

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 1996 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Before the meeting the Council, in open session, was addressed by Inspector Harmer of Sussex Police; he spoke on changes taking place in local policing. At the conclusion the Chairman put the meeting in close session.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Burfoot. County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Mrs Miers attended but no members of the public present were present.

2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 22nd November 1995, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising:

3.1 Housing. The Clerk explained why there had been a delay in Hyde Housing Association submitting the planning application and he added that Mr Ashdown, for the Association and Miss Burkenshaw for the Ashburnham Estate, had agreed in principle on the matters of the covenant, the land and the access route.

3.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman pointed out that although some urgent first aid work on the pavilion was needed to keep the building in use for a few more years, the real need was for a completely new building. The Clerk mentioned that he had discussed with Mr Bernard Baker of the Cricket Club the application for a grant under the County Council's submission to the Millennium Commission. The Chairman said that the new gate had been purchased and that he would ask Mr Oldroyd to hang it.

3.3.1 Highways. The Chairman said that he had arranged with an Highways Department officer to visit several sites needing attention.

3.3.2 Hedging. The Clerk reported that there had been complaints about the state of some hedges. Councillor Harman undertook to deal with one of them and he added that he had asked one of the Penhurst landowners to cut his. Council advised the Clerk to contact the County regarding two other cases.

3.3.3 Footpaths. The Clerk said that the legal formalities regarding the proposed change at Peans Farm would be dealt with in May.

3.4 Outstanding planning matters.

95.0537. Shepherd's House (Taylor's Farm). Rother had made it clear to the landowner that once the house was inhabited the mobile home would have to go.

94.1398. Ashbourne. Lake. The Chief Enforcement Officer had visited the site and had satisfied himself that the minor changes to the flood plain were within the planning agreement stipulation.

95.1905. Land at Lakehurst Lane. Rother had written to the owner's agent and was awaiting a reply.

4. New Planning Applications.

Kitchenham Farm. Afforestation adjacent to the north side of the A271. The Parish Council raised no objection but advised that the tallest trees should be planted furthest from the road.

5. Parish Council Committees.

The following resolutions were passed:

On the Constitutional Position of the Committees of the Council

1. The Council may arrange to discharge any of its functions through a committee or sub-committee.
2. A committee may include all members of the Council but can be limited to three people. A quorum can be decided when a committee is established.
3. A committee may include persons who are not members of the Council (an exception being a finance committee).
4. The chairman at any meeting of a committee has a second or casting vote.

5. A committee can be vested with the authority to take decisions without the need to refer to the full Council, but this does not prevent the Council itself exercising any function devolved to a committee.
6. A committee may refer a matter to the full Council should it wish to do so.
7. The full Council can require a committee to include on its agenda any item it wishes to be considered by that committee and to report its findings to the full Council.

On the Composition of the Committees of the Current Council

Finance

The whole Council.

Planning

The whole Council with powers delegated to a sub-committee composed of the Chairman of the Parish Council and at least two other councillors when considering an individual planning matter.

Housing

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Andrew and the Clerk.

Recreation Ground

The Chairman, Councillor Baker, Councillor Akehurst and Mr D. Southouse.

Road, Footpaths

The Chairman, Councillor E. White (Ashburnham) and Councillor Harman

and Drainage

(Penhurst).

6. Finance.

It was agreed to ask Rother for a precept of £2000. Cheques had been signed for £150.00 (Mr Nigel White, custodian of the Recreation Ground); £10.00 (Mr Bensusan, printing and paper); £6.00 (Village Hall).

7. The Government Paper on Rural England.

The Chairman gave a résumé of the proceedings of the meeting he had attended at the Town Hall.

