

THE COMMON PARISH COUNCIL OF SUTTON & BARLAVINGTON

APPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMON PARISH COUNCIL OF SUTTON & BARLAVINGTON HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM SUTTON VILLAGE HALL

<u>Present:</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
Cllrs. Terry Johnson, Martin Shepherd, John Cross, Joy Mayes, Doug Rogers and Yvette Parkes.	
<u>In Attendance:-</u>	
John Elliott and Louise Collis (Clerk to the Common Parish Council of Sutton & Barlavington).	
<u>40.11 Agenda item No. 1 –APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>	
Norman Young & C.Clr Michael Brown	
<u>41.11 AGENDA ITEM 2 - CODE OF CONDUCT -Declaration of Members' Personal Interests on items included on the Agenda.</u>	
None received	
<u>42.11 Agenda item No.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th MAY 2011</u>	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th May 2011 were declared correct and accepted as a true record, and Council AGREED that they should be signed following completion of the meeting. Cllr Doug Rogers PROPOSED and Cllr. John Cross SECONDED the motion.	
<u>43.11 Agenda item No.3 MATTERS ARISING</u>	
a. Broadband update – Cllr Johnson's report following his attendance to the WSCC Broadband summit is Appendix 1 to these minutes. It was AGREED to submit a wish list to WSCC re broadband to ensure that Sutton & Barlavington stay on the radar for the need for Broadband. Also the proposed green boxes to be installed by BT in order to provide fibre optics to all properties raised concerns re how the green boxes may dominate the street scene. The issue will be raised in the wish list and c.c'd to The South Downs National Park Authority. Cllr Johnson will draft a wish list/ letter and circulate it to the parish councillors for consideration.	T.Johnson
b. Barlavington Fingerpost –The fingerpost is now in place and the invoice paid. The final grant payment of £267.00 has been received from WSCC and a grant payment of £445 has been received from CDC.	
It was pointed out that the top of the fingerpost near Glattings Farm was missing.	Photograph required to report
Asset register – It was requested by the clerk that all Parish Council assets need to be photographed and added to the asset register. Cllr Shepherd volunteered to do this.	M. Shepherd
c. Website – Outstanding	
d. BT Kiosk project –The Parish Council will look into the possibility of Kiosk providing space for local businesses to advertise. Cllrs Young and Johnson will do some research.	N.Young/ T.Johnson
The clerk will ask Ian Whitman (CDC Historic Buildings Advisor) and/or English Heritage if the lettering at the top of the Kiosk can be changed to "Information Point" in order to alert passers of its function.	Clerk

e. **Burton Mill Pond**-Cllr Johnson has submitted the following report:-

"I duly met with Guy Bell at the Pond last Friday afternoon. He showed me round the site, which if you have not seen it is vast, my initial comment to him being that the project seems to be one taking a steam -hammer to crack a nut! He did not seem to disagree.

I won't give a blow by blow account, the main points we discussed are set out below:

1. I expressed our dissatisfaction and frustration at the lack of consultation with the Parish right from the start of the project. He agreed that things should have been handled in a much more transparent way.(to be fair, Guy himself has only just come on board as the supervising officer for WSCC, and things have improved since then).

2. I had noted from his weekly report for week ending 17 June that 'local residents' had had a meeting on site. It turned out that these are neighbours of the site. I said was happy that residents were involved, but to ensure that we were all singing from the same hymn sheet, the PC should at least have been informed about the meeting. Guy agreed.

3. It seems that the said local residents had arranged for Nick Herbert to see the site, which he has done. Again, we did not know of this. I propose to write to Nick to register our concerns with him, if you all agree.

4. I also expressed our frustrations caused to the community by the disruptions occasioned by the road closure. I will not rehearse them here, we all know them. I suggested that we might apply to WSCC for a Council Tax rebate by way of compensation!

5. In combination with 4., I mentioned that local businesses like the WH and Roman Villa were also adversely affected. He agreed, saying that both the WH and RV had met with him. Again, I think we should have been informed.

5. On the nitty -gritty, I was told that the cost is up to £650k (estimate £450k) and could rise.

6. On time scale, the end of August could be optimistic if 'softening' is carried out, ie facing the present stark concrete sluice walls with a sympathetic covering of say stone, (this would also increase the cost).

