

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 16th February 1995 in the Village Hall at 7.40pm.

1. All members of the Council were present. County Councillor Mrs Field sent an apology and District Councillor Cox was unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the last meeting, held on Wednesday 7th December, previously circulated, were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising:

3.1 Housing. The Chairman explained the deadlock that had arisen over the site to the north of the Lodging Houses and Hyde's intention to proceed with an alternative site adjacent to the Village Hall (which could be linked to an enlarged car park scheme).

3.2 Recreation Ground. The outcome of the meeting between Council representatives and members of the Cricket Club was explained by the Chairman. The wording of the Agreement had been decided and annual fees paid by the Cricket Club to the Parish Council settled (£60.00 for 1994-5 and £130 per annum thereafter with the Cricket Club collecting fees from other organisations using the Ground). The Cricket Club undertook to keep the "square" in good condition and to mow the rest of the field. Council discussed the appointment of a "custodian" to keep an eye on the "fixtures", such as the pavilion, the gate and the children's play equipment and it was agreed that an honorarium would be paid, though the precise figure would be fixed at a future meeting of the Council. The Chairman undertook to ask Nigel White if he would be interested in taking up the position.

The Clerk reminded Council that the ropes of the children's swing were in an unsatisfactory state and the Chairman undertook to look into their repair. It was also resolved to ask Mr Wallis if he would agree to lop the trees to the rear of the War Memorial.

3.3 Outstanding planning matters:

94.1398. Ashbourne. A written appeal had been lodged and the Council had submitted a letter in which reasons for its rejection had been stated.

4. New planning matters.

RR.95.0005. Glydes Farm. New chimney stack. No objection by the Parish Council.

RR.95.0165. Thornden Farm. Replacement of porch. No objection by the Parish Council but strong reservations about the conservatory (already agreed to by the Appeal Inspector).

RR.95.0118. Little Redpale Farm. Dallington. (Warbleton Parish). A courtesy notification of a barn conversion.

5. Finance.

The precept provisionally fixed at £1600 at the last meeting of the Council was raised to £1800 consequent upon the outcome of talks between representatives of the Council and the Cricket Club. Cheques were signed for £6.00 (Village Hall) and £29.38 (R.White for trees for the Recreation Ground) recoverable from Rother District Council.

6. Any Other Business.

6.1 Devolution of functions. The Clerk was instructed to inform Rother that its Ground Maintenance Service, for the Recreation Ground, would not be required. He was also asked to ascertain the County Council's plans for the devolution of verge cutting, lane clearance and gritting.

6.2 Highways. The Clerk mentioned that a hard surface in front of the post box at the junction of Penhurst Lane and Old Thatch Lane had been sought. He was instructed to submit a request for a telephone sign to be erected near the phone box at Ponds Green. Councillor Baker offered to ask individual local parishioners not to park vehicles in front of the box.

6.3 Footpath 9 - stile. Establishing the correct site remained a difficulty and the Clerk was told to search parish records in an effort to throw light on the matter.

6.4 VE Day Celebrations. The Chairman outlined the plans of the Village Hall Committee and it was agreed that the Parish Council would throw its weight behind the organising committee.

6.5 Millenium Fund. The Clerk was asked to find out if the Parish could benefit from this in any way.

6.6 Battle Post Office. The Clerk explained that there was a move afoot for a management buyout of the local office.

7. The date of the next meeting was provisionally arranged for Thursday 30th March 1995.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

A. C. White
30/3/95

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 30th March 1995 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. The Vice-Chairman Mr E.White took the Chair because the Chairman Mr R.White was in hospital. The Vice-Chairman asked the Clerk to send Councillors' best wishes to Mr White on a speedy recovery.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baker and County Councillor Mrs Field. District Councillor Cox was present and the Vice-Chairman expressed sincere thanks, on behalf of all Councillors, to Mr Cox for his greatly valued service to the Parish over his twelve years of office.