8. Any Other Business.

It was agreed to donate £25.00 to each of the two charities supported last year, ie Battle Victims Support and Bexhill & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.59pm

R. White
21/3/96

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 21st March 1996 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Mrs Field, District Councillor Mrs Miers and Councillor E. White. No members of the public were present..
2. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 17th January 1996, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - 3.1 Housing. A letter from Hyde Housing Association, in which the latest situation was outlined, was read out and provisional dates for a meeting with Hyde were announced.
 - 3.2 Recreation Ground. The Clerk revealed that no further progress had been made on the Cricket Club's application for a Millenium Grant. The Chairman mentioned that the Village Hall Appeals Committee would be meeting on Tuesday 26th March to discuss this and matters relating to the repair of the pavilion. The Chairman undertook to ask Mrs Parsons if she would paint a "disclaimer" notice to be placed on the Recreation Ground gate.
 - 3.3 Highways. The Chairman reported on the work undertaken by the Highways Department and the Clerk was instructed to contact the Department about matters that had not been followed up satisfactorily, and on some work to be done on Brays Hill.
 - 3.4 Hedging, the Clerk was told to discuss with Highways action that ought to be taken on hedges at Old Forge Cottage and Olivers Hill.
 - 3.5 Old Planning.
95.0557. Shepherd's House, Taylor's Farm. Councillor Harman reported that the mobile home was still on site although the house was now permanently inhabited.
95.1905. Lakehurst Lane land. Erection of barn. Approved.
4. New Planning.
 - 95.1198. Glydes Farm. Outbuilding conversion. Application withdrawn.
 - 96.88. Slivericks Barn. Fencing around menage. Approved.
 - 96.268. 8 Brays Hill. Demolition and extension. Parish Council no objection. Rother no decision.
 - 96.270 & 271 (ex 95.1611 & 1612) Ash Tree Inn. Demolition and extension. Approved.
 - 96.415.P} Redpale Farmhouse. Renewal of 91.0907. Conversion of disused dairy to holiday
 - 96.500.L} accommodation. Parish Council no objection. Rother no decision.
 - 96.483. Ashbourne. Fishing hut. Parish Council no objection but screening required: stipulation that use must be confined to the purpose stated.
5. Finance.

Financial administrative instructions issued by the Audit Commission were discussed and the recommended accounting procedures were acknowledged by Council as being followed. The Clerk was asked to make known to the Council details of the bank statement at approximately quarterly periods in the year. The Clerk mentioned that there would be a triennial audit of the Parish Council accounts on 3rd June, and he would have the full accounts for 1995-96 ready for Council inspection at the AGM in May.

Cheques had been signed for £40.00 (Mr Oldroyd, gate-hanging); £47.68 (SE Water); £103.40 (R.R. White, for gate purchase); £25.00 (Battle Victim Support); £25.00 (Bexhill Citizens Advice Bureau); £6.00 (Village Hall); £10.00 (G.Bensusan - printing); £503.61 (D.B.H.Pirkis, Clerk - salary £437.58* and expenses £66.03).
6. Any Other Business
 - 6.1 The Chairman mentioned that it had been considered unnecessary for any representative of the Council to attend a police meeting at Hastings because Inspector Harman had addressed the Council fully on the subject involved.

6.2 The Clerk revealed details of the proposed new car parking charging system to be introduced in Battle.

6.3 It was announced that the date of the Parish and Parish Council AGMs would be 16th May 1996 provisionally.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.43pm.

*Formula for calculating Clerk's salary - figures are for 1995-96.

The number on the Electoral Roll (279) determines on a scale the number of working hours to be paid per week (1.5).

On a scale (Ashburnham Point 15 = the lowest on the scale) the hourly rate is determined (£5.61).

In subsequent years the salary moves up one point on the scale up to a current maximum of point 19.

These weekly figures to be multiplied by 52 for the annual salary, viz $1.5 \times 5.61 \times 52 = £437.58$.

R. M. White
16/4/96

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the AGM held on 16th May 1996 in the Village Hall at 7.35pm.

1. Councillor R. White, proposed by Councillor Harman and seconded by Councillor Burfoot, was elected Chairman.

Councillor E. White, proposed by Councillor Akehurst and seconded by Councillor Harman, was elected Vice Chairman.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baker. County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Mrs Miers attended and five members of the public were present.

3. Minutes of the last Council meeting, held on 21st March 1996, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising therefrom

4.1 Housing. The Clerk outlined recent developments. Councillor E. White said that the contractors would be carrying out soil/drainage tests on Tuesday 21st May.

