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The minutes of the meeting of the **Annual Parish Assembly**
held on **Monday, 15th April 2024**
at Trinity Church Hall, Coppice Avenue, Willingdon

Present: Cllrs John Pritchett BEM (Chair), Martin Cooper, Helen Coote, Howard Coote, Jim Gleeson, Sally Morris, Ian Nisbet, Christine Payne MBE, Fran Pritchett, Stephen Shing, Andy Watkins, Ryan Weedon.

In attendance: Nicola Williamson (Parish Clerk), Mary Hammill (Admin Assistant) & 22 members of the public.

Item no	Subject	Action By
1.	Chair John Pritchett BEM opened the meeting by welcoming all those attending and thanking everyone for attending.	
2.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies were received from Cllrs Daniel Shing, Ruth Sheppard and Ben Clennell who had previous commitments. These apologies were NOTED .	
3.	<u>To sign and accept the minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2023</u> These were signed by the Chair as an accurate record.	
4.	<u>Speaker – Vanessa Rowlands – SDNP Chair</u> Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the South Downs National Park Authority, gave an interesting and informative talk about the SDNPA. Vanessa explained how the SDNPA are working very hard to promote access and enjoyment of the area. Everyone involved are extremely proud of what has been achieved to date and encouraged all those in attendance to visit the area to see all the improvements and works which have been carried out. <u>Speakers – Adrian Backshall & Tim Hogbin – Windmill</u> Tim Hogbin and Adrian Backshall thanked the PC for the opportunity to speak about the Windmill. They explained that one Sunday each month the Mill Museum and grounds are open and hot drinks are available. The Windmill will be open again this Sunday all being well. There are over 50 members now and new members are always welcome to join. The subscription is just £10 per annum. Some background to the Mill was given. The Windmill was built in 1817 in Willingdon and has been owned since 1964 by Eastbourne & District Preservation Trust Ltd. The Windmill is now included on the Heritage at Risk Register being identified as a historic site most at risk and most in need of safeguarding for the future. There is an active volunteer group who care greatly about saving the building. Work to improve the Mill's condition and to make it weather tight is urgently needed and fundraising for this is ongoing. There are a number of upcoming events including the National Mills Day on 12 May where there will be Morris dancing. On 7 July stationary engines will be displayed. On 28 July there will be a music afternoon when Con Brio shall perform and on 11 August there will be the ever-popular dog show.	
5.	<u>Presentation of cheques by Chair John Pritchett BEM from his Chair Honorarium Allowance</u> Each year Chair John Pritchett BEM donates his honorarium allowance and this year's recipients were East Sussex Safe Families, CWCF and Polegate/Willingdon Windmill; each being presented with a cheque for £100.	

6. **Presentation by Grant Recipients and Presentation of Cheques**

Guide Dogs for the Blind

Sue Coekin, a Volunteer, representing Guide Dogs for the Blind was presented with a cheque for £800 which had been raised from the PC's events and photocopying within the last 12-month period. She was accompanied by Tommy, a labrador puppy in training. She was very grateful for the PC's generosity. She explained that the charity provide support for over 8,000 people in the UK, every day sadly over 250 people lose their sight, and it costs up to £60,000 to train each guide dog.

St Wilfrid's Hospice

Amanda Hyatt, Trust and Foundations Fundraiser, was presented with a cheque for £800 which had been raised from the PC's events and photocopying within the last 12-month period. She was most appreciative and thanked the PC for their generosity and support. She said she would be more than happy to arrange a tour and coffee at the Hospice if any Councillors would like to do this in future.

The annual grant cheques were issued to the successful applicants in attendance, and each one gave a brief thank you and an update on their various projects.

The JPK Sussex Project

Jill Parker was presented with a grant cheque for £2,000 and thanked the PC for all their help over the years. The project is a local charity supporting a living centre for adults with learning disabilities. A new private, relaxing and social outside space has been created for the tenants of Gow Lodge and the grant monies will be put towards purchasing a gate, BBQ and furniture for this new garden area.

Willingdon/Polegate Windmill

Willingdon/Polegate Windmill were presented with a cheque for £500. This was most appreciated.

