens: Cllr O'Neil reported that the County would be taking over the wardens, although they would have a different title. More would be employed, and there would be a set fee for illegal parking, with increases for late payment. The fines would be used to pay the additional wardens. The system would be introduced in October/November, and notice would be given in the press.

Service Road: The Chair stated that David Morgan had taken up the issue of the problems caused by vans and trucks using the service road, and Cllr O'Neil confirmed that the situation was being looked at. It was noted that the area behind the shops was privately owned, and was not therefore available for parking.

Bridleways: Cllr O'Neil advised that quad bikes, 4 x 4s, etc were not allowed to use the bridleways.

Car Park, Coombe Rise: Cllr O'Neil undertook to enquire about the situation with regard to access available on to the Downs from the car park; Rosemary Hook stated she understood that oak posts were to be erected to prevent access, and to deter travellers.

The Gallops: Sharna Bowen stated that any problems with youngsters drinking on the Gallops should be reported on the non-emergency Police telephone number. From the floor, it was pointed out that vandalism could be related to the drinking, and it was agreed that the telephone number would be placed on the Findon Valley website to enable any incidents to be reported.

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm.