

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 13th January 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. All Councillors were present except for Councillor C. Baker who sent his apologies. District Councillor I. Cox attended but County Councillor Mrs Field sent her apologies. No members of the public were present.
2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 2nd December 1993, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising therefrom:
  - 3.1 Housing. A provisional timetable for the process leading to the submission of a housing association scheme application had been worked out.
    - The Chairman reported on developments regarding the land question and Councillors expressed views on possible sites.
    - Council agreed on an amended draft questionnaire to be submitted to the Director of Housing for advice.
    - The Clerk said he would continue to put entries in the Parish magazine so that parishioners would be aware of progress.
  - 3.2 Neighbourhood Watch signposts. It was agreed that nine should be ordered and their approximate locations were settled.
  - 3.3 Local Government changes. Discussion was deferred until next Council meeting by which time the Chairman and the Clerk would have attended various sessions held by Rother and the SALC.
  - 3.4 Recreation Ground. A letter from Miss Burtonshaw (Strutt & Parker) was read out and a discussion opened by the Chairman then ensued. The form of the reply was agreed. The idea of incorporating the legal status of the ground within that of the Village Hall Trust was less favoured than a straightforward leasing arrangement, preferably for three years. The desirability of completing arrangements before the onset of the cricket season, especially for insurance purposes, would be stressed but meanwhile the Clerk undertook to study the Parish Council's insurance policy to see if public liability cover existed.
  - 3.5 Highways. The Highways Department had indicated that Frickley Hollow Lane would be repaired in the next financial year. It was agreed that the Parish's minor lane problems resultant upon recent bad weather should be notified to the County at a later date in view of the latter's major problems in other parts of E. Sussex.
  - 3.6 Parish Records. National Westminster Bank at Battle had declared that no Parish deeds or papers were in its possession. The Chairman suggested that Barclays Bank should be approached.
  - 3.7 Outstanding planning matters.
    - 93.0537. Court Lodge Farm. Shepherd's Cottage. The Parish Council's concern over the mobile home had been expressed to Rother and the latter undertook to increase pressure on the owner to comply with regulations.
    - 93.0560. Thornden Farm. The owner had submitted a written appeal against Rother's decision and this would run concurrently with an appeal against the Enforcement Notice.
    - 93.0969. Brownbread Street Horse Rescue Centre. Windmill. Permission had finally been granted.

93.1395. Lakehurst Farm. Garage. Rother had implied that permission would be granted.

4. New Planning applications. None.
5. Policies for Managing Primary School Provision - County document. Councillor Mrs Andrews, in endorsing the joint report of Dallington School governors and the parents committee, listed a number of points that needed emphasising. These formed the basis of the letter to be sent to the County Education Department.
6. Finance. Cheques were signed for £6.00 (Village Hall) and £20.00 (petty cash).
7. Under Any Other Business :-
  - 7.1 Community Care. The Clerk mentioned that from time to time he received literature from the County, Rother and the Health Authority but he understood that there was nothing the Parish Council was expected to do at present.
  - 7.2 Government proposals for Sussex Police Authority. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the M.P. expressing concern about the proposals.
  - 7.3 It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should be 24th February 1994.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.02pm.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
24.2.1994

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 24th February 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E.White and District Councillor I.Cox who was at a Rother Planning Committee meeting. County Councillor Mrs Field attended but no members of the public were present.

2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 13th January 1994, were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising therefrom:

3.1 Housing. Council discussed the suitability of various sites prior to a letter and map being sent to the Chief Planning Officer for his officers' comments.

14 out of a possible 18 questionnaires had been returned to date. The Clerk outlined the next stage in developments.

3.2 Recreation Ground. A draft lease had been studied carefully, with the valued assistance of Mr Waddell. This, together with a draft agreement between the Council and the Cricket Club, would be sent to Miss Burtenshaw for comment. There was further discussion on the position of the Council vis-a-vis the Cricket Club and on other matters related to the Club and the children's play area.

3.3 Parish Records. Barclays Bank, Battle, had confirmed that the deeds of the Village Hall, but nothing else, were deposited there.