Wealden Citizens Advice

Jennifer Jadia, Chief Executive, and Christina Watson, Vice Chair, were presented with a cheque for £1,100. They were very grateful for the PC's donation. This will enable them to continue to help local residents. They explained they have no central government funding and are predominantly volunteer led with a few members of paid staff. In the last year they helped over 130 people.

Victim Support (Sussex Area)

Frank Gray, Volunteer, was presented with a cheque for £350. He was very grateful for this donation and explained that the grant monies will be put towards training new volunteers who are urgently needed.

Conservation & Community Service-Learning Programme – Nepal

Emma Freeman, a student at Willingdon Community School, was presented with a cheque for £100. She explained that in April 2025 she will be going to Nepal for 2 weeks to help people who suffered in the earthquake 11 years ago. During this time, the project will help conservation workers protect animals and assist students to get back on track with their learning and to help create a better life.

1st Willingdon Scout Group

Matt Grantham, Group Lead Volunteer, was presented with a cheque for £500. He thanked the PC for their generous grant and explained the monies will be used to purchase new tents and camping equipment. This will enable Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to be able to enjoy the outdoor experience of camping and to give them the opportunity of gaining self-resilience and valuable life experience.

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex

Colin Kelvey was presented with a cheque for £700. He was most grateful to the PC for the grant. He explained that 88% of their funds come directly from the community it serves. Last year was its busiest to date with 3,328 missions having been completed. They run 3 helicopters 18 hours a day and 1 overnight. The funds received will be put towards purchasing a much-needed new helicopter.

	<u>Children With Cancer Fund</u> Chris Downton was presented with a cheque for £400. He thanked the PC for their support and was most grateful. He explained the charity is currently assisting 142 families in the local area. The grant monies will be put towards purchasing new red t-shirts for staff, volunteers and fundraisers. <u>The Church of St Mary the Virgin</u> Trevor Amey, Church Warden, was presented with a cheque for £2,000 who was very grateful for the PC's donation. He explained the grant monies will go towards helping to keep the churchyard neat and tidy so that families who visit relatives buried on site can do so in a nice and peaceful area. <u>St Andrew's Church, Jevington</u> Jenny Wootton, Treasurer, was presented with a cheque for £960, who was most appreciative and thanked the PC for this. She said the grant monies will be put towards maintaining the churchyard. A second cheque for £2,000 was presented which was gratefully received. These grant monies will go towards creating a much better pathway entrance to the church yard via the Jevington Road. <u>St Wilfrid's Hospice</u> Amanda Hyatt, Trust & Foundations Fundraiser, was presented with a cheque for £2,000. Amanda thanked the PC for this generous donation and explained over 85% of people they help are supported at home. In the last 12 months they have supported 68 patients and have 22 current patients. The monies will go towards the transport costs of running the Community Nursing Service. <u>Trinity Church</u> Jennie Macfadyen, Church Secretary, was presented with a cheque for £1,386 and thanked the PC for their support and donation. Jennie explained the church and hall are used widely by the community and it is important that the premises are well maintained. The grant monies will go towards improving visibility at the site by purchasing new lighting and painting white line markings. A second cheque for £1,000 was presented which was most appreciated. This will be used to provide keypad access to the hall giving easy access for all in the community and disabled residents. <u>Downland Singers</u> Jennie Macfadyen, Musical Director, and Bryony Richardson, Treasurer, were presented with a cheque for £180 and thanked the PC for this donation. Jennie explained that they are a small group and are currently looking to encourage new members. The monies will go towards purchasing a new app "ChoirMate" which will enable all choir members to have a dedicated place to access the choir calendar, practise tracks and music scores. All resources remain in one easy place.	
7.	<u>Annual Report</u> (a) <u>Parish Council Chair</u> (b) <u>Committee Chairmen</u> (c) <u>East Sussex County Councillors</u> (d) <u>Wealden District Councillors</u> (e) <u>Parish Reports</u> (f) <u>Financial Reports</u> Reports were NOTED.	
8.	<u>Questions from Members of the Public</u> None.	
9.	<u>Urgent items and items for inclusion on a future agenda</u> None	
10.	The next meeting would be April 2025.	NW

Meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

