

ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 02<sup>nd</sup> January 20001 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1 All parish councillors were present.

2 The minutes of the last meeting were signed as correct.

3 Matters arising.

3.1 The pavilion Cllr. R. White reported that the lease for the recreation ground has now been signed by himself and Cllr. E White The administration of the millennium fund has now been taken over by the Parish Council and is in a high interest account *in the names of the original committee*

3.2 The Vodafone mast Other sites are being investigated by Vodafone. Mr Gray has also commissioned a consultant to report on alternative sites. *RW*

4 Outstanding planning

4.1 Ashbourne Fishery RR/2000/786

This application was refused on appeal

5 New planning

5.1 Horseshoe cottage RR/2000/1820 remove existing porch and replace with new conservatory  
The Parish Council felt that this would be an improvement and had no objection.

6 Finance

6.1 The Parish Council voted to keep the precept at the same as last year i.e. £3200.

6.2 A cheque was signed for Heringtons (solicitors) for £343 for the services of Mr. Stewart regarding the lease for the recreation ground.

6.3 A second cheque was signed for R.A.T.P.S. for £8.

6.4 A cheque was signed for £2000 as a donation from the Parish Council to the millennium fund.

7 A.O.B.

7.1 Planning Dept. The councillors expressed concern regarding the land opposite the Corner house at Mansfield Cross, which has excavation work ongoing. Despite several requests by the clerk to ascertain the planning position at this property no information has been forthcoming. A further concern was that the application for planning permission at Horseshoe cottage arrived after the closure date.

7.2 Thorndale Farm Enforcement order regarding the fence. The clerk was further asked to write stating that the Parish council felt that the pursuance of this order was over zealous of Rother planning as they felt it to be of debatable necessity.

8 Next meeting

The next meeting will be 06th March 2001. Further dates for meetings are

08<sup>th</sup> May 2001 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2001 04<sup>th</sup> Sep 2001 06<sup>th</sup> Nov 2001.

*R. White*  
March 6 2001

ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the special planning meeting held on 15th February 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1 Apologies were received from Cllr.R. Burfoot and Cllr. F.Akehurst.

2 New Planning

2.1 RR/2001/0163 Corner House Farm Formation of two ponds and provision of screening to existing gate.

The Parish Council comments were based on the fact that the existing gate has replaced a wooden field gate. The new gate has blocked the view across this valley. The Parish Council further felt that the embankments that had been created to form the ponds should be investigated by the environment agency with regard to the stability. The Parish Council supported a refusal of this application.

2.2 RR/2001/0183 Construction of conservatory. - REDPAKE FARM. RW

The Parish council felt that this application was an improvement on the previous plans. They supported an approval although they felt that more information on the measurements of the planned conservatory would have been desirable. The Parish council supported an approval of this application.

2.3 RR/2001/0247 Ashburnham Place Remove existing asbestos roof and walls and re-clad with timber and slate roof. The Parish council had no objection to this application subject to the asbestos being disposed off according to guidelines.

*For info  
14/6/2001*

ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> March 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1 Apologies were received from Cllr. F. Akehurst and Cllr. E.White

2 The minutes of the last meeting were signed as correct.

3 Matters arising

3.1 the Vodafone mast. Dist.Cllr.W. Miers stated that there was no further news from R.D.C.

3.2 The pavilion Cllr. R.White reported that applications for funding were being made to Sport England, The Rural development programme and the foundation for sport.

4 New Planning

4.1 Horseshoe Cottage RR/2001/ 0301 Revised plans for a conservatory  
The Parish Council had no objection

4.1 Slivericks RR/2001/0240 Construction of a Granny annex

The Parish Council felt that this would constitute a new dwelling in the countryside and therefore support a refusal

5 Finance A cheque for the clerk's wages was signed £549.06

6 A.O.B.

6.1 The Recreation ground The parish council agreed that more cost for maintenance would be incurred when the new pavilion was finished. Cllr.C.Baker suggested that the pavilion would look a bit harsh and suggested some screening would be advisable.e.g. trees or hedging.

