

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th January 1991 at 7.30pm.

1. All Councillors were present except for Mr Baker who was indisposed. In his absence the chair was taken by Councillor R.White. District Councillor Cox was present but County Councillor Bell apologised for his absence. There was one member of the public.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 11th September 1990, previously circulated, were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising therefrom:

3.1 Roads. The Clerk reported:

3.1.1 He had been assured that drainage work at New Buildings, delayed by the Highways Department having to wait for suitable equipment, would be undertaken early in the new financial year.

3.1.2 Recent work on Pound Hill had resulted in rapid run-off and the flooding of a ditch by two cottages - first aid work had been undertaken.

3.1.3 Fountain Forestry had finally cut back overhanging vegetation in Forge Lane.

Councillor R.White reported that a bad pothole was developing at Mansfield Cross and the Clerk undertook to contact the Highways Department.

3.2 Planning matters outstanding. The Clerk reported:

89.3104. Middle Sprays (now known as Sprays Oast Farm)

Stables. Unresolved because the agent could secure no decision from the owner. Rother intended to allow the owner another four weeks to submit a new application otherwise it would proceed to enforce its earlier decision.

Barn. This remained in a very poor state. Council deplored its neglect and instructed the Clerk to write to Rother requesting its de-listing and rescinding of planning permission to convert to a dwelling.

Motorbike noise. The Director of the Environmental Health Department had been asked to explain why no action had been taken.

90.0637. Great Sprays. Wall. Approved.

90.1222. Nursery Cottage. New access. Approved.

90.1680. Slivericks. Barn conversion. Site visited. Approved with conditions.

90.1835. Court Lodge. Shepherd's Cottage. Written appeal. Letter sent to Rother to underline Parish Council's previous request for a Section 52 Agreement to cover all the property.

Penbur. New construction work on to an existing wooden building for the housing of free range chickens had proceeded over the Christmas/New Year period. Rother had been informed and an Enforcement Officer had visited the site. Nothing much could be done at this stage other than for Rother to inform the owner of the legal position. Rother had advised him to submit a planning application. The Clerk added that he had told Rother the 400m rule should apply.

4. New Planning Matters.

90.2097. Rocks Farm. Demolition of outbuildings and alteration of

house. Approved with conditions.

90.2626. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Enlargement of reception hall. Parish Council had no objection. No decision yet by Rother. Forge Lodge. Renovation of outbuilding. The Clerk understood that no action need be taken provided there were no enlargement of the building. Concern was expressed about the Velox windows inserted in the roof. Developments to be monitored.

5 Finance

5.1 The refund of VAT for over the last ten years, totalling £31.81, had been received.

5.2 The precept for the next financial year would be of the order of £1360 of which £760 would be for the cost of the election in April. The remaining £600 would be fractionally lower than this year's figure.

Cheques were signed for £5 (Village Hall) and £40 (an agreed donation to Battle Carers).

6. Parish Notice Boards.

The Clerk mentioned that Mr Broomhall had kindly donated a new board and this would be fixed on Church Farm barn. Council agreed that the board hitherto at the Village Hall, and recently renovated, should be sited by the Village Shop. Councillor E.White undertook to consult Mr Peters about it.

7. Any Other Business

The Clerk said that he had had a letter from St Michael's Hospice with a request for a talk about the Hospice to be given in the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Miss Stead to see if the Women's Fellowship would agree to host the meeting.

The problem of the spread of thistles from land by Honey Lane was discussed. The Clerk was instructed to contact the owner. It was agreed that the final meeting of the current Council would be on Tuesday 26th March. The Clerk added that the procedure for the May election of a new Council would begin in late March.

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

Kenneth Baker 26.3.91

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th March 1991 at 7.30pm.

1. All Councillors attended but District Councillor Cox and County Councillor Bell apologised for their absence. Five members of the public were present.
 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 17th January 1991, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
 3. Matters arising therefrom:
 - 3.1 Roads. Work at New Buildings was virtually finished. Councillor R.White reported that the pothole at Mansfield Cross had been repaired but some work was needed on the hill on the B2204 near Angmerhurst Farm entrance.
 - 3.2 Planning. The Clerk reported:
 - 89.3104. Middle Sprays (also known as Sprays Oast Farm).
 - 3.2.1 An Enforcement Notice would be issued on the new stable block.
 - 3.2.2 Rother would not agree to the barn's planning permission being rescinded and not advise de-listing.
 - 3.2.3 The motorbike noise had stopped.
 - 90.1835. Court Lodge. Rother had decided that the shepherd's house should be associated with 75 acres of the estate.
 - 90.2626. Ashburnham Christian Trust. The application to enlarge the reception foyer by enclosing a courtyard had received Rother's approval.
 - Forge Lodge. The owner, in his reply to the Parish Council's letter, had explained the reason for the work undertaken on the outbuilding and had implied that it was not intended to use the building for accomodation purposes.
 - At 7.45pm the Council adjourned so that the owner of Penbur could explain his case for developing his chicken project. Council business was resumed at 7.58pm.
 - Thistles on the land at Honey Lane. The Clerk mentioned that it had proved difficult to trace the owner of this land but that he would continue his efforts to do so.
4. New Planning Matters.
 - 91.0206. Rocks Farm. Thatching of roof. The Parish Council had raised no objection to this. The Clerk mentioned that caravans for forestry workers on the Beech Estate at Stevens Crouch were still on site after two years. It was agreed that since the forestry work for which the workers had been brought in had not been completed, and nobody had complained about the presence of the caravans, the matter would not be pursued.
 5. Finance

Cheques were signed for £325.86 (Clerk's salary); £2.00 (RATPC); £5.00 (Village Hall); £5.00 (Mr Bensusan for paper and typing). The Clerk referred to the letter received from Battle Carers (in response to the Council's donation of £40.00).
 6. Parish Notice Boards.

