

PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2005
ASBURNHAM VILLAGE HALL

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs, Andrew Wooding-Jones, John Kemp, Colin Baker

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cllr Gill Ratcliffe (village hall secretary)

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Read and signed

4. MATTERS ARISING

Pavilion

No work being undertaken at the present time, Cllr Keith Finch has been fully paid up to date.

BT Phone Boxes

No further news to date

Village Hall

Still awaiting reply from Strutt & Parker, although receipt of our correspondence has been acknowledged, to Cllr Roger Burfoot via e-mail.

TOW Storage

It was agreed by the council to allow for a year the storage of the TOW rope, and to allow Nigel White access to the pavilion for this purpose, he is to get the pavilion key fro Johanna Thompson (caretaker).

5. CORRESPONDENCE

The issue of the pavilion insurance was highlighted, the council were unanimous for the need to make users of the pavilion aware of the need to gain their own insurance cover. Users of the pavilion and the field are NOT covered under the council's policy for ANY reason.

RDC have advised the council that a 50% rebate on the pavilion rates can be applied for.

6. PLANNING -NEW

RR/2005/47 - Peltham Cottage

RR/2005/81 - Burnt Barns

OLD

RR/2005/3496 - Clays Farm - Refused

RR/2005/3594 - Redpale - Granted

7. FINANCE

Bank account -the sum of £1455 is to take us to the end of the financial year and take us into the next financial year.

Precept - the council were all in favour of the precept being set at £6000 for the next financial year (2005/6). This decision will be relayed to RDC.

Disabled access to be finished in the new financial year (push bars on the two side doors and completion of disabled toilets). When all this work has been completed the necessary certificate can be gained for the building inspector.

Pavilion/ Recreation Ground Fees for 2005 were set as follows:

£2 per session TOW
£10 per session Stoolball Club
£300 per season Cricket Club
£7.50 per session Young peoples club
£25 Residents
£50 Non-residents +£250 deposit (returnable)

8.AOB - none

9. Next Meeting 18th May 2005 in the Cricket Pavilion

RKB
CHM
1/6/05

MINUTES OF THE

ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST
PARISH COUNCIL A.G.M.

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE 2005
IN ASHBURNHAM CHURCH HALL

1.Election of Officers

Chairman Cllr Roger Burfoot Proposed Cllr Gill Ratcliffe, Seconded Cllr Norman Harman

Vice-Chairman Andrew Wooding-Jones, Proposed Cllr Roger Burfoot, Seconded Cllr Gill Ratcliffe..

2.Apologies – None

3.Disclosure of Interest

Cllr Andrew Wooding-Jones – Planning for Ashburnham Place
Cllr Keith Finch - Pavilion & Brown Bread Stud

4.Matters Arising

Pavilion

The chairman gave a detailed 'behind the scenes' account of the various efforts between the Parish Council and the Ashburnham Estate for the removal of the travellers. An insurance claim has been submitted, it is unclear at the moment if likely fees by the bailiffs or the court order can also be claimed on the insurance. Cllr Keith Finch is to check the electrics to satisfy the parish council that they are safe, having been tampered with by the travellers and do any necessary repairs.

There is to be a working party at the ground to clear any remaining debris.

Insurance

The occupation of the field by travellers has highlighted the need for users of the field to have their own insurance to cover loss and damage, as the council insurance only covers the pavilion building and the contents which it owns, fixtures, fittings, floor coverings etc.

BT Phone Boxes

Despite correspondence by the parish council voicing concern to their removal, no reply has been given, so it is assumed that they are to stay.

Village Hall

The parish council have received a reply from Strutt and Parker the answer they gave was that they would be happy to take back the village hall only if it was the wish of the villagers, they would develop it for housing, and would want to handle the whole project.