At this stage the Vice-Chairman closed the meeting temporarily so that Mr Richard White could explain to Council the proposal for VE Day celebrations in the village. The Vice-Chairman then re-opened the Council meeting.

3. It was agreed that the Council would grant a loan of up to £400 to Mr and Mrs Malcolm Baker to provide food and drink for the VE Day Celebration Street Party and a further loan of up to £100 to the Appeal Committee for the VE Day Celebration expenses.

4. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 16th February 1995, were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising therefrom:

5.1 Housing. Rother's Planning Department had declared more favourably to the possibility of the site behind the Village Hall being developed.

5.2 Recreation Ground. Councillor R.White through illness had not yet been able to regularise the wording of the agreement with the Cricket Club. The Vice-Chairman reported that Mr Nigel White seemed prepared to become the Ground Custodian (see further details under "Finance").

5.3 County Council plans for devolution of functions. That Council was currently involved in a pilot scheme for highway services with four town/parish councils.

5.5 Ponts Green telephone sign. The Highways Department would try to include this in next year's scheme of work but made no promises. The Clerk undertook to pressure the Department into action.

5.6 Footpath 9 stile. Parish Council records for 1969 revealed that Council had sought the alteration of the footpath and stile with Battle RDC but records for 1971 indicated that no such changes had been included on the recently received Definitive map. County Council's current intention, therefore, was that the stile be placed in its original position.

5.7 Outstanding planning matters.

RR.94.1398. Ashbourne Lake. Appeal. The inspector had not yet visited the site.

RR.95.0005. Glyde's Farm. Two chimney stacks. Approved.

RR.95.0165. Thornden Farm. ~~Conversion of barn to holiday accomodation.~~ *on replacement of porch.* D.H.P.

RR.95.0118. Little Redpale Barn. Warbleton Parish - courtesy information. Rother raised no objection.

7. New Planning Matters.

RR.95.0279. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Conservatory for staff use. No decision.

RR.95.0363 Horseshoe Cottage. Satellite dish. No objection by Parish Council.

RR.95.0393. Frankwell Farm. Reconstruction of war damaged house to form a new dwelling. Parish Council expressed reservations.

8. Finance.

8.1 The precept of £1800 had been sanctioned by Rother. It was agreed that the Clerk should offer, through the Parish magazine, to explain to any parishioner how that figure had been arrived at.

8.2 The Council agreed to offer an honorarium of £150 to the Recreation Ground Custodian. This would be in the statement of accounts for 1995-96 required by Rother in considering discretionary rate relief on the Ground. The Clerk reported that cheques had been signed as follows: £6.00 (Village Hall), £10.00 (Mr Bensusan for printing), £15.00 (water rate), £425.43 (Clerk's salary of £357.12 and expenses of £68.31).

8.3 Millenium Fund. Council discussed the possibility of applying for a grant for renovation of the pavilion. It was agreed that the state of the building did not warrant further expenditure on repairs: rather it would be more sensible to build a new one. Accordingly, a "paper" figure of £10,000 should be sought from the Fund, representing 50% of the estimated cost of construction.

8.4 Police. The Clerk reported that he had been advised that certain East Sussex parishes had been selected for stricter measures to curb speeding. In Ashburnham's case this applied on the A271. He added that the local Superintendent had sought a meeting with the Council. It was agreed to ask him to come to the AGM in May and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators be informed.

9. Any other business. The Clerk reminded Councillors that election papers had to be submitted by 4th April. He mentioned that the Highways Department had been informed of the rubbishy material that had been deposited by that Department on the north side of the causeway at the Forge and that a more acceptable surfacing was required. The Footpath Officer had been informed of the poor state of parts of the footpath from the Furnace to Rocks Farm.

10. The date of the AGM was agreed as Thursday 18th May 1995.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Ray White
18/5/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the AGM held on 18th MAY 1995 in the Village Hall at 7.35pm.