6.2 The clerk was asked to write to the Highways Dept. with regard to the sign street sign that has been erected in Lakehurst lane. The Parish Council feel that it unsuitable for a rural area and is not in keeping with the area and further, it draws attention to isolated properties.

6.3 concern was expressed at the increasing number of accidents on the A271 caused by excessive speed. The clerk was asked to write to Mr. Beeching (the amenity services officer) to arrange a meeting to discuss the problem.

6.4 The clerk reported that Forge Lane would be closed from 26<sup>th</sup> March until 06<sup>th</sup> April for bridge repairs.

6.5 Dist. Cllr. W.Miers reminded the Parish Council that all vigilance should be maintained during the current foot and mouth crisis.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

*RWB  
8/5/01*

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST  
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting  
held at Ashburnham Village Hall  
on Tuesday 3 April 2001

Present: Cllr R White (Chairman)  
Cllr E White  
Cllr N Harman  
Cllr R Burfoot  
Mrs G Pawson (Clerk)  
Apologies: Cllr Mrs J Andrews  
Cllr C Baker  
Cllr F Akehurst

The meeting opened at 7.35 pm.

1. Retrospective Planning Application at Old Sprays Barn RR/2001/0480

This application relates to raised wooden decking around the barn. The meeting was reminded that permission had previously been granted for flat decking. The decking actually erected does not match the lines of the original plan and also comprises vertical balustrading. Concern was raised that the Parish Council had not been consulted on the final plans, only the outline plan. The Council would respond to RDC supporting a refusal on the basis of appearance and being out of keeping for an AONB.

2. Review of Electoral Warding

Draft recommendations have been received from the Local Government Commission for England. Concern was raised by the meeting that the parishes of Ashburnham and Penhurst would lose their rural identity under the current proposals. Also, the allocation of two Councillors to the Ward might result in conflicting approaches. Mrs Pawson was requested to respond to the Local Government Commission for England enclosing a copy of Cllr Burfoot's letter to RDC of 9 September 2000 and reiterating the view that it would be better to group Ashburnham and Penhurst Parishes with other rural parishes to the north, that support would be given to one Councillor rather than two and to raise the point that Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish Council's views do not appear in the report despite a letter from Cllr Burfoot to RDC of 9 September 2001. The response will also be copied to RDC.

3. Rother Association of Local Councils

Notification of a meeting on 25 April 2001 at The Watch Oak has been received. None of those present felt able to attend but Mrs Pawson will request a copy of any minutes so that the Parish Council can be kept informed.

4. Playing Field

Cllr R White informed the meeting that the leases for the original piece of land and the newly acquired piece of land had now been signed and were with Heringtons for safe-keeping.

5. Planning Appeal Stables at Brays Hill

Mrs Pawson informed the meeting that she had received notification from The Planning Inspectorate that Mr & Mrs Fieldwick had been granted permission for the structure as erected for the purpose of a studio by not more than two persons. Concern was raised that the Parish Council had not been kept informed.

6. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is set for 7.30 pm on 8 May 2001 which will comprise AGMs for Ashburnham Parish, Penhurst Parish and Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed:  .....

Date: 8/5/01 .....

# ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting  
held at Ashburnham Village Hall  
on Tuesday 1 May 2001

Present: Cllr R Burfoot  
Cllr C Baker  
Cllr N Harman  
Cllr F Akehurst  
Mrs G Pawson (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr R White  
Cllr E White  
Cllr Mrs J Andrew

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

1. Planning Application at Corner House Farm RR/2001/829

This application relates to the demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with two storey extension and sun room. The Council had no objection to the application.

2. Listed Building Consent Old Sprays Barn RR/01/598

This relates to the planning application discussed at the last meeting and the Council support refusal as for the planning application.