3.4 Neighbourhood Watch signposts. These had arrived and been distributed to some Councillors and parishioners to be set up at agreed points in the Parish.

3.5 Government proposals for Sussex Police Authority. The M.P. Mr Wardle had replied to the Council's letter in predictable terms but speeches in the House of Lords had endorsed the points the Council had made.

3.6 Outstanding planning matters.

93.0537. Taylor's Farm, Court Lodge. Rother's officers had monitored the site in January and February and intended to do so in March. Bad weather and difficult ground conditions had inhibited building progress.

4. New Planning applications.

94.0142. Ashburnham Christian Trust Enlarged sewage disposal plant. Council had raised no objection but has sought assurance that the quality of the Ashbourne would be closely monitored.

94.0166. Slivericks Farm. Conversion of guest room/charity office to form self-contained holiday letting unit. Council raised no objection to design, etc, but had reservations about the procedures that had been adopted to obtain planning permission.

RUPP2. Penhurst. Proposal to alter the alignment. No objection from the Parish Council.

5. Local Government Review. The Chairman introduced the subject, outlining the various alternatives. In the discussion that followed Councillors made known their unanimous preference

for the maintenance of the status quo. This decision would be forwarded to the Commissioners, with copies of the letter going to the County, Rother and Wealden Councils.

6. Finance. Cheques were signed for £6.00 (Village Hall) and £5.00 (Councillor Burfoot for paper and printing used in producing the housing questionnaires). Permission was given for the Clerk's salary (£341.25) and estimated expenses to be paid at the end of the financial year.

7. The date of the next meeting was arranged provisionally for 7th April 1994.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Roy White  
7/4/94

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 7th April 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Andrew. Councillor Baker and District Councillor I.Cox were not present but County Councillor Mrs Field attended.
2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 24th February, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising: Planning
  - 3.1 Housing. Rother's ~~Planning~~ Department had inspected seven sites in the village and in a letter to the Parish Council had selected two as suitable - one south of the lodging houses and the other to the east of the Post Office. Councillors expressed a preference for the former. The Chairman and the Clerk were to visit the Rother's Director of Housing shortly for advice on the approach to housing associations. It was agreed that a short progress report should be inserted in the Parish magazine.
  - 3.2 Recreation Ground. A further draft of the lease had been received from Miss Burtenshaw. That, together with another draft of the agreement with the Cricket Club, would be vetted by the Chairman in consultation with Councillor Baker. The interim insurance premium had been paid but the insurance broker of the Ashburnham Estate would be consulted to see if improved terms would be possible. A reduction of the Council Tax was being requested of Rother. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the possibilities of fixing up a "disclaimer" notice on the recreation ground site and the Chairman said he would approach an appropriate person to inspect the children's play area annually.
  - 3.3 Neighbourhood Watch signposts. Nine signs had been purchased but to date only five had been erected. It was agreed that a notice about theft precautions should go into the Parish magazine.
  - 3.4 Local Government changes. Further debates at County, District and Parish level had taken place but so far no firm outcome had emerged.
  - 3.5 Outstanding planning matters.
    - RR94.0142. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Enlarged sewage disposal unit. Granted.
    - RR94.0166. Slivericks Farm. Conversion of guest room/office to form self-contained holiday letting unit. Granted with legal stipulations as to use.
    - RR93.0537. Thornden Farm. The Inspector, in his Appeal Report, had allowed some of the additions to the property and disallowed others. Rother was displeased with the outcome and the Parish Council felt that the allowances/disallowances were the reverse of what was desirable.
    - RR90.0692. Beech Estate near Rocks Farm. Shooting lodge. Granted with restrictions on use.
    - Taylor's Farm. Mobile home. The site had been monitored in March but weather and soil conditions continued to inhibit building. A further visit would take place in April.
4. New Planning application.
  - RR94.0330. Glydes Farm. Extension. Council raised no objection but offered advice on style and use of materials compatible with the existing building.
5. Finance.
 