1. The new Council* assembled, apart from Councillor Burfoot who sent apologies. Eight members of the public were present. Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. Proposed by Councillors Mrs Andrew and seconded by Councillor Baker, Councillor R.White was elected Chairman.
3. Council then proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chairman. Proposed by Councillor F.Akehurst, seconded by Councillor Harman, Councillor E.White was elected to the office. The Chairman then welcomed County Councillor Mrs Field and, secondly, District Councillor Mrs Miers in succession to Mr Ian Cox.
4. The minutes of the last Council meeting, held on 30th March 1995, were approved after a small amendment, and signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters arising:
 - 5.1 Housing. Councillors were in possession of preliminary drawings, submitted by Lind Associates, for a site to the rear of the Village Hall and the Chairman referred briefly to another outline scheme submitted by W.A.S. Architects. The Chairman opened the proceedings so that members of the public could enter discussions. In closed session again, Council agreed to meet with representatives of Hyde Housing Association on 25th May to look at the scheme in more detail.
 - 5.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman said that he intended to consult further with Cricket Club representatives about the agreement and to draft a different agreement with Mr Nigel White, the custodian. He advised Council that he was satisfied with the contents of the insurance policy but mentioned that there was no cover for damage to the playground equipment. It was agreed not to take out such cover.
 - 5.3 Outstanding planning matters:
 - 94.1398. Ashbourne Lake. Site visit by the Appeal Inspector on 3rd May but no decision as yet.
 - 95.0165. Thornden Farm. Porch. Approved.
 - 95.0279. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Conservatory. Approved.
 - 95.0363. Horseshoe Cottage. Satellite dish. Approved.
 - 95.0393. Frankwell. New site for proposed house and addition of a garage. No decision as yet.
6. New planning matters:
 - 95.0358. Great Sprays House. Notification of barn extension. Approved.
 - 95.0536. } Middle Sprays. Barn conversion. Council had objections
 - 95.0624. } and reservations. No decision by Rother yet.
 - 95.0542. Archers Farm. Implement shed. No decision.
 - 95.0656. Ash Tree Inn. Extension. No decision.
 - 95.0684. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Polythene tunnels; new glasshouses; new water supply. No decision.
 - 95.0754. Oak Bank Farm. New barn. No decision.
7. Drainage problem at the Forge. The Clerk outlined the cause and effects and explained the stalemate existing between the property owners concerned. The Legal Department of the National Rivers Authority had been put in touch with Rother, the drainage authority, and it was understood that the latter would be trying to resolve the problem.

8. Finances.

- 8.1 The finances for the year 1994-5 had been inspected by the Chairman prior to the meeting and after inspection by the Council they were approved and signed. As at 31st March 1995 there was a credit balance of approximately £1350.
- 8.2 The Clerk reported that he had applied for 100% rate relief on the Recreation Ground but Rother had not yet made a decision.
- 8.3 The Vice-Chairman announced that approximately £800 profit had been made on the VE Day celebrations. (See "War Memorial" under Any Other Business.)
- 8.4 Cheques had been signed as follows: £50.00 (Shaw & Sons for a new accounts book and the new Guide to Local Council Law); £120.25 (Cornhill Insurance); £73.33 (SALC and NARC); £6.00 (Village Hall); £20.00 (petty cash). The Clerk mentioned that on various items VAT would be reclaimable.

