



Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
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Briefing Note

Sayers Common Village Association

For Council

Introduction:

The Chairman has communicated the following update for the Council's information with added comment from the PC representative.

Update:

- Sayers Common Village Society (SCVS) – A meeting was held with the SCVS. In attendance were Shaun Hole (Chairman SCVA), Julian Saunders (Chairman SCVS), Wim Winters (SCVS) and Barry Forster (PC Representative). The following is a rough record of the meeting updated with subsequent email clarification by Julian Saunders.
 - JS opened the meeting on behalf of SCVS by informing the attendees that Mr S Jee has elected to resign from SCVS and retire.
 - As an overview the meeting was agreed by all to be positive on a personal basis. On an organisational basis JS was less than willing to give ground about the SCVA and was less than complimentary about the Parish Council and its abilities. Much time was spent with JS focussing the conversation on the organisations and formal representation rather than the real requirement to establish clear and transparent PC communication with the residents of Sayers Common.
 - SH and BF stated that they were in agreement that both organisations could and should be working together, and that both entities constitutions were complimentary rather than in opposition or duplication. JS stated that there was potential to work together in some form subject to him studying the SCVA constitution.
 - JS and WW avoided comment about the formal PC recognition of the SCVA. Instead, JS stated that BF's position as a councillor with formal responsibility for Sayers Common is potentially beneficial for the village. However, agreement regarding the role as the nominated councillor should not be confused with an endorsement of SCVA being similarly beneficial to the village.
 - There was a vehement denial from JS that an offer of formal representation had been made by the PC to SCVS and subsequently rejected by SCVS. This matter was resolved by email pursuant to the meeting.
 - Within the same email exchange JS described the PC operations as suboptimal with tortuous procedures and a glacial pace, which he stated would potentially limit BF's effectiveness as the responsible councillor. (This was in response to BF relating a story of a comment by Mulberry of the PC's performance being in the top 5% of PC's in the country.)
 - SCVA Chairman made an offer of places on the SCVA management committee to JS and WW to underwrite transparency and cooperation moving forward.
 - JS stated that he would take the meeting points back to the SCVS and obtain their opinions over the next week or so.
- Website – The third draft of the website has been received. GDPR and privacy policy statements have been accepted by the developer who is also the host. Unfortunately there are still typos that have not been addressed but it is hoped that the website will be online by the date of the PC October meeting.
- Once the website is published SCVA Chairman will brief the hub representatives on their roles and start the process of raising the profile of the association with the community.

Ongoing:

- The Village Hall committee are compiling an application for submission to PC for 106 support in procurement of updated facilities.
- The village centre design proposal is ongoing with a view to making a 106 application to support the changes. This proposal will be put out for residents' comments in due course.
- The houses nearest to the village pond have been making enquiries about how they can tidy up the pond area. The chairman is organising a meeting with them to ask for their patience whilst a co-ordinated input from the village to the PC can be put together with requests for MSDC permissions etc. The village pond will be included in the future design proposal and input from all village residents will be sought prior to making contact with the PC.

Recommendations:

1. Nil - Council information only.