5.Planning-New

RR/2005/0502-Trinity Cottage Garage – Passed by RDC

RR/2005/0682- Burnt Barns House-Passed RDC

RR/2005/1262.4 Ashburnham Place Replacement of Accommodation Block-
approved by PC

Old



RR/2205/47 Peltham Cottage-Replacement Garage-Approved
RR/2005/81 Burnt Barns- Conversion and Change of use of redundant buildings-
approved
RR/2004.1700-Red Pale-Appeal refused for bridge and arbour

6.Finance

£1400 is the current situation it will be September before the next injection of cash from the precept. No plans to spend only on expenses incurred by the travellers not covered by insurance.

Internal audit of accounts by Mr John Cummings was approved by the council, requirements of Statement of assurance for external audit were approved by the council, signed by the chairman and clerk.

7.Correspondence

The Chairman read an extract for BrownBread Stud newsletter accusing the parish council of being "bureaucratic" and their "ineptitude" over planning matters which have not gone in favour of the stud, the chairman has written to Mr Tony Smith asking for a written apology in his next newsletter.

The chairman highlighted a request for RDC for donation of land as a temporary or permanent sight for the travellers, this meet with unanimous rejection by the parish council.

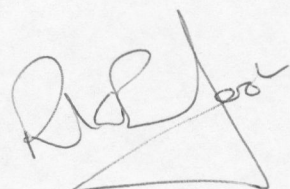
8.AOB

Cllr Colin Baker asked if it was possible for a joint letter to our local Member of Parliament from our parish council and Brightling Parish Council voicing the frustration of the way the law works in regard to travellers, the chairman replied the letters had already been written.

Next Meeting

14.6.05 Parish Meeting

20.7.05 Parish Council meeting.



20/7/05

Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish Council

20th July 2005

Unauthorised encampment on Ashburnham recreation ground and its subsequent effect on the financial situation of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council experienced an Unauthorised Encampment on its leased land between 25th April to 25th May 2005. An attempt to evict the travellers under common law was unsuccessful because the Police deemed the travellers caravans too large for the bailiff's tow trucks

The Parish Council's pavilion was used by the travellers without permission and electricity and water were stolen from the Council's supply.

Shortly after the travellers were evicted by the bailiffs it became apparent that the Parish Council was classified as a public authority. If it were then to apply to the County Court for an eviction order, it would have to provide evidence that it had taken into consideration the welfare needs and human rights of the unauthorised campers e.g children's schooling needs, health needs and housing or alternative site availability. (Clearly a ludicrous requirement for a small Parish Council.)

Following legal advice, the Parish Council relinquished its lease of the land to allow the landlord's agents to apply to the County Court for an Eviction Order.

(A private landowner would not have to consider the traveller's welfare needs) In the meantime the Police obtained an eviction order under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act on the lead member of the travellers. This order was specific to the recreation ground so the travellers then moved into the next field to avoid complying with the order.

The new site was also owned by the same landlord who then included the tenant farmer in the County Court action. The court action was successful and the travellers left for a new unauthorised campsite in Battle. At the same time the Police had obtained a separate eviction order to preclude the travellers from the whole Rother District.

Both court orders are applicable for three months.

All Councillors will be aware that the costs incurred in evicting the travellers repairing the pavilion damage and cleaning up the site must be born by the Parish Council. It is also quite clear that the Council has no provision for these costs in this year's budget. The costs which are not reclaimable from our insurers must be born by the Council Tax payers of the Parish by way of an increase in the precept next year (2006). In the meantime the bills must be paid even before any money is forthcoming from the insurers.

The following are the estimated costs:

• Legal fees	£4825	VAT	£765	
• Replacement Carpet	£1213	VAT	£ 212	Grand Total
• Fire Ext. Refill	£30	VAT	£5	£8493 8643
• Roof Repairs	£150	VAT	£26	
• Kitchen Repairs	£500			VAT Reclaimable
• Electrical Repairs	£200			£1085
• Skip Hire	£340	VAT	£60	Insurance payable
• Locks, Chains etc	£100	VAT	£17	£1263 (so far)
• Water/Elec.	£50			
Painting	150			

It is my opinion that the Parish Council must raise a short term loan of £10,000 to allow it to pay its bills prior to raising monies via the precept next year, reclaiming VAT and receiving insurance payouts.

