

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday 9th January 1989 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keeley and R.White and from District Councillor Cox.
2. A cheque for £5.00 for hire of the Village Hall was signed.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November, previously circulated, were approved and duly signed.

4 Matters arising therefrom:

4.1 Footpaths. The bailiff of the Beech Estate had advised the Clerk that Penhurst 3 and 5 were now clear of fallen trees. The Clerk added that a stile on Penhurst 4, by the Ashbourne, was in need of repair and he would ask the owner of the land to repair it.

Roads. The County Council had undertaken further drainage work in Farthing Lane but the main surfacing work would not be carried out until later in the year.

4.2 Planning. Applications being considered by Rother at the time of the last Parish Meeting:

RR88.1811 Agmerhurst House. Wall and entrances. The Clerk had discussed matters with Mr Bickersteth and the latter was proposing to consult Rother on his best course of action.

RR88.2817 Thorndale Farm. Rother had made no decision.  
RR88.2986 Clays Farm. Construction of a barn. Since the size and siting of this did not differ appreciably from the original barn intended, the Parish Council had maintained in its letter to Rother the same misgivings and objections.

RR88.3072. Frankwell Farm. Reconstruction of ruined farmhouse. In a letter to Rother the Clerk expressed concern that if permission were to be granted then the possibilities of a further application to build another dwelling on the remaining land, some 100 acres, could not be ruled out. However, Rother had informed the Clerk that permission to rebuild the farmhouse could well be refused on the basis of very recent legislation.

4.2 Appeals.

RR88.0356. Clays Farm Re the written appeal concerning Rother's refusal to allow the original barn to be built, the Clerk had sent a letter to the Department of the Environment setting out the Council's objections.

RR88.0445. Brays Hill. (Mitchell) No decision yet on the written appeal.

4.3 Magistrates Hearing. Brays Hill House. (Clarke)  
The Council deplored the long delay in settling for once and all (a) the sewage problem. At the Battle hearing on 12th December the owner pleaded guilty but was granted until 24th April (when the next hearing will be) to get the work done. Failure would result in his being fined.

(b) the wall. After the hearing this matter was discussed between the owner and the Rother solicitor. The latter agreed to accede to the former's request to have this work related to the construction of the septic tank.

5 New Applications. None.

6 County Structure Plan Review. The Vice-chairman, who had attended the consultative meeting in Battle, made a number of useful discussion points centred on four main policies central to the Review, namely: (1) Economy and Employment; (2) Housing; (on which topic a letter from Councillor Keeley to the County Planning Officer was read out); (3) Transport; and (4) Countryside and Villages. Although all of these were fully aired it was decided not to send any written comments to the County Council.

7 AOB. In anticipation of British Telecom's probable move to replace the existing phonebox at Pont's Green by a new one (thought to be out of keeping with the village scene) the Clerk was instructed to write to ask Rother to consider putting a preservation order on the former.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

*Alan Baker*

22/3/89.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Statement of Account for the year ended 31st March 1989

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance brought forward as at 31/3/88	120.15	Hire of hall	25.00
Precept from Rother DC	410.00	Sussex Association of Local Councils, subscription and literature	37.20
Stamps in hand	1.26	Rother District Association of Parish and Town Councils	4.00
	531.41	Cornhill Insurance	30.00
		Stationery	33.48
		Clerk's salary	186.00
		Clerk's expenses	
		Telephone	41.06
		Petrol	15.32
			56.38
		Credit Balance	159.35
			531.41

I hereby certify that the above is a true Statement of Accounts

D.H.B.Pirkis

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd March 1989 at 7.30pm .

1. All members of the Council attended together with County Councillor Amies and District Councillor Cox. Ten members of the public were also present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th January 1989, previously circulated, were approved and duly signed.

3 Matters arising therefrom:

3.1 Roads. The Clerk reported that drainage work had been undertaken on parts of Penhurst Lane and Burnt Thatch Lane. He had contacted the County Council again about the urgent need for efficient drainage work to be done on the road by New Buildings and he had reported on the state of the road at Great Sprays House and at Stevens Crouch Telephone Box

3.2 Planning.

3.2.1 Applications

RR89.0160P (previously RR88.1811) Agmerhurst House. Resiting of two driveway entrances and the erection of new boundary fencing. Nothing to report.

RR88.2817 Thorndale Farm. Change of use of redundant farm building. Approved by the Planning Committee.

RR88.2986 Clays Farm. Erection of barn. No decision yet.