Cheques were signed for £6.00 (Village Hall), £5.00 (Mr Bensusan) and £8.41 (Cornhill Insurance). The Clerk reminded Council there would be a heavier insurance premium and higher Council Tax to cover in the next financial year.
6. Any Other Business.
  - 6.1 Rother had invited a Parish Council representative to attend as an observer at a meeting between Rother District Council and the Area Health Authority. It was agreed to ask Mrs Shirley Massey if she would be prepared to attend.
  - 6.2 Mr Tony Smith had written to complain about a beagle pack that had invaded his property and hunted hares. The Clerk was instructed to reply that although Councillors were in sympathy with his sentiments there was nothing Council could legally do as it had no jurisdiction over Mr Smith's land.
  - 6.3 It was agreed that the provisional date for the Parish and Parish Council AGMs would be Thursday 26th May. It was also agreed to accept PC Mintram's suggestion that he address the Parish meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47pm.

*Ray White*

24/5/94

MINUTES of the AGM held on 24th May 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.50pm.

1. All members of the Council attended together with District Councillor Cox. County Councillor Mrs Field sent her apologies.
2. Proposed by Councillor Akehurst and seconded by Councillor Baker, Councillor R.White was elected Chairman. Councillor E.White, proposed by Councillor Mrs Andrew and seconded by Councillor Harman, was elected Vice Chairman.
3. Minutes of the last Council meeting, held on 7th April 1994, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
4. Matters arising therefrom:
  - 4.1 Low Cost Housing. The Chairman declared that this part of the Council's business would be open and the public could participate. At the close of the discussion the Chairman re-closed the meeting. Council decided that in response to a communication from Strutt & Parker a letter should be sent in which the Council declared its hope that the Trustees of the Ashburnham Estate would alter ~~the~~ approach to the land question. Council awaited a decision by Rother's Planning Offices on the acceptability of the site north of the Lodging Houses.
  - 4.2 Recreation Ground. The interim insurance premium had been paid and next year's premium of £115 would have to be despatched by 1st June. An application for reduction of Council Tax had been submitted to Rother. The Clerk mentioned that a noticeboard on which it would be stated that "the Council disclaimed responsibility for damage to cars parked on the ground during cricket matches" would be acquired. Council agreed with the Chairman's suggestion that he and Councillor Baker form a small committee to oversee the running of the recreation ground.
  - 4.3 Neighbourhood Watch signposts. Seven of the nine signs were now in place. and Council agreed to the purchase of one more to be erected just north of the Chapel.
  - 4.4 Local Government changes. Council studied a sheet on which the preferences of the County, the Districts and the Boroughs were summarised. The Chairman reiterated the local rural Councils' strong desire not to be linked with Hastings.
  - 4.5 Outstanding planning matters.
    - RR94.0166. Slivericks Farm. Conversion of office to holiday letting accommodation. Council had expressed concern ~~of~~ possible future developments.
    - RR94.0330. Glydes Farm. External and internal alterations. Council raised no objection.
    - RR93.0537. Court Lodge Farm - now Taylor's Farm. Building had commenced, therefore the mobile home could be said to be legally in place.
    - RR90.0692. Rocks Farm. Shooting Lodge. Finally submitted and granted.
5. New Planning applications.
  - RR94.0684. Lakehurst Farm. New windows. Council raised no objection.
  - RR94.0815. Burnt Barns Farm. Conversion of agricultural building to craft units. Council raised no objection.
6. Finance.
 

The accounts were approved and signed. Cheques were signed for £25.62 (British Legion), £115.88 (Cornhill Insurance), £70.99 ((SALC) and £6.00 (Village Hall).
7. Under Any Other Business the Clerk reported :
  - 7.1 Despite written requests the owners/administrators of Reed Wood and Ponds Green Wood had failed to cut back branches impeding road traffic. He was instructed to write again pointing out the financial consequences of failing to carry out the work.
  - 7.2 Frickly Hollow Lane was being resurfaced. Councillor E.White referred to the deteriorating condition of the Kitchenham Road and the Clerk was instructed to contact County Councillor Mrs Field.