You will also see from the budget that the precept will have to be doubled from £6,000 to £12,000 next year to cover these costs.

Roger Burfoot
Chairman and Responsible Finance Officer

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th JULY 2005
AT ASHBURNHAM SPORTS PAVILION

Present: Councillors R Burfoot (chairman), G Radcliffe, K Finch, C Baker, N Harman, A Wooding Jones

In attendance: Councillors K Field, J Kemp

1. Apologies: L Keeley

2. Disclosure of Interest

Cllr K Finch - Pavilion

Cllr A Wooding Jones – Ashburnham Place

3. Minutes of meeting held on the 1st June 2005 were approved as an accurate account.

4. Matters arising

- **Travellers** are in the area again. Cllr Baker to organise estimate for secure iron gate with RSJ posts for cricket field
- **Pavilion Cleaning.** Agreed to pay Mrs Thompson for 2004/5 (£300) but to move to an ad hoc basis as needed now. Cllr Burfoot to explain that Mrs Thompson's services not required due to low demand and budget deficit
- **Pavilion repairs.** Most work after travellers' damage is now completed. Repair to kitchen units to be passed to insurers.
- **Insurance claims.** All completed and proposed remedial work to go to insurers. It is not clear what will be covered. Legal fees cannot be claimed.
- **Village Hall** – following the response at the public meeting it is proposed that Paul Evans (chair), Richard White, Clive O'Sullivan, Keith Finch, Colin Baker and Caroline Woodhams form a working group to progress the proposal.

5. Planning

- **Pigknoll Farm Nursery provision** – (presentation by Sara Andrew). In favour subject to Highway agency approval.
- **Ashburnham Place** – additional sections tabled. Consent for demolition has been granted.
- **Old**
- – **Trinity Cottage** – delegated
- - **Burnt Barns House** – outcome not known
- - **Wilson's Farm** – in progress
- **Other**
- **Bunces** – Rother have asked for planning application
- **Olives Hill** – Rother to be notified re caravan

6. Finance

- **Current Situation**
 - Balance £429
 - Outstanding bills £8500
- **Loan**

Councillors agreed unanimously to tabled statement in order to secure immediate loan to cover uninsured costs relating to travellers.

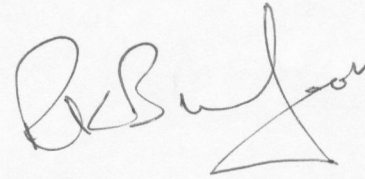
- **Budget update**

Agreed to increased precept in 2005 / 6 to repay above loan.

7. Correspondence

- Estimate for panic bars in pavilion. To be resubmitted with cost of new door. In the meantime users to be reminded to unlock all outside door will pavilion in use
- Rother DC – Chief executive wishes to visit a future parish council meeting
- Rother Arts department – cost and need of arts advisor to be raised with Rother Chief executive
- Rother area committees – Chairman to write and question need.
- Seminar on 18th October re planning changes

8. **Next meeting** – 21st September at Pavilion.


Chairman
14/9/05

Minutes of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 14th September 2005
In Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Present Councillors R Burfoot(chairman), G Ratcliffe, K Finch, C Baker, N Harman,
A Wooding-Jones, B Walker

In attendance Councillor K Field.

1.Apologies Cllr J Kemp

2.Disclosure of interest Cllr K Finch-Brew House & Clays Farm
Cllr A Wooding-Jones-Ashburnham Place

3.Minutes of last meeting read and signed

4.Matters arising

Pavilion

Security-A height restriction security bar has been fitted-cost £600

Push Bars are to be fitted on the two side doors and the kitchen cupboards are to be made good

Pavilion cleaning-Has now been taken on by Mrs L. Keeley she is to be paid on an hourly basis as and when necessary.

Insurance-All items that were requested for have been paid.