7. In response to my query as to why the work was being done at all, in the face of criticism from the locals, I was informed that it was a statutory requirement under the Reservoirs Act 1975 that all water catchments like the pond are called reservoirs if they are over 25,000 cubic meters in volume. The pond is 95,000. Such reservoirs have to be 'managed' under the Act.

I hope this is informative, I'll expand a bit at our meeting.

In short, we are faced with a fait accompli, but Guy said we shall be included in future consultations, meetings."

The Clerk has received two copies of the Burton Pond proposed culvert General arrangement plans dated 25 May 2010. The clerk brought the plans to the meeting.

The five Architect sketches illustrating the various remedial treatments that were discussed with local residents at a site meeting several weeks ago.

The suggestions are as follows:

1. The cladding of the downstream spillway retaining walls with local sandstone (or a stone which matches the local sandstone).
2. The cladding of the upstream steel sheet pile weir with in situ concrete, with a concrete coping to match the original downstream spillway.
3. A naturally weathered timber buffer to the external rim of the upstream weir.
4. The introduction of a granite sett spillway within the upstream weir pit.
5. The introduction of two lower weirs to the upstream weir to allow frequent overtopping and hence waterfall features within the pit.
6. A decking viewing platform over the first portion of the upstream weir pit to partially mask the pit and allow pedestrian access to the pool edge.

<p>No commitment to providing any of these options has been given at this stage and Guy Bell is hoping to arrange a suitable meeting on site early next week to discuss with interested parties.</p> <p>It was AGREED that Cllr Johnson would highlight the concerns re the softening proposal – namely that the proposed viewing platform would cause road safety issues as road visibility is restricted at this point in the road. It will also be asked who will be responsible for the maintenance of the timber viewing platform once it is installed. Cllr Johnson will also ask if the old large metal cog (a well known feature of the pond) will be replaced once the work has been completed.</p> <p>It was also AGREED that Cllr Johnson would discuss with C.Cllr Brown the possibility of rate rebates for businesses caused by loss of trade due to the unnecessary work.</p> <p>It was also AGREED that Cllr Johnson would write to Nick Herbert MP to voice disappointment that WSCC has spent so much of the taxpayers money on the expensive work.</p>	<p>T.Johnson</p> <p>T.Johnson</p> <p>T.Johnson</p>
<p><u>44.11 Agenda item No. 5 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</u> The following written report was submitted by C.Cllr Brown,</p> <p>1 5000 responses received re phasing out of some bus subsidies on poorly supported routes. Withdrawal relates to 2m of 24m WSx bus journeys annually</p> <p>2 Pieter Monteyn now Cabinet Member for Highways replacing Lionel Barnard who assumes responsibility for Communities which embraces Libraries. Deborah Urquart leaves the Cabinet</p> <p>3 Library consultation begins in earnest. Aim is to keep all open , but sometimes with a different operating model; Pulborough and Petworth are in this category.</p> <p>4 Burton Mill Road re-opens late August. What a waste of time and money.</p> <p>5 On a personal note I assume Chairmanship of Joint Commissioning Board later this month. This Consortia spends £376m a year. I hope to make significant economies. The 3 other W SX consortia are GP led</p> <p><u>45.11 Agenda item No. 6 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</u> i) Bus Shelter grants – there are various options available ii) School House – CDC Enforcement are currently looking into the kitchenette and shower that has been put in the garden room. The option is that the owners submit new plans or enforcement take action. iii) Tree near Beckhall – If an amicable solution with the land owner is not achievable then the Parish Council can write to Mr Whitby at CDC requesting it be removed due to it being a danger to the public. This must be supported by a letter from an independent arborist. The D.Cllr Elliott and Mr Whitby will carry out a site visit. iv) Localism – Under the localism bill CDC will continue to support services v) Annual Parishes meeting – taking place in September 2011.</p> <p><u>46.11 Agenda item No. 7 - VEHICLE SPEEDS IN THE VILLAGES –</u> The clerk contacted Steve Johnson at WSCC Highways requesting clarification of the speed limits in and around Sutton. His response was as follows:-</p> <p><i>“As far as I can recall, there is no posted speed limited through Sutton, so the national single rural</i></p>	<p>T.Johnson to approach owner</p>

road speed limit applies.

Now, 50mph is clearly unsuitable for a road through a hamlet and so drivers need to adopt a speed at which they can safely drive through.

The problem you have is that if a 30mph speed limit was imposed through Sutton and displayed through terminal and repeater signing, you may find that speeds actually increase because drivers would view 30mph as a target speed that was safe to drive at all times.