3. Planning Application "Rainbows End" RR/2001792

This application relates to the erection of 6ft gates to the side of the house and replacement of a post and rail fence with a brick wall. The Council had no objections.

4. Resignation of Chairman

Cllr Burfoot expressed his willingness to take on the role of Chairman following the resignation of Cllr Roy White. This matter will be raised at the AGM on 8 May.

5. Recreation Ground

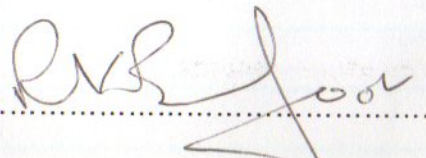
Mrs Pawson was requested to contact Nigel White requesting that he check the cricket ground prior to the start of the cricket season, with particular reference to any safety notices. Mrs Pawson was also requested to check what insurance cover was in place.

6. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is set for 7.30 pm on 8 May 2001 which will comprise AGMs for Ashburnham Parish, Penhurst Parish and Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed: .....



Date: .....

8/5/01

COPY TO SIGN

# ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
held at Ashburnham Village Hall  
on Tuesday 8 May 2001

Present: Cllr R White (Chairman - part)  
Cllr R Burfoot (Chairman - part)  
Cllr C Baker  
Cllr N Harman  
Cllr F Akehurst  
Cllr Mrs J Andrew  
Cllrs Mrs W Miers (part)  
Mrs G Pawson (Clerk)  
Two Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 7.40 pm and the Chairman explained that there would be three AGMs (Parish Council and Ashburnham and Penhurst Parishes) as required by law.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Cllr A R White announced his resignation from the Council and sincerely thanked the Councillors for their support and assistance over the years. The meeting was also informed of Cllr E White's resignation from the Council. Cllr A R White then handed the meeting over to the Clerk to ask for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Andrew nominated Cllr Baker who declined due to other commitments. Cllr Harman then nominated Cllr Burfoot who accepted. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Akehurst and Cllr Burfoot was duly elected Chairman.

The new Chairman then called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Cllr Burfoot nominated Cllr Baker and Cllr Akehurst nominated Cllr Andrew who declined. Cllr Harman seconded the nomination of Cllr Baker who was duly elected Vice Chairman.

It was noted that whilst a formal written resignation had been received from Cllr E White, **Cllr A R White had still to provide his formal resignation – this he undertook to do.**

As there were now two vacancies on the Council, the Council is required to advertise requesting applicants. **Notices will be posted by the Clerk on 1 June** to coincide with the next issue of the Parish Magazine which would also carry the notice.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr E White (resignation) and from Cllr Mrs K Field (other commitments).

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of three meetings (6 March, 3 April and 1 May) were produced. Regarding the minutes of 6 March, **Cllr Burfoot queried item 3 (Mansfield Cross planning application) and undertook to ask Cllr Miers for an update.**

The Chairman signed all three sets of minutes as true records.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Recreation Ground

Cllr A R White raised the matter of the Recreation Ground and reported that Bernard Baker had written to East Sussex Rural Development Area Office regarding possible funding. There is currently approximately £26,000 in the Millennium Fund with the possibility of a further £20,000 from ESRDA. Applications have also been made to the Foundation for Sports & Arts and Sport England. He also mentioned that, although the changes to the Recreation Ground would inevitably result in higher maintenance costs, this had not yet been quantified.

Although having resigned, Cllr A R White expressed his willingness to continue to assist with this project and suggested that a separate committee be formed dedicated to the new building, perhaps including a representative from each of the bodies that use the facility, the Parish Councillor(s) and Mike Sibbering. **The Clerk was asked to include this on the agenda for the next Council meeting.**

The Chairman queried the status on insurance. The Clerk confirmed that renewal was on 1 June and produced the certificates - it was agreed that the cover was adequate. The Clerk also confirmed that Nigel White had been approached regarding preparation of the Recreation Ground for the forthcoming cricket season. He has matters in hand and will cordon off any areas deemed unsafe.