RR88.3072. Frankwell Farm. Reconstruction of ruined war-damaged house. Still under consideration.

3.2.2 Magistrates' Hearing. Brays Hill House sewerage. The Clerk reported that sentence had been suspended until the hearing on 24th April. Should the work not be completed by then the owner would be fined.

3.2.3 Appeals.

Clays Farm. Erection of barn. No decision.

Henley Bridge Cottage. Caravan. No decision.

Springfield. With the owner's public appeal on 29th March in mind the Council considered its position. After the Clerk had introduced the subject the Chairman adjourned the meeting for a few minutes and invited the owner, Mr Sheffield, to address the Council.

The meeting reconvened and a lively debate ensued at the end of which Councillor Keeley submitted a resolution, seconded by Councillor Akehurst, that "the Agricultural Occupancy <sup>condition</sup> at Springfield should remain but the Enforcement Notice be dropped."

The motion was defeated by 4 votes to 3.

4 New Planning

RR89.0296/P Kitchenham Farm. Use of redundant milking shed as workshop for repair of agricultural machinery. No decision yet.

RR84.0079 Henley Bridge Stud. Building of bungalow on a site previously agreed to by Rother for construction of a house. The Council expressed reservations about the building materials proposed.

5

Finance.

The precept for £430.00 was proposed by Councillor R.White, seconded by Councillor Akehurst, and agreed by the Council. A cheque for £5.00 for hire of the Village Hall was signed.

6

Correspondence. The Clerk reported:

i) Governing Body of Dallington School. The County Education Officer had confirmed that following the DES directive the Parish would share representation by a single governor with Brightling and Dallington.

ii) Rother had confirmed that in due time British Telecom would replace the traditional phone boxes in the Parish by ones of new design.

iii) Following a complaint from a parishioner a letter had been sent to Mr and Mrs Hunt of School House requesting them not to permit the burning of rubbish that produced noxious smoke and fumes.

iv) Rother had written to say that, to conform with the legal requirements, the Parish had been told of the intention by Rother to deliver to Battle Town Council the regalia of the old Battle Rural District Council.

v) A Lewes-based firm, "Starter Homes for Local People", had expressed a desire to learn of the need for this type of housing in the Parish and of any suitable land that might become available for its construction. A reply had been sent to the effect that until there had been a village survey no housing development of the kind envisaged would be likely to receive approval by Rother.

7

The Clerk let it be known that this Council meeting would be the last <sup>our</sup> County Councillor would attend as he would not be offering himself for re-election in May. The Chairman fully endorsed the sentiments the Clerk had expressed in a letter of deep appreciation to Mr Amies.

8

It was agreed to hold the AGMs of the Parish and the Parish Council on Wednesday 10 May 1989.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

*St B. White*

10/5/89.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th May 1989 at 7.30pm.

1. All members of the Council attended except for District Councillor I.Cox and Councillor R.White. Apologies for their absence had been received. Eight members of the public were also present.
2. Council proceeded to elect officers for the forthcoming year as follows: For Chairman: Councillor Baker was proposed by Councillor Keeley, seconded by Councillor Akehurst and elected by four votes to two. Councillor Baker then took the chair. For Vice-Chairman: Mrs Wallis was proposed by Councillor E.White, seconded by Councillor Harman, and elected by five votes to nil with one abstention.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd March 1989, previously circulated, were approved and duly signed.
4. Matters arising therefrom:
  - 4.1 It was agreed that the newly elected County Councillor, Mr Bell, be invited to attend Parish Council meetings during his term of office.
  - 4.2 The Clerk reported that the precept for 1989/90 had been approved by Rother and the sum of £430 was now in the bank.
  - 4.3 The Clerk added that no further work had been undertaken in Farthing Lane but repairs to the layby at Stevens Crouch had been started. He had spoken to the County Council Roads Engineer at Sidley who had indicated that there were plans to deal with drainage, repairs and surfacing on some Parish lanes this year.
  - 4.4 The Chairman explained the position of Parish representatives on the Governing Body of Dallington School. In future Ashburnham, Brightling, and Dallington would share a Governor, each Parish to provide the one Governor on a three year rotation starting with Ashburnham this year. Mr Baker said he did not want to continue as the Parish representative and he had asked the Clerk if he would be prepared to succeed him; to which suggestion Mr Pirkis had agreed. The nomination was proposed by Councillor Keeley, seconded by Councillor E.White and agreed unanimously.
- 4.5 Planning matters on stream at the last Council meeting:
  - 4.5.1 Applications.
    - RR88.2986 Clays Farm. Barn. Refused.
    - RR88.3072 Frankwell Farm. Rebuilding of farmhouse. Agreed with several provisos including the owner to sign away the right to develop the oast.
    - RR89.0296 Kitchenham Farm. Conversion of redundant milking shed to workshop for repair of farm machinery. Agreed. Personal for three years.
    - RR84.0079 Henley Bridge Stud. Substitution of bungalow for house (for which permission had previously been granted). Agreed with stipulations about materials to be used on the roof.
    - RR89.0160 P (previously RR88.1811) Agmerhurst House. Re-siting of entrances agreed but permission for wall refused.
  - 4.5.2 Magistrates hearing.
    - Brays Hill House. Installation of cesspool. Mr Clarke failed