I don't know, but you will probably find that speeds vary throughout the 'built up' area and in some sections of the road, they are driven at 20mph or below and at other locations, 30mph and above. The issue is that a 30mph would likely increase speeds on the slower sections of road and not have any impact on the faster sections.

As a way forward, have you considered the police and 'Operation Crackdown', which is all about anti social behaviour including inappropriate driving?

In the situation where there is a regular or local high speed driver, then via Crackdown, that individual(s) can be targeted by the police and warned about their behaviour. It has been a successful deterrent to speedy driving elsewhere.

If a 30mph speed limit was considered, it is unlikely the police would ever be able to enforce it through speed enforcement tactics, because their limited resources are targeted at those sites where speed related accidents are occurring.

Please come back to me if you would like to discuss this further."

Cllr Young has subsequently made the following comments on Steve Johnson's email:

"I definitely would object most strongly as I am sure many others would to 30mph signs being placed through Sutton, most sections of road are totally unsuitable.

We surely are best left as at present without yet more ugly posts and signs. By example I try to drive at max 20mph and in some areas less, particularly if there is someone hot on my heels!!"

It was **AGREED** that the issue has been explored and the only option is to put up signs, however the Parish Council believe that parishioners do not want additional signs in the parishes.

46.11 Agenda item No. 8 - QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE- IDEAS FOR CELEBRATIONS

It was **AGREED** that a Diamond Jubilee sub Committee be created. The Committee will be made up of:-

Doug Rogers, Terry Johnson and Martin Shepherd

Cllr Johnson will look into producing commemorative mugs for the children and residents of Sutton & Barlavington. (200 mugs)

The Clerk will look how into how the Parish Council can fund the project.

The idea of a street party will be considered by the committee.

48.11 Agenda item No. 9 - BUS SHELTER PROJECT –

Bus Shelter Repair Specifications

The building has been inspected and it appears the main problem is that the tiles are pegged with iron nails which have corroded and are cracking and breaking the clay tiles slowly but comprehensively? Therefore the recommendation of a retired builder is thus:

T.Johnson

Clerk

Jubilee Committee

1. Remove all tiles (expect 30% loss of old tiles)
2. Treat all timber battens and joists
3. Re-attach one joist that is free
4. Only replace those battens that are degraded, on inspection none appear to be at present.
5. Re-install tiles (re-cycle old ones, plus purchase old clay tiles to make up the difference)
6. Use zinc pegs or non corrosive pegs to hang tiles. Do not nail tiles to battens, only hang from battens as original executed.
7. Repair and fix and damage to gutting
8. Treat old oak timbers with suitable preservation
9. Repair damage to clapboard to right hand side of shelter.

Cllr Cross is in the process of contacting several builders and awaiting a response in terms of quotes for the work. Once the quotes have been received the grant application will be submitted.

J.Cross

49.11 AGENDA ITEM No. 10 DECENTRALISATION AND LOCALISM BILL 2010

No updates received since the last meeting.

50.11 Agenda item No. 11 - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ("LDF")

No updates received since the last meeting.

51.11 Agenda item No.12 – HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) *Roads and Ditches Committee* - Cllr Mayes and/ or Cross to report
- b) *Unsafe tree* – At the May Parish Council meeting the following discussions took place re specific tree issues:-
 - i) *Unsafe tree Farris Cottage*– At the January Parish Council meeting Jeremy Pontin highlighted the unsafe tree located on the bank "below" Farris Cottage between their front pedestrian gate and the Pub. The Cottage is currently let to a family from London (Part time residents).
 - ii) *Beckhall unsafe tree* Cllr Young is very concerned with the state of the large tree near the entrance to Beckhall which lost a branch during the winter. It has a Tree Preservation order on it but needs to be made safe. (see note above under District Councillor report – Agenda Item 6)
 - iii) *Unsafe tree on bank opposite the pub leaning on the electrics*

Cllr Young has reported that at a planning committee meeting the issue of unsafe trees was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the first step must be to talk to the land owners to see if he/she is aware of our concerns. What action if any is he or she prepared to take? If he/she maintains there is no problem then Cllr Young suggests the Parish council write expressing our concerns. If that results in a negative response and the Parish council believe there is a serious risk, then the next step will be to refer the matter to CDC. [Details of which John Elliott gave Cllr Johnson at the committee meeting]. Cllr Young suggests the Parish council need a clear policy on this problem area which should be made known in Village News article by the Chairman.