9. Any Other Business.

- 9.1 War Memorial. It was agreed to support the suggestion of the VE Day Celebration Committee that from the profits some renovation to the war memorial and its surround should be made. The Clerk was instructed to seek estimates for the cost of the work. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should oversee on an annual basis the memorial's care and maintenance.
- 9.2 Highways. County Councillor Mrs Field undertook to look into the Council's request for luminous stanchions on the A271 at its junction with Hammer Hill. It was noted that the new 'chevron' signs erected at the Agmerhurst 'S' bend interfered with some parking facilities and Mrs Field undertook to look into this.
- 9.3 Telephone sign. The Clerk reported that the County Council declined to erect the sign at Ponds Green so he had approached BT who were looking into the matter.
- 9.4 The "1066 Walk". The Chairman referred to the fact that part of this walk would go through the Parish. Councillors had misgivings about it, so it was agreed that the Clerk should invite the Planning Officer concerned to address the Council at its next full meeting.
- 9.5 The Clerk read out a letter from the Headteacher of Robertsbridge Community College but Council declined the Head's suggestion to address Council because so few children in the Parish had attended that school over recent years.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

*On 4th May 1995, there being no election, the following were declared to be the new Councillors: Mrs J.Andrew, Messrs F.Akehurst, C.Baker, R.Burfoot, N.Harman, A.R.White and E.White.

Ron White
28/9/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Thursday 25th May 1995 specifically to meet representatives of Hyde Housing Association. There was a useful exchange of views on the housing scheme proposed for the site to the west of the Village Hall.

Ron White
28/9/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on 6th September 1995 at which Councillors and members of the public discussed the housing scheme with representatives of Hyde Housing Association and Lind Associates.

The representatives undertook to consider suggestions for modifications to the scheme in preparation for a further meeting in late October.

R. White
28/9/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th September 1995 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. All members attended together with County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Mrs Miers. No member of the public was present.
2. Minutes of the last full Council meeting, held on 18th May, together with meetings with Hyde Housing Association on 25th May and 6th September, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - 3.1 Housing. Councillors recapitulated on the September meeting with Hyde HA and agreed that there had been a helpful exchange of views. The Clerk was instructed to inform Hyde of the Council's desire to see the draft plans prior to Hyde's meeting with the Planning Officers. Also Hyde were to be asked to allay Councillors' fears that housing might be made available to people with no Ashburnham connection. The Chairman explained the legal ownership position with regard to land immediately south of the Village Hall and how this had a bearing on qualification for a possible grant from Rother. Government proposals for the right of tenants to buy HA property in which they dwelt were discussed briefly and the Clerk was instructed to register with the Secretary for the Environment and with the MP the Council's strong opposition to such a scheme. A letter from Mr L. Keeley, relating to the housing project, was read out and the form of the Clerk's reply was agreed.
 - 3.2 War Memorial. The Clerk said that Burslems had intimated that the work would be undertaken in October. The Chairman had discussed with Mr Oldfield the question of the posts and chain and an estimate was awaited. The Council agreed that Bishop Ken and Mr Peters be asked if they would conduct a short service of dedication on Armistice Day.
 - 3.3 Recreation Ground. The Chairman delivered the Agreement with the Cricket Club (the Club had a copy). A meeting with Mr Nigel White had been held and agreement reached on his duties and honorarium. Members of the Council agreed to look into the cost of purchasing and hanging a new gate for the Ground.
 - 3.4 Drainage at the Forge. The Clerk reported that Mr Taylor had undertaken almost all of the work on the stream required by Rother, the drainage authority.
 - 3.5 Highways. A long discussion centred on problems associated with passage of the school bus along narrow sections of the road from Hammer Hill to Woods Corner especially on Pound Hill where an accident involving the bus on 14th September occurred. Mrs Field undertook to refer to the Highways Department the need for reflective stanchions at the top of Hammer Hill and on the S-bend in Penhurst, also to request that the Pound signpost be altered to direct the Brownbread Street traffic up Lingham Hill. The Clerk was instructed to cancel with the Highways Department the request for kerb stones to be fitted near the pond at Penhurst Church
 - 3.6 Footpaths. Concerning the 1066 footpaths Mrs Miers revealed that the proposal to redirect the path at Peans Farm had received a favourable response from Rother. The Chairman thanked her for her determined efforts to achieve this. The Clerk reported that Mrs Moulton would be inspecting the footpath from Rocks Farm to the Furnace and that another officer would investigate the difficulty horse riders experienced with the gates installed by the owner of Rocks Farm on the RUPP.

