

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at
Ashburnham Cricket Pavilion
at 7.30 PM on Wednesday 5th August 2009

Present: Cllrs R Burfoot (Chair) R Jones, N Harman, C Baker, A Wooding Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: D Hermon, A Stainsby, Cllr A Davies, 1 member of the public,

1. **Rother Standards committee**

Cllr Alan Stainsby (Crowhurst PC) and David Hermon, Monitoring Officer addressed the meeting.

- New national code from May 2007 (signed by all councillors) and declaration of interests
- Aim of code – open decision-making
- Standards Committee (12 members; 6 from RDC, 3 independent and 3 from Parish Councils)– to promote and maintain high standards and to train members
- Also assess and review complaints (or pass to Standards Board for England in Manchester)
- Can grant dispensation in special cases
- Code of conduct
 - Treat others with respect
 - Comply with equality laws
 - No bullying or intimidation
 - Cannot bring council or officers into disrepute
 - Councillors can't use office improperly
 - Interests – anything registered must be declared if it affects agenda items (reviewed every two years or when changes occur)
 - Personal interest - should always be declared
 - Prejudicial interests – involvement of family or close friend which might be deemed prejudicial – councillor leaves meeting
- Information was circulated

2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Kathryn Field, Pat Winfield, R White, G Ratcliffe.

3. **Disclosure of Interest:**

Cllr C Baker prejudicial interest re Thorndale Farm,
R Jones – Village Hall,
R Burfoot -Sprays Oast.

4. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on the 27th May 2009 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising:

a. Village Hall – update

Chairman updated Parish Council on recent activity:

- In late July Parish Council received solicitor's letter demanding payment of contested bill when it was believed that Parish Council was £4000 in credit to Strutt and Parker
- This led to a meeting when the Chairman and Clerk met Mrs Bickersteth on 3rd August and then subsequently Nick Watson from Strutt and Parker met the Chairman on the 4th August
- Legal action now suspended and full outcome awaited
- Now agreed to suspend drafting of full specification (estimated up to £10,000) and desire for legal agreement and instead approach developers direct to estimate a purchase price for the old village hall site. This would (after negotiation with the ATT Trustees as to how it would be apportioned), give a working figure for the new Village Hall and a value of the existing house and land to Ashburnham Trustees. It should then be possible negotiate a package which included the developer building the new Village Hall
- Note that any permission for 'enabling development' will only allow sufficient housing to finance the build of a new village hall.

6. Planning – Old

RR/2009/814
RR/2009/1314
RR/2009/1372
RR/2009/1400

Brickyard Farm - approved
Thornden Farm – approved with conditions
Sprays Oast Farm – bay window - approved
Sprays Oast Farm – roundel approved
conditional on repointing being redone

Planning – New RR/2009/1120

Thorndale Farm – change of tenant for barn -
recommend approval

7. Finance

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Finance update – | Treasurer a/c | £2732.48 |
| | BMM a/c | £5224.41 |
| | Total | £7956.89 |

8. Correspondence

- Various items were tabled
- Thank you letter from the Internal Auditor

9. AOB

- Potholes – Near pumping station
- Little Beech Oast – Needs to be watched but there is a planning approval
- Tower House entrance – reported
- Red Barn road surface – since resurfacing there is a significant drop from road level to verge in region of Red Barn/Thorndale and Buckwell.

10. **Next meeting** - Wednesday 16th September 2009 at 7.30pm in the Cricket Pavillion