- c) **Definitive Map** – The clerk has been in correspondence with WSCC to obtain a copy of 2006 Definitive Map. The plan now is for WSCC to provide a pdf file containing the map which shows the parish boundaries and footpath and bridleway number.

52.11 Agenda item No.13 - NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND

NOTIFICATION OF RECENT DECISIONS

- a) **Planning appendix**
- b) **Tree Warden vacancy** – Following the number of tree issues highlighted above the clerk is suggesting the Tree Warden role to be in-instated. In the past the Parish council has had a Tree Warden. Someone who has an interest in trees and can receive training from WSCC to help the Parish council on tree issues. John Cross **AGREED** to be appointed as Tree Warden. The Clerk will inform WSCC.
- c) **Other planning issues** – Following the CDC Planning Committee meeting on 20 April 2011 where the planning application of the Old School House was heard, the Parish council sent a CDC with a formal complaint. The clerk received a letter from the CDC Chief Executive following the stage 2 investigation. The letter was emailed to all Parish councillors. It was **AGREED** to draw a line under this issue and move on.

Clerk

53.11 AGENDA ITEM 14 – NORTH EAST PARISHES FORUM & CLC

Cllr Johnson attended the last meeting. The Localism issue was discussed at length.

54.11 Agenda item No. 15- CONSULTATIONS

- a) ***Statement of Community Involvement for the South Downs National Park Authority*** - The South Downs National Park Authority are starting the process of developing our Statement of Community Involvement.

They have requested input from Parish Councils re this process. They have therefore sent a questionnaire to completed by Monday 15th August. Cllr Johnson **AGREED** to complete the questionnaire.

T.Johnson

55.11 Agenda item 16- CORRESPONDENCE

- a) ***WSCC Minerals & Waste Development Framework update*** – In May 2011 the County Council decided to commence the preparation of the Waste Plan with a separate Minerals Plan to be prepared at a later date. The shortlist of preferred Waste Sites closed to Bury are:-
- Chichester District - Fuel Depot, Bognor Road Chichester.
 - Arun District - Site adjacent to Sewage works, Ford and Hobbs Barn, Nr Climping.
- The final decision will be made by the County Council in October 2011.
- b) **An invitation from the South Downs National Park Authority - the South Downs National Park Forum event 19th July 2011** – Cllr Johnson is attending and Cllr Rogers is on the waiting list.
- c) ***Arun and Rother Connections: Linking Landscape and Community (ARC) Community Consultation, 12th/ 13th July 2011*** –
- d) ***News from Digital UK*** – email

"SWITCHOVER GUIDE FOR MERIDIAN PARISH COUNCILS

A community pack explaining how digital TV switchover will roll out across the South and South East of England is going out this week to nearly a thousand parish councils. The pack includes a DVD to play at parish meetings along with leaflets, posters and other community materials. Here below is a reminder of the digital switchover timetable for the Meridian TV region:

Area	Transmitter group	Stage one (BBC Two analogue off)	Stage two (all analogue channels off)
Parts of Hampshire,	Hannington	8 February 2012	22 February 2012

Berkshire and Surrey			
Much of West Sussex	Midhurst	29 February 2012	14 March 2012
Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and West Sussex	Rowridge	7 March 2012	21 March 2012
The Brighton area	Whitehawk Hill		
East Sussex	Heathfield		
The Tunbridge Wells area	Tunbridge Wells	30 May 2012	13 June 2012
The Hastings area	Hastings		
South and east Kent	Dover	13 June 2012	27 June 2012
North and mid Kent	Bluebell Hill		

DIGITAL UK IS HERE TO HELP

Digital UK is the independent, not-for-profit organisation set to lead the UK's switch to digital television. We can tell you when switchover will happen in your area and offer advice on the digital TV options available. Visit our website digitaluk.co.uk or call our advice line on 08456 50 50 50.

If you work in local government or the housing sector, there is specialist information to help you get ready for switchover available from the following sites:

digitaluk.co.uk/localgov and digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers. More than 97% of social housing stock in the Meridian TV region is ready for switchover or have plans in place.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR OLDER AND DISABLED VIEWERS



The Switchover Help Scheme, run by the BBC, offers practical help with switchover for eligible older and disabled people. You qualify for the Help Scheme if you are: aged 75 and over, eligible for certain disability benefits, registered blind or partially sighted or living permanently in a care home. For £40 (or free for those on income-related benefits), you are entitled to receive practical help to switch one TV set to digital, including a choice of equipment, installation and aftercare. Starting this summer, the Help Scheme will write directly to

everyone who is eligible in the Meridian TV region – people must respond to get the help. You don't need to do anything now. "

The Clerk has the DVD and will play the 8 minute film at the meeting.