to appear at the hearing on 24th April and a new hearing had been fixed for 18th May. The Clerk revealed that he had written a firm letter to the Magistrates' Clerk about the protracted handling of the case. On the associated problem of the unsightly wall he mentioned that he had brought the matter to the forefront yet again with the Planning Authority.

- 4.5.3 Appeals.
  - Clays Farm. Erection of a barn. The Inspector had visited the site a fortnight previously. No decision as yet.
  - Henley Bridge Cottage. Removal of a caravan. Appeal refused by the Inspector - the Enforcement Notice reimposed.
  - Springfield. Enforcement Notice. To date no decision consequent upon the Public Appeal.

5. Planning. New applications:
  - RR89.0833/PD Glydes Farm. Conservatory. No decision.
  - RR89.0787/PD Glydes Farm. Stables. ~~Agreed~~ No decision
  - RR89.1006/P Slivericks House. Erection of new barn. No decision.

6. Finances.

A statement of account for the year ending 31st March, previously circulated, was commented on favourably by the Clerk. Councillor Keeley proposed that the statement be accepted: Councillor Akehurst seconded, and the Council agreed unanimously. The Chairman then signed the full statement as being correct. Cheques were signed as follows: Village Hall £5.00; Sussex Association of Local Councils subscription £39.40; Cornhill Insurance £30.00; Clerk's salary and expenses £242.38. Council then approved payment of £5.00 to Mr Bensusan for expenses incurred in printing Council minutes and agendas in the year.

7. Any Other Business

The Clerk reported that a parishioner had questioned the environmental desirability of the high fence erected at the Old Vicarage. He said that as this was not a listed property nothing could be done about it. The Chairman declared that that ought to be the Council's attitude, to which there was no dissent.

Councillors were asked by the Clerk to let him know as the year progressed if any grass verges or hedges needed cutting.

8. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.02pm.

28/9/89  
*Kenneth Baker*

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 28th September 1989 at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Bell. Five members of the public were also present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 1989, previously circulated, were approved and signed after two small amendments had been noted:

(i) item 5. New Planning applications RR 89.0787/PD Glyde's Farm, erection of stables. No decision had been reached by Rother.

(ii) Councillor Keeley pointed out that there was no reference to the fact that the Sussex Association of Parish Councils and the Rother Association of Town & Parish Councils would be contacted about the undesirable practice of people converting barns and oasts on farmland that had been subdivided. The Clerk replied that he had written and would say so when he mentioned the matter in the current minutes. Councillor Keeley added that the topic had been raised at the June meeting of the R.A.T.P.C. and the various planning authorities would be written to.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

3.1 Roads

The Clerk reminded the Council that part of road C18 would be closed for repairs some time in the next few months. Consequent diversion of traffic via C412 and UC1122 could create problems, especially in the vicinity of Mansfield Cross. E.S.C.C. Highways Department had been advised of this and asked to provide suitable traffic signs at the time when the work was in progress.

The Clerk also reported that he had contacted E.S.C.C. Highways Department about the broken barrier between C18 and Farthing Lane opposite the Post Office.

3.2 Planning matters on stream at the last Council meeting:

Appeals.

Clays Farm. Erection of barn. Dismissed on appeal to the Department of the Environment.

Henley Bridge Cottage. Caravan. The Enforcement Notice had expired and the caravan destroyed.

Springfield. A compromise solution had been brought about by the redrafting of the Agricultural Occupancy condition by the Inspector.

Magistrate's hearing.