Village Hall Steering Committee

A follow up meeting has been arranged, James Bridgeland is now involved in the discussions, and preliminary plans are to be drawn up with the Ashburnham Estate bearing the cost of the planning application. When this ground work has been done another village meeting is to be called so that villagers can cast their final vote on the future of the village hall.

5.Planning-New

The Old Brew House-Replacement Windows-Parish Council in favour

Solar Panels-The owners have stated they will abide by the
Planning Officers decision-No comment from the Parish
Council

Wilsons Farm-Conversion of outbuilding to ^{ancillary} holiday accommodation-No ^{further} comment

Clays Farm-Hay storage and tack room-The Parish Council gave approval subject to stringent restrictions on its use.

Old

Ashburnham Place-Planning application-withdrawn

Trinity Cottage-Garage-Outside of curtilage-Against RDC policy

Burnt Barns-Application for commercial use of redundant farm building-Granted temporary use

Pigknoll Farm Nursery-Refused on the grounds of access-Application withdrawn

Bunces-If no appropriate action taken an enforcement order will be issued eventually

6.Finance

Current account has received a boost due the donation from the sponsored horse ride/walk and the receipt of payment of the insurance claim, the Chairman Cllr

Burfoot has applied for a loan on the 26/7/05 as yet still no answer, the chairman is to pursue this matter, it must have the permission of the deputy Prime Ministers office.

7. Correspondence

Brought to the attention of the Council

8.AOB

British Legion wreath for remembrance Sunday-Cllr Burfoot to obtain this.

Mrs L Keeley(clerk) is to get in touch with Mr Norman Exworth Standard Bearer to ask if he is available to attend the memorial service, 13/11/05 at 2.30pm

Signpost-Several councillors voiced their concerns on the dilapidated state of some of the signs, Mrs Keeley(Clerk) is to contact Highways re availability of manpower to assist the council with this problem.

Phone Box Cllr Gill Ratcliffe brought to the attention of Council a complaint she had received from a villager as to the lack of accessibility to the Pontoons Green Phone Box, due to the badly parked horse box which made it impossible to access the phone box

Next Meeting 16/11/05 Sports Pavilion

Ratcliffe
16/11/05

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 16th November, 2005
At Ashburnham and Penhurst Sports Pavilion**

Present Cllrs Walker, Finch, Wooding-Jones, Harman, Kemp Burfoot
(Chairman), Ratcliffe, Field

1. Apologies Cllr Colin Baker

2. Disclosure of Interest-None

3. Minutes of Last Meeting-Read and Signed

4. Matters Arising

Pavilion-A new side door has been installed and push bars fitted to both side doors. New kitchen cupboard doors are due to be fitted so completing repairs to damage caused by travellers.

Signposts-Brought to the attention of the county council highways department.

Village Hall-Awaiting news from Strutt & Parker

5. Planning-New

Lattendens-Alterations to inside-Council supported an approval

Henley Bridge Cottage- Change of use from store to office-No comment

Bunces-Barn Restoration-Retrospective-Council support approval for restoration but must have planning for any further change of use. To be referred to the planning committee.

Road-Alleged to have been repaired and maintained-Parish Council maintain it has been widened, giving concerns over drainage.

Old

Wilsons-Annex-Approved

Clays Farm-Tack room and hay store-Only to be used for purpose for which planning permission was granted.

Trinity Cottage-Garage-No further developments

Little Midge-Holiday Cottage-Refused

6. Finance

Current Situation-Loan-No news to date-solicitors bill still outstanding

Budget-No update

7. Correspondence

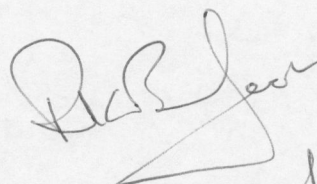
Community Bus-£100 donation

FWAG-No donation given

8. AOB

Cllr Ratcliffe has had a complaint from a parishioner about the overgrown hedge at Reed wood, overhanging branches etc. Cllr Ratcliffe has kindly agreed to make the landowner aware of action required.

Next meeting 18.1.06


18/1/06