56.11 AGENDA ITEM 17 – REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

A new set of Standing orders and financial regulations have been issued by NALC. Due to the number of items on the agenda this agenda item will be deferred until September 2011.

57.11 Agenda item No. 18 - FINANCE

a) To approve accounts for payment

Paid Prior to meeting

		Excl VAT	VAT	Incl VAT
SALC	New councillors training	£201.00	£39.00	£240.00
JK Engineering Ltd	Barlavington Fingerpost	£890.00	£178.00	£1,068.00

To be Paid at the meeting

		Excl VAT	VAT	Incl VAT
CDC	Sutton Contested election	£533.13	£0.00	£533.13
CDC	Barlavington Uncontested election	£128.23	£0.00	£128.23

b) To approve the Clerk's salary, and expenses

Salary for June 2011- Total £169.79

Expenses for July 2011

Date	Details	Reason	Cost ex VAT (£)	VAT (£)	Cost Inc VAT (£)
18/5/11	Baby sitting	Parish Council meeting 18/5/11			28.00
1/7/11	MBC Office	Ink Cartridge			11.10
27/6/11	Post office	stamps			6.20
28/6/11	Staples	Dividers	3.99	0.80	4.79
31/5/11	Staples	Ink Cartridges	40.48	8.10	48.58
24/6/11	BT	Line rental and Broadband to 24 June 2011			37.44
					136.11

Cllr. D.Rogers **PROPOSED** and

Cllr. T.Johnson **SECONDED** the motion (18 a&b)

c. TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS, BANK RECONCILIATION, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS, AND ACTUAL V BUDGET REPORT AS AT 31 MAY 2011

The motion to approval the accounts for the period was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cross and **SECONDED** by Cllr Parkes.

d. BANK MANDATE UPDATE Today the clerk spoke to NatWest in Petworth and the signatories for the accounts are Terry Johnson, Joy Mayes and Norman Young.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Yvette Parkes would also be added as a Signatory to the NatWest bank account.

e. OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE A DECISION.

- i) Accounts for the year ended 31 march 2011 – The internal auditor has signed off the accounts with no issues and the annual Return for 2011 has been submitted to the External auditor
- ii) VAT claim year ended 31 March 2011 – The Vat claim has been submitted - total claim £149.41.

58.11 Agenda item No. 19 - DATE AND TIME OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 7th September 2011 – 7.30pm. and Wednesday 16 November 2011.
CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Common Parish Council of Sutton & Barlavington meeting closed at 9.50pm.
Signed:

APPROVED AT MEETING ON 7/09/11 & SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr T Johnson

Date:7/9/11

Vice - Chairman of The Common Parish Council of Sutton & Barlavington

28th August 2011, Louise Collis, Clerk to The Common Parish Council of Sutton & Barlavington

1. (i) The summit was convened by Nick Herbert, our local MP, who knows from his constituents the at best patchy, and limited, access to Broadband in West Sussex. Government sees as an essential part of its Big Society plan, the need for Broadband to be accessible to every business and home. Broadband is, the Government thinks, an essential tool for powering future economic and social growth in each community in the country, thereby leading to an improved, strong, UK economy.

(ii) Nick had assembled an impressive list of speakers, not least of whom was Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. He is thus the Minister in charge of the Government Broadband project.

2. (i) To emphasise the importance of this topic to this Government Jeremy brought with him his senior team, including his Permanent Secretary i.e. the senior civil servant “on the case”.

(ii) As was to be expected, Jeremy gave an extremely eloquent and passionate outline of Government thinking, giving his vision for Broadband in places like West Sussex, but which is generally applicable to the country as a whole. He confirmed that Broadband is central to the Government’s agenda for economic growth and reminded the audience that there was excellent internet, software and innovation context in the UK, so there is a good basis for providing country-wide Broadband. This in turn would provide a great opportunity for economic and social reward. He predicted that the two main requirements to achieve universal Broadband access were

- (a) “the need for speed”, and
- (b) “must be mobile”.