5. PLANNING

The Clerk confirmed that no new planning applications or decisions had been received since the last meeting.

6. FINANCE

A cheque for £100.15 was signed for the Council's subscription to the Sussex Association of Local Councils.

**The Council agreed to donate £25 to the Citizens Advice Bureau following a request received recently and requested that the Clerk arrange this.**

As Cllrs A R White and E White are both currently authorised signatories for the Council's bank accounts, the Chairman requested nominations for two replacement signatories. Cllrs Andrew and Baker were nominated and unanimously agreed. **A new bank mandate was duly signed and will be passed to the bank by the Clerk.**

Copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001 were distributed to the Councillors. The Chairman asked if there were any comments. Cllr A R White mentioned that the accounts are audited every three years and he believed this would next be due in 2002. **Cllr Baker requested that for future years the Clerk include the previous year's figures to aid a comparison. It was also felt that payments made should be detailed.** The Chairman then briefly went through the accounts and then signed them as correct.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr A R White tabled a letter received from Mr A Smith complaining about the drainage from the new houses behind the Village Hall. His investigations revealed that other near neighbours had also identified a problem with the smell. The Chairman confirmed that he had previously written on this subject to Hyde Housing but had not received a reply. **He undertook to write a chasing letter and possibly contact the Environment Agency.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8.15 pm for questions from the public.

Mrs Sally Cumming asked whether it would be possible to site a notice board in the centre of the village. The Chairman explained that the Ashburnham notice board is in the process of being moved to the front of the Village Hall. It was agreed that it would be helpful if all meetings were also advertised in the Parish Magazine. It was further suggested that perhaps Cllr A R White could produce a brief synopsis on the status of the Millennium Fund. It was felt that, ultimately, the notice board should be sited by the new pavilion. **Mr Bob Andrew suggested that perhaps Mrs Bickersteth could be approached with a view to relocating and using her notice board currently at Hammer Hill - the Clerk was charged with this task.**

The meeting reconvened at 8.35 pm on the arrival of Cllr Mrs W Miers who had the following information:

Gates and Ponds at Corner House Farm - the Environment Agency people are required to check the ponds but during the foot and mouth emergency they have not been carrying out any site visits. There was therefore nothing further to report at present. The gates will be dealt with at the same time.

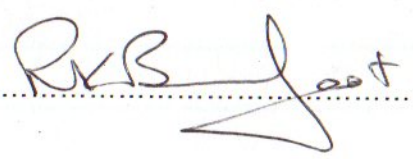
Tractor Storage Shed at Middle Sprays Barn - there has been no second planning application.

Decking, Old Sprays Barn (balustrading) - the walkway has been approved and cannot be revoked. An alternative to the balustrading would be landscaping to form a bank between ground level and the decking - the issue is one of stopping people injuring themselves by falling off the decking. As a general comment, the Chairman mentioned that very often, although asked to comment on initial applications, the Council is not consulted on any amended plans.

Telephone Mast - the site has been withdrawn. Due to the poor take-up on third generation phones, the service providers are concentrating on urban business areas where they have a better chance of making money and appear to be withdrawing rural applications.

There was then a brief discussion on the re-opening of footpaths when the Councillors confirmed that they had responded.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: 

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001

# Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

Minutes of Special Meeting held at  
Ashburnham Village Hall on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001

Present: Cllr R. Burfoot (Chairman)  
Cllr C. Baker  
Cllr N. Harman  
Cllr F. Akehurst  
Cllr Mrs J. Andrew  
Cllr R. White (Co-opted during mtg)  
County Cllr. Mrs K. Field