4.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that minor repair work to the pavilion was being effected by the Cricket Club and he added that no further progress had been made on the financing by grants of the long term replacement of the pavilion. He mentioned that he had made arrangements with Mrs Parsons for her to paint a disclaimer notice and he would look into the possibility of the new gate being welded in a way to lessen the chances of its being stolen.

4.3 Highways. Councillor Akehurst confirmed that repair work on Brays Hill Lane had been undertaken. The Clerk reported that Hammer Bridge would be closed for strengthening during late July-early August for three to four weeks which would cause long detours to the Kitchenham Road.

4.4 Hedging. County Councillor Mrs Field undertook to approach the Highways Department concerning overhanging hedges impeding lorry traffic.

4.5 Footpaths. Councillor E. White reported the view of Councillor Baker that the material used to repair the footpath from Rocks Farm was very rough and endangered horses' hooves. Similarly, Councillor Mrs Andrew revealed that the same thing had been done at Brigden Hill Farm causing cuts to the hooves of cattle. County Councillor Mrs Field undertook to raise the matter with the County.

4.6 Outstanding Planning.

RR.96.268. 8 Brays Hill. Demolition and extension. Granted conditionally.

RR.96.415. Redpale Farm. Conversion of old dairy (renewal of 91.0907). Granted.

RR.96.612. Ashbourne. Fishing hut and Klargaster unit. Granted conditionally.

5. New Planning

RR.96.517. Rose Lodge. Extension. Parish Council no objection. No decision by Rother.

RR.96.612. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Renewal of portacabin. Temporary permission granted.

Land at Honey Lane. Gladwish. District Councillor Mrs Miers explained recent developments and Rother's prompt and decisive action. The Chairman thanked her for her part in this and she in turn asked the Council to be vigilant over any possible recurrence of such attempted development elsewhere in the Parish.

6. Finance

The accounts for 1995-6 were presented. They had been inspected by two Councillors and found to be in order, and were duly approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk reported:

6.1 that the triennial audit of the Parish accounts would be in early June and that he had posted a notice at the Post Office to the effect that parishioners had a right to inspect the accounts;

6.2 that the main reason for the increased precept for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 had been explained in the Parish magazine, ie the financial commitments involved in the administration of the Recreation Ground and the desirability of establishing a sinking fund for the car park extension;

6.3 that the 1995 accounts for the Recreation Ground had been submitted to Rother in support of an application for discretionary rate relief. (This had already been obtained for the Village Hall).

Cheques had been signed for £77.93 (SALC), £127.28 (Cornhill Insurance - the Chairman had checked the policy again) and £5.00 (RATRP).

7. Any other business

The Clerk reported:

7.1 that the Electoral Roll was invariably incorrect. He understood that some other parishes passed to Rother information concerning discrepancies and he undertook on instruction from the Council, to point out in an entry in the Parish Magazine that parishioners could not vote in elections if their name was not on the Roll;

7.2 that there would be another campaign by Rother to check the safety of electric blankets. He was instructed by Council to make the necessary arrangements for such a check to be undertaken in the Parish;

7.3 that the 1066 footpath was now fully operational and well supported by ramblers;

7.4 that he had attended the day before a RATRP meeting. The main topic discussed was the Rural Rother Area Committee which had been in existence on a trial basis for a year. Some parishes felt that something useful emerged from its meetings but others considered it was superfluous to their needs. He concurred with the latter opinion because our Council had full access via its County Councillor, District Councillor and local government officials to the County Council and Rother District Council. It had been decided to run the Committee on a further one year trial basis.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.