A partnership of these two predictions would be needed to provide the required Broadband speed. In this regard basic or standard Broadband is defined as two mgbs, which is the desired basic speed for every property in West Sussex by 2015. Also by this date, there is an additional target that 90% of properties will have access to superfast Broadband, which is defined as 40mgbs download and 10mgbs upload ie a 50 mgbs Broadband service.

(iii) I understand that present Government funding amounts to £830m, which is for the whole country, not just West Sussex. Councils will only get funding if they produce a Broadband plan which will provide for the 100% 2mgbs level for all of the county and the superfast level for 90% by 2015. Councils such as West Sussex have to have their plans in place within the next 12 months if Government money is to be allocated to them. Councils will also be required to put in their own money in addition to the Government allocation, though there appears to be no clear formula for calculating a Council’s contribution at the moment.

3. (i) As Nick Herbert said in his opening remarks, nobody in the audience (about 120 from all walks of West Sussex life, from smaller parishes like ours, small business and big business like Tesco) would disagree with the Government aims, which highlighted the problem which, in a nutshell, is that West Sussex has a pathetic Broadband picture as of now which is hindering business and social improvement. The question is, “what is the solution?”

(ii) There were many views at the Summit as to the answer to this question. The MD of BT Next Generation Access, Bill Murphy, reported how BT is involved in a scheme in Cornwall and the Scilly Isles which is, it seems, nearing completion with positive indications for the provision of the 100% solution. It seems that BT is in active and ongoing discussions with WSCC with a view no doubt to tendering for the County’s Broadband Plan when it is put out to tender. We were told that BT is working on the provision of Broadband fibre optic and/or cable which could mean “green boxes” spaced about 50 metres apart down all rural lanes or roads if every rural property is to have Broadband access. (My thought- what about environmental impact!)

I also got the impression from the observations from other participants and indeed from answers provided by BT and others that BT is not being quick to provide to other providers, easy and affordable access to its conduits, poles and masts. This is effectively a hindrance to progress as BT is in effect a monopoly.

4 (i) The leader of WSCC, Louise Goldsmith, confirmed that the Council is committed to provision of Broadband in line with the Government norms. She saw the Summit as a great opportunity to discuss the problems and solutions, adding that the County is firmly committed to working in partnership with Broadband providers. I therefore asked from the floor, what was the Council’s policy on working with existing providers, mentioning the service available in Sutton but without mentioning Kijoma by name. I opined that it was wasteful of resources to re-invent the wheel when there was one already available. Louise answered that the Council would work with all present service providers.

(ii) Bill Lewis of Kijoma was also present and spoke several times from the floor, and to his credit did not emphasise his business as such, but pointed out that big business could stifle smaller providers, and that in fact wireless provision of Broadband as opposed to fibre/cable was proven to be viable.

(iii) Without giving a blow-by-blow account there was as could be expected much discussion round the fibre/cable or wireless options, even the MD of BT agreeing that there was a place for mobile and wireless providers, though he remained firmly of the view that fibre/cable would be the main means of Broadband provision in West Sussex.

5. Robert Ling of Broadband Delivery UK referred to the Government objectives which include the UK having the best superfast Broadband system in the EU by 2015. His body is looking *inter alia* at the best way to use Government funding and also mentioned that there might be monies available from the EU via the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund). His body is also monitoring four superfast Broadband projects respectively in North Yorkshire, Hereford, Highlands and Islands, and Cumbria. Hopefully he said, these pilots when completed will pave the way for a commercially viable roll out of superfast Broadband over the country, and to complement the Local Broadband Plan to be delivered by West Sussex. He stressed that these Plans which would be country –wide, were to encourage partnership within the communities.

6. Jeremy Leggett, Chief Executive of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) gave three main reasons why Broadband access in West Sussex was currently so poor, namely (a) market failure; (b) the lack of intervention and regulation; and (c) the lack of a community role. He said that AiRS can facilitate the provision of superfast broadband to 100% of premises, but only if there is a coherent financial and technical framework within which contributions made by communities make sense and can be sustained. He mentioned that AiRS is working with the University of Brighton on a study to provide Broadband access to rural communities. The study is based on the village of Barkham in East Sussex, and is ongoing. The results so far are looking good. Jeremy Hunt, the minister, said he agreed with the above points (a) , (b), and (c).