Brays Hill House. (i) Cesspool installation. The owner had been fined £300 with £250 costs. The Clerk had asked Rother to check that the cesspool had been connected up to the house sanitation system. (ii) Wall. Rother would proceed in the Magistrate's Court.

Planning applications.

RR 89.0787. Glyde's Farm. Stables. Refused.

RR 89.0833. Glyde's Farm. Conservatory. Agreed with conditions.

RR 89.1006. Slivericks. Erection of barn. Agreed with conditions. The Clerk was asked to check on the size of the barn.

4. New Planning applications.

RR 89.1328 Penhurst Barn conversion. Agreed with conditions.

RR 89.1346 Marl pits. Electricity transmission line. Agreed with a condition about height.

RR 89.1823 Agmerhurst House. Alterations to the rear. Agreed.

RR 89.2033 Winter Farm Cottage. Underpinning. Agreed.

RR 89.2345 Potts Green Cottage. Alterations. No decision yet.

RR 89.2593 Lattendens Farm. Barn conversion in principle. No decision yet. (The Clerk pointed out that special dispensation to develop would probably be given despite recent legislation about barn conversion planning applications submitted in principle only.)

RR 89.2369 Frankwell Farm. Electricity transmission line. The Parish Council had asked that this be installed underground if possible. No decision by Rother yet.

Proceedings were adjourned at this stage (8.03pm) so that the whole matter of the rebuilding of Frankwell Farm could be discussed in open session.

When the Council meeting was resumed (8.24pm) it was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to write to Rother expressing disquiet over the way the matter had been handled and letting it be known that certain members of the public present had declared their intention of taking matters up with Rother Planning officers.

Planning problems. The Clerk referred to:

(i) Glyde's Farm. New field access on Farthing Lane. Despite there being a dangerous approach from the west the access was legal because Farthing Lane was unclassified.

(ii) Penhurst. The land had been divided into three lots as a speculative venture. The widening of the existing access and the creation of a new access further on was done without planning permission. An Enforcement Officer had visited the site and Rother had written to the owner. It had also written to the auctioneers when the lots came up for sale on 27th September; they were not sold.

(iii) Middle Sprays. Enforcement Officers had invited the owner to submit planning applications for the satellite dish and for any stables he might build in the future. The Clerk intimated that this was unlikely to be the last the Council would hear about the matter.

(iv) Clay pigeon shooting. The Clerk reported that shooting had taken place on a Sunday morning in late May in Beechdown Wood on the Beech Estate. After a verbal protest by four parishioners and letters to Sir John Spencer Wills and to his agent there had been no recurrence of it. However, shooting had gone on at Little Sprays Farm. No complaints had been received but matters were being closely monitored.

5 Eastbourne Water

The Clerk said that Mr Tye, Eastbourne Water's New Works Engineer, had seen him about the Darwell Water Transfer Scheme with a view to his speaking at a Parish public meeting in the Village Hall. The Clerk was instructed to arrange a suitable date at which this important matter, which would affect both parts of the Parish, would be discussed fully with Mr Tye in open session.

Councillor Cox explained that planning permission had been granted for the erection of a 30-metre mast at Darwell Wood despite local opposition. He intended to campaign further against it and asked for the support of the Parish Council. The Chairman declared that this should be given and the Clerk was instructed to write a suitable letter of objection to RACAL.

## 7 Finance

Cheques were signed as follows:  
£5.00 to the Village Hall for the meeting and £3.00 annual subscription to Rother Association of Town & Country Councils.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The poor state of Honey Lane was discussed. The Clerk said that as a result of Councillor R.White mentioning it some weeks previously he, the Clerk, had contacted E.S.C.C. He undertook to do so again. Councillor E.White referred to the upstanding water fixtures in the middle of road C18 near Pigknoll. The Clerk said he would mention this to E.S.C.C. as well.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.48pm.

*Kenneth Baker*  
30.11.89

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 30th November 1989 at 7.30pm.