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2001 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. **Co-option of new Councillors:** The Chairman reported that Rother District Council had notified that there had been no request for an election by 10 or more Electors from the Parish and consequently the Council was free to co-opt two new Councillors. Mr A.R. White was nominated to rejoin the Council and his appointment was unanimously approved. The Chairman reported that he had one other application to join the Council, Andrew Wooding Jones, the Director of Ashburnham Christian Trust. Andrew Wooding Jones was therefore proposed and unanimously approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) The Chairman advised that in spite of a week's delay in posting the notices of **Vacancy for Councillor** and the parish Magazine not appearing until the end of the notification period, there had only been no call for an election within the statutory 14 days. There had been two prospective Councillors notify their willingness to serve before this meeting.
  - b) Councillor White proposed that a **Millenium Fund Liason Committee** be set up to liaise with the Fund and users of the Cricket Field. All Councillors thought this to be a suitable course of action. Councillor Baker agreed to sit on this committee together with Councillor White as its Chairman. This sub-committee to **recommend** action to the Parish Council.
  - c) **Cricket field play area equipment** was considered to be reaching the end of its useful life and new equipment would be considered as part of, but subsequent to the new pavilion.

- d) The Chairman reported that Hyde Housing had replied to his letter regarding the **drainage system at Akehurst Field**. Hyde acknowledged problems with the system and rectification action was in hand.
- e) The Chairman undertook to contact Bert Peters with a view to siting a new **Parish notice board** just within the boundary of the Chapel at Pontoons Green.

## 5. **Clerks expenses and appointment of new Clerk**

The previous Clerk's expenses were submitted to the Council for approval and although Councillors thought them to be rather high, approval was given for payment of the £203.57 claimed. Councillors all felt that any post associated with the Council including that of Clerk involved a substantial element of service to the community.

In view of recent experiences the Chairmen proposed that a job description and contract be prepared for new applicants for Parish Clerk. Councillors agreed the necessity for this procedure, but preferred that approaches be made on an individual basis rather than advertise the post at this stage.

## 6. **Planning – New applications**

RR/2001/957 Lay-by, 3 and 4 Pontoons Green Cottages, Ashburnham  
The Council supported a refusal on the grounds that the construction of a lay-by would give the impression of a wider road thus increasing speed of through traffic and that the residents of Nos 3&4 would not have exclusive use of the lay-by.

RR/2001/1125 Change of roof to swimming pool, Old Vicarage, Ashburnham  
Council supported approval

RR/2001/1192 Garage, Archers Farm, Penhurst

Council supported approval

RR/2001/956 Change of use, Field to Car Park, Ashtree Inn, Ashburnham

Council supported approval

## **Planning – Old applications**

RR/2001/240 Granny Annexe, Slivericks Farm, Ashburnham

Approved by Rother DC subject to Sect.106 agreement.

## 7. **Standing Orders**

The Chairman recommended the Council introduce a set of standing orders for council business. Councillor White was of the opinion that we were legally obliged to have standing orders. The Chairman agreed to prepare a set for the next meeting.

8. **Correspondence**

Emergency liason - local contact  
Rother Assocn of Local Councils - minutes  
Leader + funding  
Countryside agency - local transport funding  
Citizens advice bureau - AGM and acknowledgement of £25 donation  
Relate AGM  
Rother DC presentation on new organization.

9. **Finance**

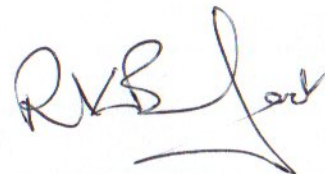
The Chairman reported that the bank accounts totalled £7500.25 taking into account cheques written but not yet cashed. Councillors recommended that £3000 be transferred to the business account.

10. **AOB**

The Chairman reported that Mr Bert Peters had contacted him with reference to the closure of the **post box at Ponto Green** and undertook to write to the Post Office with a view to installing a replacement box in Ponto's Green.

Councillors noted that East Sussex County Council Officers had directed that all **footpaths** be opened in the County with effect from June 8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Field advised that MAFF had issued guidelines on opening footpaths to Councils and that elected County Councillors had not taken part in this direction.

Signed:



Date:

3/7/01