R. White
Sept 19 1996

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 19th September 1996 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Andrew. All other members of the Council attended together with County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Mrs Miers. One member of the public was present.
2. The minutes of the meeting, held on 16th May 1996, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - 3.1 Housing. Mrs Miers reported on the passage of the planning application through Rother's Planning Committee (see item 4 below) and mentioned that the County Council sought assurances on matters related to drainage and the access road. The Planning Officer concerned (Mr Scott) was endeavouring to find suitable materials for the road and sidewalk and Mrs Field took note of this. The Chairman reported that he had emphasised to Mr Ashdown of Hyde Housing Association the need for Hyde to contact as soon as possible all members of the public who had previously shown interest in the scheme, and that information on possible house prices and rents was needed. Councillors felt that although there were reservations about the scheme in some quarters of the parish community, there would be a firm and positive response eventually.
 - 3.2 Recreation Ground. The Chairman reported that Mrs Parsons had completed the noticeboard and he would see her about her fee. He reminded Council that Mrs Miers had hinted that the 100% relief rate might not be available next year and so an increase in the Sports Club's contributions might have to be made although for the current year the contribution would remain at £130.00. The Clerk was reminded to take the increase into consideration when submitting the Council's precept request to Rother in December.
 - 3.3 Hedges. The County Highways Department had reported that notices to cut back hedges had been served on Little Sprays Farm and Normanhurst Estate. No contact had been possible with the owner of Old Forge Cottage and the Clerk undertook to ascertain how this might be achieved.
 - 3.4 Roads. Mrs Field said she would approach the Highways Department about the signposting of Brownbread Street at the Pound.
 - 3.5 Footpaths. The Clerk had contacted Mrs Moulton regarding the state of the footpath below Rocks Farm and she had undertaken to get the contractor to do the necessary surfacing. The Clerk estimated that for financial reasons the re-routing of the 1066 Path at Peans Farm would probably not be effected until 1998. Council agreed that the £30.00 grant to which it was entitled for footpath maintenance should be directed by the County to the Ramblers Association.
 - 3.6 Outstanding Planning Matters.
 - 96.517. Rose Lodge. Extension. Granted.
 - 96.612. Ashburnham Christian Trust. Renewal of Portacabin. Granted.Taylor's Farm. Councillor Harman reported that the mobile home was still on the property and Mrs Miers undertook to take the matter up with the Enforcement Officer.
4. New Planning Matters
 - 96.539. The Old Forge. Ponds Green. Conversion to dwelling. Parish Council no objection; Rother no decision yet.
 - 96.764. Sandrocks Cottage. Compass Lane. Games hut. Granted.
 - 96.1050. Thornden Farm. New garage/store for use of farmhouse only. Granted.
 - 96.1077. Forge Cottage. Conservatory. Granted.

- 96.1261. Burnt Barns Farm. Use of barn for craft units. Rother's officials recommend granting.
- 96.1351. Village Hall - housing scheme. ~~Granted~~ Delegated to Planning Officer to grant permission.
- 96.1559. Old Dairy. Ashburnham Place. Re-roofing. Parish Council no objection. Rother no decision yet.

The Clerk reported that two Portacabins had been delivered to Springfield; installation had no planning permission. Rother had been informed and Mrs Miers undertook to monitor developments.

5. Finance.

The Council finances over the last three years had been approved by the auditor. The Clerk produced a statement of accounts to date and provided a forecast of income and expenditure in the period to the end of the financial year.

Since the last meeting cheques had been signed for 2 x £6.00 (Village Hall), £235.00 (Angears for pavilion repairs), £62.47 (S.E. Water) and £20 (petty cash).

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Mrs Miers reported on part of the R.A.T.R.P meeting in which Brightling Parish Council sought the support of other parish councils in its efforts to control industrial development within its jurisdiction.

6.2 Councillor Baker mentioned that a number of parishioners had complained about the noise of the music at the open air festivities of Ashburnham Christian Trust in August. The Clerk was instructed to write a suitable letter to the Director, Mr Betts.

6.3 The Chairman, in announcing that the Clerk had indicated to him that he wished to retire at the end of the financial year, thanked him for his work and asked Councillors to give some thought to a successor.