The Clerk mentioned that the new board for Penhurst was now in position on Church Farm barn. The Clerk undertook to follow up

the suggestion of Councillors R and E White that Mr Peters be consulted about the location and Strutt & Parker be asked for permission to install it.

7. The Parish and Parish Council AGMs were arranged for Thursday 9th May. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for undertaking his duties and he, reciprocating for the Parish, thanked Councillors for their conscientious work over the last four years.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

R M White
9/5/91

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th May 1991 at 7.30pm.

1. The following Councillors, elected unopposed and all present, formed the new Council: Messrs F.Akehurst, Mrs J.Andrew, V.K.Baker, R.Burfoot, N.Harman, E.White and R.White. District Councillor I.Cox, returned unopposed, was present: County Councillor Bell did not attend. No member of the public was present.
2. Each Councillor signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received a copy of the National Code of Local Government Conduct.
3. Councillor R.White was elected Chairman (proposed by Councillor E.White and seconded by Councillor Akehurst). In accepting office Councillor R.White thanked Councillor Baker for his many years service to the Council and the Parish, and instructed the Clerk to write letters of thanks to three members of the last Council who did not stand at the election.
4. Council elected Councillor E.White as Vice-Chairman (proposed by Councillor Mrs Andrew and seconded by Councillor Akehurst).
5. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 1991, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
6. Matters arising therefrom:
 - 6.1 The Clerk reported that work at New Buildings had been completed; Old Thatch Lane would be resurfaced in time; the state of the B2204 had been mentioned to County Councillor Bell. The condition of Farthing Lane near Brigden Hill was discussed and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Highways Department about it. Similarly the fact that at the northern junction of Penhurst Lane and Old Thatch Lane, the "limited access" sign was down and the 'BATTLE' finger sign was missing was to be reported. Councillor Burfoot raised the question of the suitability of the design and materials of recently constructed roadside drains, and it was agreed that Highways Department officials should be asked to consult the Councillors.

The following Councillors were appointed to oversee the state of the Parish's roads: for Ashburnham, Messrs R. White, E.White and R.Akehurst; for Penhurst Mr N.Harman.
 - 6.2 Previous Planning matters. The Clerk reported:
RR.89.3104. Middle Sprays. Stables. An Enforcement Notice was being held back while Planning Officers pressured the owner to complete the work stipulated by Rother. Councillor Burfoot reported that a start had been made.
RR.91.0260. Rocks Farm. Thatching of house. Approved.
Penbur. Research had revealed that the status of 'High Ridge' was an agricultural property; thus, even though no agricultural worker had lived in it during the time of the present ownership, believed to be 24 years, it was not a "protected" building. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to write to Rother to the effect that there was no "protected" building within 400 metres of Penbur. Thistles on land at Honey Lane. The owner had been contacted and he had agreed to cut thistles before 15th July.

7. New Planning Matters

- RR.91.0607. Rocks Farm. Extension to house. No objection.
RR.91.0810. Rocks Farm. Overhead Seeboard lines. No objection.
RR.91.0853. Rocks Farm. Erection of store. No objection but must meet Listed Building requirements.
Great Sprays Farm Bungalow. Permission had been given by the owner for a caravan on site to be lived in for six months. This contravened Planning regulations but it was agreed that every effort would be made to resolve the matter locally and at low key.
1 New Buildings Farm Cottage (Agricultural Occupancy Condition). The Clerk read out a letter from Strutt & Parker concerning the background to the installation of new, unqualified tenants - a contentious matter in the village. It was agreed that the agent would have been wise to have consulted the Parish Council in an effort to find an equitable and legal solution. The Clerk was instructed to inform the agent that the Council, very reluctantly, agreed not to oppose the proposal to suspend temporarily the Agricultural Occupancy Condition, but 'temporary' would have to be strictly defined and if a legally qualified couple came forward the matter would have to be reviewed.
8. Council discussed the suggestion that a Planning Committee be formed to cope with the more involved planning applications and to allow for wider consultation of Councillors. The Council expressed confidence in existing arrangements but if necessary a full Council meeting could always be called to consider applications considered to be potentially very contentious.
 9. Water pipeline. It was agreed that those farmer/Councillors affected would form a committee to monitor developments.
 10. Finance. The Clerk reported that Council finances were healthy. The balance on 31.3.91 was about £1500 because the election expense allowance had been included in the precept. The Clerk was instructed to act on the decision of Council that most of that sum should be invested. Cheques were signed for the Village Hall (£5.00), Sussex Association of Local Councils (£51.15), Cornhill Insurance (£30.00) and Rother Association of Town & Rural Parishes (£3.00).
 11. Notice Boards. The Chairman said that he had made arrangements for the Ashburnham one to be fixed in position and he asked Councillor Harman to see Mr Broomhall about the possibility of having a protective glass door on the Penhurst one.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.0pm.