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

*Ray White*

12/10/94

ASHBURNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 25th July with Councillor R.White in the chair.

Council met representatives of the three housing associations who made oral presentations in support of their previously submitted written ones. Subsequently Council decided to invite the Hyde Housing Association to take up the Ashburnham Housing scheme.

*Ray White*  
12/10/94

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. All members of the Council attended together with District Councillor Cox and County Councillor Mrs Field. Councillor R.White was in the chair.
2. Minutes of the last full meeting, held on 24th May 1994, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising:
  - 3.1 Housing. The Chairman said that in August he, Councillor Mrs Andrew and the Clerk, had discussed the housing scheme with Mr Hagger of Hyde Association. Some questions were clarified by Hyde subsequently in a letter; this was read by Councillors. Hyde confirmed that the application to the Housing Corporation had been submitted on time. Rother planners had declined to accept the latest site suggested (ie north of 1(b), opposite the Recreation Ground), so Council agreed to a joint meeting with Rother planners and Mr Hagger to try and find an acceptable site.
  - 3.2 Recreation Ground. The lease had been approved and signed by the Chairman and Mrs Bickersteth. The Agreement with the Cricket Club would be considered by the Chairman and Councillor Baker at the Cricket Club's AGM and so would a suggestion that a parishioner was needed to keep an eye on the ground and the pavilion.  
There had been a 100% remission of Council Tax on the ground.  
The matter of a noticeboard had yet to be dealt with.
  - 3.3 Highways. Mrs Field said that the details of the number of accidents at the "S" bend on the A271 were needed and the Chairman replied that these were being collected.  
The standards of grass verge-cutting in the Parish had been good on the last occasion but Councillor E.White asked why there had been two cuts in quick succession and why drains were cleared before a cutting rather than after it. The Clerk was told to raise the matter with the Highways Department.
    - 3.3.1 Footpaths. The County Council £40 grant had been claimed and made over to the Ramblers who were doing good repair work. It was thought that the stile at Brownbread Street (the eastern end of FP9) was in the wrong position. The Clerk was instructed to advise the County.
  - 3.4 Woodland. The Clerk was told to write again to the owner of Reed Wood, to Mr Smith at Brownbread Street, and to Mr and Mrs Windley at Olivers Hill, about the encroachment of vegetation on lanes; the agent for Ponds Green Wood should be advised of Council dissatisfaction with the state of the wood alongside Forge Lane.
  - 3.5 Neighbourhood Watch signs. The Chairman and Councillor E.White agreed to see to the fixing of the last three signs.
  - 3.6 Local Government Review The Chairman reminded Council that both the County and Rother had finally opted for the status quo with or without the creation of a unitary authority for Brighton (and preferably Hove). A decision by the Commission would be known in December.
  - 3.7 Outstanding planning matters.
    - RR93.0537. Court Lodge Farm. (Taylor's Farm). Building continuing but the "life" of the mobile home was to be monitored.
    - RR94.0330. Glydes Farm. External and internal alterations. Granted.
    - RR94.0684. Lakehurst Farm. New windows. Granted.
    - RR94.0815. Burnt Barns Farm. Conversion to craft units. Granted with provisos.

4. New Planning matters

- RR94.1393. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Mobile toilet. Granted.
- RR94.1397. Ashbourne. Lodge for angling and ecological study. Refused.
- RR94.1398. Ashbourne. Councillor Cox gave Council background information. Deferred for a site visit. The Clerk was instructed to contact the County Archeologist and to confer with Councillor Burfoot about a letter to Rother in reply to the applicants' recent communications to the Planning Committee
- RR94.1592. Thornden Farm. Conversion of barns to holiday accommodation. No decision. The Clerk was instructed to close the protracted correspondence with the applicant and to invite him to a Council meeting.
- RR94.1634. 4 Thornden Cottages. Extension. No decision.
- RR94.1726. 1 New Buildings Cottages. Renewal of permission for retention of dwelling without compliance with agricultural occupancy condition. Renewed for three years personal to Mr and Mrs Glanville.
- RR94.1741. Agmerhurst Farm. Two storey extension. No decision.
- RR94.1820. Agmerhurst Farm Oast. Garage. No decision. Council felt it should be near the house to avoid fragmentation of the property.
- RR91.1474 South Lodge. PVC window frames were being replaced.  
The Ash Tree. A copy of the application for a licence had been received.