3.7 Outstanding planning matters.

- 93.0537. Taylor's Farm. Councillor Harman reported that the house was virtually completed. Council agreed that the future of the mobile home would have to be monitored
- 94.1398. Ashbourne Lake. The Clerk reported that apart from some unauthorised extraction of water from the Ashbourne Stream the owner appeared to be following the programme laid down by Rother.
- 95.0165. Thornden Farm. Replacement of porch. Date of enforcement compliance now set at June 1996.
- 95.0393. Frankwell. Revised plans. Approved.
- 95.0536. Middle Sprays. Barn Conversion. Approved with strict provisos. Council agreed to minute receipt of a crude and abusive letter addressed to the Clerk from Mr Marsh.
- 95.0624.]
- 95.0542. Archers Farm. Implement shed. Approved.
- 95.0656. Ash Tree Inn. Extension. Refused (see 95.1611 and 1612 below).
- 95.0684. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Polythene tunnels, glasshouses and new water supply. Approved
- 95.0754. Oak Bank Farm. New barn. Approved.

4. New Planning.

- 95.1106. The Stables. Studio. Approved with provisos.
- 95.1129. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Additional accomodation. Parish Council several objections. No decision by Rother.
- 95.1198. Glydes Farm. Conversion. Approved.
- 95.1261. Agmerhurst Farm. Barn conversion. Approved.
- 95.1375. Gardners Farm. Barn conversion. No decision.
- 95.1403. Rose Lodge. Extension. No decision.
- 95.1481. Thornden Farm. Barn. Change of use retrospectively. No decision.
- 95.1611. & 95.1612. Ash Tree Inn. Extension. New plans. No decision.
- 95.1635. & 95.1636. Vicarage Cottage. Extension. No decision.
"Lakehurst Barn". Mobile home. Not currently inhabited but Enforcement Officer discovered start of erection of steel frame for barn. Owner informed that permission required.
Slivericks Barn. The Clerk instructed to inform Rother that an outdoor menage had been or was being erected without permission.

5. Finance.

Since the last full Council meeting the following cheques had been signed: 2 x £6.00 (Village Hall); £82.53 (SEWater); £20.43 (Culverwells); £14.56 (Culverwells); £112.96 (Rother for election expenses).

6. Any other business.

- 6.1 Hastings and Rother Voluntary Association for the Blind had requested details of any blind or partially blind parishioners. Council knew of none but the Clerk was instructed to confer with Mr Peters. Mrs Miers advised a cautious approach to the matter.
- 6.2 County Council plans to introduce closures of and reductions to fire services were deplored by Councillors and the Chairman undertook to attend a protest meeting at Herstmonceux Village Hall. The Clerk was instructed to make reference to it in the Parish Magazine.
- 6.3 The Chairman referred briefly to the Code of Practice for Local Councils in handling complaints by the public and the Clerk was instructed to make reference to it in the Parish Magazine.
- 6.4 Mrs Field, in response to a point made by the Chairman, explained the consultative purpose behind the formation of the Rural Rother Area Committees.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24pm.

R. White
22/11/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

A Council meeting concerned with the housing scheme was held on Thursday 2nd November 1995. Councillors were joined by Mr Walter Akehurst. Three members of the public were present.

1. The Chairman referred to the meeting involving himself, Mrs Andrew and the Clerk with Rother's Housing Director and Mr Ashdown of Hyde Housing Association at Watch Oak on 24th October. The allocation of housing policy and the "right to buy" issue were clarified within the terms of a possible 106 Agreement.
2. The latest draft plan, previously circulated, was discussed in preparation for the meeting with representatives of Hyde and Lind Associates and Planning Officers on 7th November.
3. Matters relevant to the car park scheme were aired and it was agreed that a number of points needed clarification.

