

# *Nutbourne Conservation & History Group*

## Minutes of the NCHG Meeting at the Rising Sun on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Present: Andrew Moffat, Bridget Gladwin, Robert Allison, Mike Sollom, Margaret Corrie Jackson, Diane Smith, Jean and Derek Baker, Tessa and Bob Hicks, Josephine Ferguson, Pam and John Wellard, Bill Ford, Michael Sherwood, Shazi Lambert, Jeanette Brickell, Jim Shaw, Lynne and Brian White, Frank and Erica Riddle. Carol and Paul Nash, Sara and David from Inglenook Cottage arrived at the end of the meeting. (27)

Frank opened the meeting by introducing everyone to the group and said many apologies had been received some in writing.

The Groups origin & function to date: Frank gave an account of how the group developed from the millennium party with Tony Gocher's photos inspiring the History Group. Planning concerns then moved the group to include conservation and the renaming of the group. Projects undertaken included VDS, Speed limit, Under-ground wiring, The Common, Land to create recreation space for the village and the establishment of a website by Jim Noble. He explained that in the 1970/80s the late Tony Gocher had done good work for the hamlet, 'Conservation Area' policies had been established, with agreement for underground wiring from BT and he thought the group's work had carried this on.

The Future: Jim Shaw suggested that we join the Pulborough Society and explained they are concerned with planning and conservation.

Michael Sherwood said that matters like the speed limit issue was a reason for the group to continue and also what should happen to at The Common and issues such as underground wiring should be a consensus of opinion.

Pam and John Wellard said they had no problems with broadband and Jim Shaw said neither did he. Michael Sherwood and Robert Allison both stated that while the lines coped with broadband at one end of the hamlet by the time they got to the Mill House the system was struggling to cope. Jeanette Brickell asked if cable installation would cure this. It would but it was thought no one would be prepared to make the investment to install it for such a small hamlet as it would be very expensive.

Bill Ford said he thought the new signs were too big and suburbanised the hamlet ;( a view many agree with and already put forward to WSCC by the group).

John Wellard said he thought the limit was important especially at his end of the hamlet as cars often went as fast as 50mph.

Jim Shaw said clout was needed to make the authorities take notice and for that reason we should join the Pulborough Society as they see Nutbourne as the conservation area of Pulborough Parish.

Andrew Moffat said he had spoken to HDC about the proposed Pump House application for five business units. He thought we needed a strong representative from Nutbourne on the PPC.

Michael Sherwood said that there were two Nutbourne parish councillors (Jim Noble and Andrea Lawson), a better than average ratio.

Bill Ford said The Common at one time had been a cleared area for recreation and maybe this was still needed. Andrew Moffat said open spaces for children were nearby at West Chiltington and Pulborough but that when he was a boy he enjoyed the mystic of The Common as this offered a different environment for children.

Bridget Gladwin said how upset a local woman had been when she met her the day they started work on The Common. There had been no consultation or notice given to anyone that any work was to be carried out.

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Frank suggested disbanding and reverting to the original History Group and said he wanted to concentrate on the history and that Diane Smith had offered to help but that he would like someone else to take over the conservation part but no one volunteered.

Bob Allison said it was unlikely that anyone would want to take on the mantle and that Frank had done an excellent job and had been prepared to tackle things and put his head above the parapet when perhaps others might not be so keen. He suggested we adopt the G8 idea of having a core group and rotating the chairman every six months. This idea was welcomed.

Frank had also mentioned that areas look after themselves and only call on other members if necessary. This was not taken up.

Jeanette Brickell said there would never be a better time than now to get a core group together and it was suggested that anyone willing to take part put up their hands and that another meeting would then be arranged to finalise details.

It was clear the majority were in favour for the group to continue and when asked who would be prepared to take part, hands were raised by Michael Sherwood, Jim Shaw, Brian White, Andrew Moffat, Robert Allison, Diane Smith, Derek Baker and Frank Riddle. It was pointed out that Diane Smith was the only female to volunteer and after a little pressure Jean Baker said she was also prepared to be involved.

Bill Ford said he was concerned about Nutbourne becoming a village for the retired and that if we did not want the village signs we should ask for them to be removed. Frank said the group simply wanted to retain the rural farming community and explained that is the reason why most of us have settled here and do not want it changed. He thought that it was very important to have input from 'old' villagers and was disappointed the Lawson family did not participate in the group as their farming contributes to the farming aspect we all enjoy. Frank suggested the group should run major issues past Bill Ford and Parish Councillors in future. He said the group's aim should be to promote and encourage good care of the hamlet and not to routinely interfere in planning issues except where they merit it. Help and technical advice from recognised bodies such as Soc.Protection Ancient Buildings is/should be available through the committee.

Paul and Carole Nash, who had sent apologies earlier, arrived with Sara and David from Inglenook Cottage as the meeting was ending. Carol, who had helped with the VDS, said she was prepared to continue as part of the group.

Frank and Robert Allison then spoke to Bill Ford privately and the meeting ended. It was reassuring that in a changing world we all agree about retaining the character of Nutbourne.

The new group will now have the following members:

Robert Allison, Jean and Derek Baker, Carol Nash, Andrew Moffat, Frank Riddle,  
Jim Shaw, Michael Sherwood, Diane Smith, Brian White  
and it is hoped Jim Noble who was not present at the meeting.