Rm White
27/9/91

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 24th September 1991 at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Bell and Councillor Baker.
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th May 1991, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising therefrom:
 - 3.1 Roads. The Clerk explained that (a) the delay in resurfacing Old Thatch Lane was caused by the contractor not having a suitable vehicle but work would proceed next year. (b) the 6'6" notice at the northern end of Old Thatch Lane had been reinstated but the missing finger post would be replaced under contract. (c) the Highways Department had explained the problems of the surfaces on the B2204 and Farthing Lane and the work that would have to be done. (d) the Highways Department had been contacted about the state of Penhurst Lane immediately north of Church Farm.
 - 3.2 Planning.
 - RR.89.3104. Middle Sprays. Stables and manure base. No further developments.
 - RR.91.0607. Rocks Farm. Two storey extension. Refused.
 - RR.91.0853. :: :: Store. Granted.
 - RR.91.1449. :: :: Lake. Granted
 - RR.91.0810. :: :: Alternative route of electricity extension line. Granted.
 - RR.91.0909. New Buildings Farm Cottage. Suspension of the Agricultural Occupancy Clause. Granted for 3 years and personal to Mr & Mrs Glanville.
4. New Planning applications.
 - RR.91.0878. Ashburnham Parish Church. Mobile building at Ashburnham Place. Granted for five years.
 - RR.85.2068.] Redpale Farm. Holiday annexe. Granted.
 - RR.91.0909.]
 - RR.91.1042/3. Rocks Farm. Single storey extension. Refused.
 - RR.86.1992.] Pelham Cottages. Development of redundant building.
 - RR.91.1323.] Granted.
 - RR.91.1474. South Lodge, Ashburnham Place. Plastic window frames already installed in a listed building. Refused. Enforcement Notice. Two year's grace.
 - RR.91.1551. Brays Hill Stables. Change of use to art studio. Granted.
 - RR.91.1636. The Orangery, Ashburnham Place Replacement of roofing material. No decision.
 - Springfield. Rother had been approached to establish whether the estate agents' sale details were compatible with the report of the Department of the Environment Appeal Inspector and to ascertain the legal position regarding future use of the brick-built barn. No reply had been received.
 - The Ash Tree Inn. Notification had been received of an application for a change of licensee.
5. Darwell Reservoir Scheme.

Two individual applications had been received!

 - RR.91.1788. Little Sprays Farm. Break pressure tank and control house. The Council supported the farmer's points that a strong case for acquiring extra land had not been made and that noise baffling would be essential.

RR.91.1790. Kitchenham Farm. The Council had pointed out that the pipe storage site entrance was close to a dangerous stretch of the B2204.

No planning applications were needed for the pipe storage sites at The Pound, Church Farm and Link Wood.

It was agreed to meet Mr Tye on 31st October and to extend invitations to local landowners and farmers affected by the pipeline

6. Drainage Problems.

Keepers Cottage. The Council had appraised the Highways Department of the legal advice it had received from the National Rivers Authority to the effect that the Department had an obligation to install a larger pipe.

Tower House. The Highways Department and Strutt & Parker had been contacted about erosion of the entrance drive and roadside and subsequent deposit of sediment at the bottom of the hill. The Highways Department had made an initial move but Strutt & Parker had not responded. The Clerk was instructed to write to the latter.

7. Councillor Baker had intimated at the Parish meeting his intention of raising at the next Council meeting the question of the payment of election charges. The Clerk said he had consulted the Chairman of Icklesham Council, a Parish that also had "wards", who had confirmed that an election in one "ward" would be paid for by the whole Parish. The Clerk further reported that the legal situation regarding Ashburnham & Penhurst was clearly set out in the Granting Order of 1955. This was studied by the Council members and the Chairman instructed the Clerk to enter a copy of the Order in the Parish Meeting and Parish Council minute books for future reference.

On a motion proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Harman the minute book of Ashburnham Parish meetings (1894-1987) was to be deposited in the County Archives Department by the Clerk. The latter said that the Department already possessed the Penhurst minute book (1894-1939).

8. Parish Notice Boards

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to expedite the fixing of the Ashburnham one and the Clerk was instructed to ask a local builder for a quotation for fixing a glass door to the Penhurst one.

9. Any Other Business.

9.1 The Clerk reported that it might be necessary to appoint someone else to be the Parish representative on the Governing Body of Dallington School for two years should he, the Clerk, be appointed as a County representative. It was agreed that Mr Rodney Phillips of Keepers Cottage should be approached.

9.2 A cheque for £5.00 was signed for Village Hall hire.

9.3 Councillor Burfoot expressed disquiet about the intended car rally through the Parish and sought Council support for his protest. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to write to the organisers and to the RAC.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

R M White
16/1/92