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

R. M. White
28/11/96

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 28th November 1996 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baker. All other Councillors attended together with County Councillor Mrs Field and District Councillor Mrs Miers. No members of the public were present.
2. The minutes of the meeting, held on 19th September 1996, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising:
 - 3.1 Housing. Mr Ashdown of Hyde Housing Association had informed Council that legal matters were proceeding, if slowly, and that the County Council at an on-site meeting had agreed to adopt the road and to construct it in a "rural" style. There would be no street lighting. The Chairman added that Hyde had contacted those people who were interested in part equity purchase. Councillor Mrs Andrew suggested that similar enquiries should be extended to those interested in renting and the Clerk was instructed to ask Hyde for this to be done. Mr Elms' suggestion that traffic from the Pound destined for Brownbread Street should be signposted appropriately via Lingham's Hill had been accepted by the Highways Department.
 - 3.2 Hedges. The Clerk reported that he had contacted Mr Knight at the Forge and asked him to telephone County Highways about the latter's insistence that his hedges by Forge Lane be cut back. The Penhurst Councillors mentioned that the hedges at Little Sprays had still not been dealt with and the Clerk undertook to follow this up with the Highways Department. They added that the tenant farmer, who held the snow plough contract, would be retiring at the end of the year. Councillor Mrs Andrew let it be known that she would be interested in taking the contract on and she was advised by the Clerk to contact the relevant officer in the Highways Department.
 - 3.3 Footpaths. Plans for the alteration of the 1066 Footpath Route at Peans Farm were proceeding and the Clerk was instructed to ascertain from the County the arrangement regarding the cutting of certain trees on the new route at Peans Farm. He went on to report that the County had awarded a contract to a different contractor for the re-surfacing of the footpath at Rocks Farm.
 - 3.4 Ashburnham Christian Trust - Summer Festival. A letter from the Director, Mr Betts, was read out. Council agreed to Councillor Burfoot's suggestion that Council awaited the outcome of discussions between Mr. Betts and Rother regarding noise levels and festival hours.
 - 3.5 Outstanding Planning Matters.

Taylor's Farm. Mobile home. Allowed for agricultural purposes only.

96.539. The Old Forge (Blacksmiths) Pontoons Green. Conversion to dwelling. Refused.

96.1261. Burnt Barn Farm. Barn conversion to craft units. Granted.

96.1559. The Old Dairy. Ashburnham Place. Re-roofing. Granted.

Springfield. Various structures allegedly in place ^{without} ~~with~~ planning permission. Mrs Miers spoke of the proceedings between Rother and the proprietor. *DWB*
4. New Planning Matters

96.1465. The Old Shop. Re-roofing of outhouse. Granted.

96.2042. Church Hall, Ashburnham Place. Retention for further five years. Parish Council no objection; decision from Rother awaited.

Old Thatch Lane. Burning of wood on more occasions than stipulated. Rother advised.

Pleasure House Cottage. Pergola. Will require retrospective planning permission.

South Lodge. Ashburnham Place. Garage under construction. Will require retrospective permission. Mrs Miers produced a booklet she had received about "green"/ecologically friendly living as applied to Pontoons Green Wood. Council felt that this could be a guise for living accommodation. The Clerk was asked to bring the matter to the attention of the Planning Officers.

5. Finance.

Cheques were signed for £52.64 (Audit Commission), £13.00 (British Legion for wreath), £6.00 (Village Hall), £15.0 (R.Parsons for Recreation Ground noticeboard), £150.00 (N.White - honorarium as Recreation Ground custodian). Permission was granted for the spending of £5.00 on an Audit Commission booklet.

Council studied an up-to-date statement of the finances, a forecast for the end of the financial year and an estimate of the 1997-8 finances. It was agreed to request Rother for a precept of £2500.00 for the next financial year.
6. Any Other Business
 - 6.1 The Clerk mentioned that the Chairman of Rother District Council had expressed a desire to attend a parish council meeting, possibly accompanied by the Chief Executive. The Clerk was instructed to try and arrange a date in April or May.
 - 6.2 Mrs Miers confirmed that Rother's offices at Watch Oak would be moved to Bexhill in April to be replaced in Battle by a "one stop shop".
 - 6.3 The electoral rolls were found to be inaccurate. The Penhurst councillors corrected that Parish's one and the Chairman undertook to try and rectify errors and omissions in Ashburnham's.
 - 6.4 The Chairman undertook to have completed the War Memorial chain and he added that the last Neighbourhood Watch sign was in the hands of Mr French and would be erected soon.
 - 6.5 It was agreed to support the charity Battle Victims Support again.
 - 6.6 Finally, it was agreed to minute the death of Mr Clive Jarvis, Headmaster of Dallington School, and the Clerk was asked to convey the Council's condolences to his family.
 - 6.7 *The Clerk mentioned that he wished to retire at the end of the financial year.*

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

Roy White
25.2.97