1. All members of the Council attended together with County Councillor M.G.Bell and District Councillor I.Cox. Two members of the public were present.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th September 1989, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising therefrom:
  - 3.1 Roads and footpaths
    - 3.1.1 The barrier at the junction of C18 and Farthing Lane and the road surface around the Southern Water installations on the C18 near Pignoll had been repaired.
    - 3.1.2 Drainage and resurfacing work on C18 was proceeding although problems of signposting and gritting the C412/UC1122 diversion had had to be reported to and dealt with by ESCC.
    - 3.1.3 ESCC had been informed that work at Stevens Crouch had proved ineffective and a better solution had to be sought.
    - 3.1.4 ESCC had written to say that repairs to Honey Lane would be effected next summer.
  - 3.2 The Darwell Water Transfer Scheme  
The public meeting on 18th October was generally considered to have been successful. Mr Tye, the New Works Engineer, agreed to report progress to the Council at its next meeting in February.
  - 3.3 Racal Vodaphone  
A negative reply from Racal had been received; the scheme would go ahead, in all probability, despite local opposition.
  - 3.4 Planning matters  
Brays Hill House. Sanitation. Rother had been unsuccessful in gaining admission in order to ascertain whether the house was connected to the new cesspool. If the owner failed to respond to a final letter Rother would resort to a court order.  
Wall. The Magistrates' hearing had been postponed from 27th November to 18th December.  
Frankwell Farm. RR88.3072. There had been no developments between local residents and Rother.  
RR89.2369. Rother has requested SEEBOARD to put the electricity transmission line below ground level.  
Slivericks Farm RR89.1006. The height of the barn was 8.75m.  
Winters Farm RR89.2033. Underpinning. Listed Building consent. 8/9  
1 Ponts Green RR89.2345. Approved. Work in progress. 89  
Lattenden Farm RR89.2593. Barn conversion. The Parish Council agreed in principle because the basic design fulfilled planning criteria. But, subsequently, two letters had been sent to Rother pointing out problems that might arise in the smooth working of Oak Bank Farm. Rother had deferred a final decision until after a site visit.  
Penbur The selling agent had been notified that it would be highly unlikely that planning permission would be granted. Furthermore, there were planning difficulties over access and the water supply situation was uncertain. This had brought verbal threats to the Council from the owner but to date these had not been followed up by him.  
Middle Sprays Farm. RR89.3104. This application (for two foaling boxes and a store) did not include the hay store and tackroom already constructed without planning permission. The Parish Council had withheld consent partly because of this omission and partly because the buildings would be too close to a neighbour's

house. Furthermore, the materials to be used on this listed building property would be inappropriate. The application form contained errors and omissions.

Rother had been informed again that apparently no application had been submitted for the satellite dish already in position.

#### 4 New Planning Matters

Middle Sprays Farm. A letter from Mr R. Burfoot of Great Sprays House was read out. He complained about the noise from motorbike scrambling on Middle Sprays Farm land and asked the Parish Council to request Rother to apply the "14 day rule". The Council agreed to do this.

Rocks Farm. A wooden building containing stables and a cart shed was being converted into a shooting lodge made of stone, brick and wood. Since this was a "change of use", planning permission should have been sought. The Clerk was instructed to advise Rother and to mention that since the Council was apprehensive about the building's ultimate purpose, Rother should be asked to seek an undertaking from the Beech Estate that the proper planning channels would be followed.

Little Sprays Farm. It had been reported to the Council that (a) rubbish was being dumped on land belonging to the farm at the side of Penhurst Lane, (b) old vehicles and rubbish were accumulating along the farm buildings such as to be an eyesore and (c) a caravan was inhabited contrary to planning regulations. After some discussion Council agreed that two Councillors should discuss matters in a low key with the tenant farmer in the hope that the problems could be sorted out amicably.

Thornden Woodyard. The owners had applied to Rother for a "Established Use Certificate". The Council could see no reason why this should not be agreed to.

#### 5 Finance

The Clerk mentioned that a cheque for £10.00 had been received from Southern Water for the public meeting in the Village Hall. It was agreed that this should be handed over to the Village Hall Committee along with the £5.00 fee for the current meeting of the Council.

The Clerk went on to say that after the public meeting the Chairman, Councillor R. White and he had agreed that effective exterior lighting to the side of the Village Hall was needed. Councillor R. White said that he had obtained a rough estimate of £60.00 as the likely cost and he asked if the Parish Council could provide this sum because the Village Hall Committee was out of funds. The Council agreed to the request unanimously. Accordingly, it was agreed that a further request from Councillor R. White for a donation towards the purchase of equipment for the children's proposed play area should be deferred until the new financial year.

#### 6 Village Hall Noticeboard

Since this was in a delapidated state the Clerk asked if it could be renovated and sited either where it was or at Penhurst. Councillor R. White felt that this would be in order but it would have to be approved by the Village Hall Committee first.

#### 7 Any Other Business

The Vice Chairman consented to represent the Council at meetings organised by the Sussex Rural Community Council aimed at "rural care".

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.