5. Finance

Cheques signed for £3.00 (RATRP) and £18.89 (SE Water) had been sent off. Others for £2.00(RATRP) and £6.00 (Village Hall) were signed. More notepaper had been ordered from Mr Bensusan. A more favourable bank account had been started in lieu of the current account.

6. Any Other Business. The Village Hall annual statement of accounts had been received. The Clerk said that a "Cattle" sign had been ordered from the County for Church Farm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.22pm.

*Ray White*

7/12/94

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 1994 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. All members of the Council were present but County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Cox were unable to attend.
2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on Wednesday 12th October, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising:
  - 3.1 Housing. The Chairman explained the deadlock that existed between the Planning Department and the Trustees of the Ashburnham Estate. Mr Hagger of the Hyde Housing Association was endeavouring to find a solution to the problem.
  - 3.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman and Councillor Baker intended to meet Cricket Club representatives to resolve certain matters of managing the ground, in particular the problem of finding a supervisory custodian. The Chairman commented on the unsatisfactory condition of the ropes on the children's swing.
  - 3.3 Grass verge cutting. The Clerk explained that the verges had been cut after the drains had been cleared because of lack of liaison between the two contractors.
  - 3.4 Woodland edge cutting. The Clerk said that he had written to the parties concerned. In two cases no action had been taken; accordingly he was instructed to follow these up by telephone in one case and by asking the Highways Department to take action in the other.
  - 3.5 Outstanding planning matters:
    - 94.1398. Ashbourne. Formation of lake. Refused. Written appeal anticipated
    - 94.1592. Thornden Farm. Holiday accomodation. Granted but with several restrictions.
    - 94.1726. 4 Thornden Cottages. Extension. Granted.
    - 94.1741. Agmerhurst Farm. Extension. Granted.
    - 94.1820. Agmerhurst Oast. Garage. Granted.
4. New planning matters.
  - 94.2172. Ashbourne. Notification of portable timber shed.
5. Finance.
  - 5.1 Council studied details of 1994-95 expenditure and forecast expenditure for 1995-96 to arrive at a provisional figure for the 1995-96 precept of £1600 - this to include £750 for expenses in the election due in May 1995. It was agreed to leave the final figure until after the discussion with the Cricket Club on probable expenses in running the Recreation Ground.
  - 5.2 Receipt of £35.00 from the Stoolball Club was acknowledged and the Chairman advised Council that the Cricket Club would be contributing £100.00.
  - 5.3 Cheques were signed for £5.00 (Mr Bensusan), £6.99 (Village Hall) and £10.00 (petty cash) together with the cheques of £25.00 each for two charities - see below.
6. Any Other Business.
  - 6.1 Footpath Ashburnham 9. Mrs Moulton was investigating the

question of the stile's location and would be contacting Councillor Mrs Andrews.

6.2 A271. The Clerk explained the purpose of the resurfacing trials near Stevens Crouch. Regarding the "S" bend at Agmerhurst a letter from the Highways Department was read out. The Department had been asked to act on the fact that most accidents at the "S" bend resulted from traffic from the east rather than the west.

6.3 The Chairman had visited the Recreation Ground with Mr Nigel White to assess the types and sites of trees to be secured in response to Rother's tree planting scheme.

6.4 Main drainage. The Clerk explained Rother's policy and added that there were no plans for the installation of main drainage in the Parish.

6.5 Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman undertook to ensure that the remaining signs would be installed.

6.6 Local Government Review. The Commissioners would announce their decision this month.

6.7 Charity donations. On receipt of two appeal letters, one from Battle Victim Support Scheme and the other from Bexhill and District Citizen's Advice Bureau, it was decided to donate £25 to each organisation as one-off payments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

16/2/95  
R M White