7. Geoffrey Williamson, Regional Vice-Chairman of the Surrey and West Sussex Federation of Small Businesses said that 15mgb (2-way) is the least that is needed by business. His Federation sees no room for a monopoly service provider. He said that there must be equal opportunity for ALL providers, mobile/wireless and fibre/cable. He concluded by suggesting that monies saved on digitisation of Government services could be used to fund the Broadband project for the UK.

8. Our own Gordon Owen was also a speaker, being introduced as former CEO of Cable and Wireless. He spoke eloquently of the pain of being in a “not-spot” like Sutton, whilst decrying the idea of what would in effect be a natural monopoly created by a PLC operating in the Broadband field, (he did not mention names!). He called for Government funding to be increased to £3.5bn for rural areas and said that there is a need for competition, mentioning, not by name, the present service provider in Sutton as providing a system which works. Gordon also had reservations about fibre/cable saying that wireless would appear to be the way forward. Reverting to funding Gordon said that Government money was needed now and not in 12 months time, and suggested ways in which it could be raised, eg by the issue of equity in a provider scheme. His talk was received with enthusiasm by the audience.

9. John Peel, Chairman of Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) also gave a presentation. This was based on a slide showing a diamond-shaped area which showed his LEP stretching from Chichester to London with extensions to east and west en route. He said that there

are 34 LEPs in the UK whose role is to try to set aside the old piece-meal approach to solving problems, which did not respect political mandates or eradicate pockets of severe deprivation. His organisation, only recently set up, aims to foster development along the lines advocated by the Government via local community action.

10. I should add that in addition to Gordon Owen as a speaker, I noted among the audience, Michael Brown, Sebastian Anstruther and Anna Gillam, so our community was well-represented. Sebastian spoke very well from the floor. He mentioned the detrimental effect on local business caused by the lack of high-speed Broadband. He also spoke of the adverse effect of this lack on the community, citing as example, the inability of school children to access the internet for school work and the frustration of school governors not being able to provide what is now considered to be an integral part of learning, namely internet access.

11. Conclusion :

(i) I hope I have given a flavour of what happened at the Summit. No conclusion was reached but all present agreed that something needs to be done, and quickly, to achieve the goals set by the Government , all of which were considered to be desirable and viable.

(ii) As to WSCC we await their Broadband Plan, but bearing in mind Louise Goldsmith's confirmation that the Council is committed to working in partnership with providers, the Community, and any other relevant stakeholder it seems to me that we as a PC should put together a "wish-list" for Broadband for the Parish and submit it to the Council within the next 2-3 months. I mention this time-frame as I have the impression there could be finalisation of the Plan by the end of the summer.

(iii) On a personal note I am not sure that I favour a BT "green box" every 50m or so throughout the village. Could not 1 or 2 "hubs" be provided from which fibres can be fed to every house ? Also could Southern Water be approached to see how amenable they are to allowing use of their pipes as cable-carrying conduits. (This is possible. Thames Water was one of my UK clients and they certainly have technology for use of their pipes for carrying things other than water or sewerage.)

(iv) If you have any questions I'll try to answer them, and then, if you agree, I'll have an edited version of this of this note published in the VN. Also, broadband should be an Agenda item for our next meeting.

Terry Johnson

29 May 2011

APPENDIX 2 - THE COMMON PARISH COUNCIL OF SUTTON & BARLAVINGTON - PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

18 May 2011 – 06 July 2011

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>WEEKLY LIST</u>	<u>CLOSING DATE</u>	<u>S&BPC COMMENTS</u>	<u>CDC DECISION</u>	<u>DECISION DATE</u>
SN/10/04339/LBC	Dr And Mrs Gibbon Sutton Court Farm House Barlavington Lane Sutton Pulborough Dismantling and re-erection of Pig pen walls using retained materials.	29/9/10	20/10/10	Support	PERMIT	28/11/10
BV/11/00315/DOM	Mr And Mrs Parkes Burton Mill Cottages Burton Park Road Barlavington West Sussex Loft extension and associated internal works.	16/2/11	9/3/11	No comment	PERMIT	11/3/11
SN/11/01574/FULNP	Mr Scott Greenhalgh Land To The North Of The Stewards House Bignor Park Bignor Pulborough Erection of solar PV Panels ground mounted.	20/4/11	12/5/11	SUPPORT		
BV/11/00319/FULNP	The Barlavington Estate Crouch Farm Cottages Crouch Lane Barlavington Petworth Erection of livestock building for over- wintering dairy cattle and re-siting of previously approved silege clamp.	1/6/11	23/6/11	Mixed Objections		