Ray White
22/11/95

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd November 1995 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Burfoot and District Councillor Mrs Miers. County Councillor Mrs Field was present and five members of the public attended.
2. Minutes of the last full Council meeting, held on 28th September 1995, together with those of a meeting with Hyde Housing Association and Rother Planning officers held on 2nd November 1995, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - 3.1 Housing. The Chairman declared this part of the meeting open to the public. The latest housing scheme plans were studied and generally approved. The time schedule for submitting the planning application was explained by the Chairman, and the Clerk hinted at the type of grants that ought to be available for the car park extension. The Chairman then closed the meeting to the public.
 - 3.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that the new gate had been purchased and he was arranging for its hanging by Mr Jonathon Oldroyd. Councillor Baker raised the pressing problem of the repair work to the pavilion and in that context the Clerk passed on to him a letter giving details of the County's submission for a Millennium Grant for study by the Recreation Ground Committee.
 - 3.3 War Memorial. The Chairman voiced the widely held opinion that the Armistice Service, which had been well attended, had been a success. It was agreed to try and make this an annual event again.
 - 3.4 Footpaths. The Clerk passed on Mrs Miers' message that discussions on the alteration of the route of the footpath at Peans Farm were in the final stage. Councillor Harman reported that fencing material had been delivered.
 - 3.5 Roads. The Chairman undertook to arrange a meeting with a Highways officer to discuss a number of matters on site.
 - 3.6 Herstmonceux and Battle Fire Services - proposed reductions. The Chairman, in reporting back from the meeting he had attended, said that vigorous representations had been made to the County Council and to the MP, and he added that Mrs Nolan had been very active in the Village soliciting support for a petition.

3.7 Outstanding planning matters:

- 94.1398. Ashbourne Lake. Work still proceeding.
- 95.0536 } Middle Sprays. } Barn. Rother had declared that the owner was complying with
95.0624 } } regulations covering its basic condition.
- 95.0656. Ash Tree Inn. Extension. New plans approved.
- 95.1129. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Accommodation. Approved.
- 95.1375. Gardners Farm. Barn conversion for holiday accommodation. Approved.
- 95.1403. Rose Lodge. Extension. Approved.
- 95.1481. Thornden Farm. Change of use. Retrospective. Approved.
- 95.1635/36. Vicarage Cottage. Extension. Approved.
- 95.1905. Lakehurst Farm. Barn. Retrospective. No decision.
- Slivericks Barn. Menage. Councillor Baker felt that a planning officer had hinted to the owner that Rother might not press for the submission of a planning application.
4. New Planning Applications. None.

5. Parish Council Committees.

The Chairman said that it was important that the group of Council representatives (the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Andrew and the Clerk) who had been handling the housing scheme should be properly constituted and instructed by Council and that the position of the Village Hall Committee and those parishioners running the Recreation Ground should be clarified. The special circumstances of planning matters, too, should be reconsidered. Accordingly Council instructed the Clerk to draw up rules for these purposes and to supply Councillors with his suggestions, in readiness for the next full Council meeting when the matter would be fully discussed.

6. Finance.

Cheques were signed for £12.00 (Village Hall) and £5.00 (RATRP). The Clerk said that he had paid Burslems for work on the War Memorial with a cheque from the Village Hall Committee and it was agreed that in due course he would apply for the VAT to be refunded. It was agreed to reconsider the advisability of making a donation to FWAG at the next Council meeting. The Clerk, in making a forecast of expenditure in 1996/7 (which included sums for Sinking Funds for the car park extension and pavilion repairs), suggested a precept of £2000 and Council agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business.

The Clerk read out a letter from Rother in which Council's views were sought on the possible creation of a "one-stop shop" in Battle to facilitate access by the public to District Council information. It was felt that this would be a costly and unnecessary expense and the Clerk was instructed to reply accordingly.

The date of the next meeting was provisionally arranged for Wednesday 17th January 1996.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.52pm.

Ray White

17/1/96