

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at Ashburnham Cricket Pavilion at 7.30 PM on Wednesday 16th September 2009

Present: Cllrs R Burfoot (Chair), R Jones, N Harman, R White, G Ratcliffe, A Wooding Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr A Davies, 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr C Baker
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** Village Hall - Cllrs Jones, White, Ratcliffe Penhurst estate - Cllrs Harman (prejudicial) and White
3. **The Minutes of the Meeting** held on the 5th August 2009 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising:

a. Village Hall – update

Clerk and Chairman met with Nick Watson on the 9th September 2009 leading to agreement that Parish Council is in credit of £2170 to Strutt and Parker for Village Hall work.

Meeting confirmed that Trustees are still in agreement that they wish to reflect view of the parish from the parish meeting. Also confirmed that the offer of £3:£1 for repairs from Trustees still stands.

Agreed by Parish Council to seek a detailed specification of new village hall was (quoted at £2600 + VAT) from Nigel Faulkner based on design reflecting pavilion design.

The need for clarity on share of the land value and terms of occupation of new village hall was agreed so that Parish Council is able to know whether they can afford to move forward. It was noted that there are no restrictive terms on current agreement. New Village Hall would be on Tent Hill Trust land (terms also to be agreed so Parish Council would only own the building).

Note refurbishment of Village Hall was £45,000 in 2007 and there is probably now work to do.

Communication to village on progress through newsletter now. Plan a village meeting to report once scheme is in place.

Strutt and Parker now reporting that the Trustees have requested that there is no further expenditure until they know the scheme is financially viable. Chairman has requested a further meeting to clarify.

5. Planning

New

- a. RR/2009/2017 Granary, Penhurst – Application justification seems similar to last application. Concern over change of use. Structural plans have changed.
- b. RR/2009/2089 Glydes Farm Not listed. Out of keeping and over-extended
- c. RR/2009/1940 Frankwell Farm. No comment

Old

- a. Thorndale Farm Granted

6. Finance

- a. Finance update - Report circulated. Current bank balance is £8321.

7. Correspondence

- a. From 13th September 2009 new PCSO for Ninfield, Ashburnham and Penhurst is: PCSO Daryl Holter (07788 900849, daryl.holter@sussex.pnn.police.uk)
- b. Rural Rother Trust. Agreed to make a contribution of £100.
- c. Adopt a Phone Box. Agreed to adopt both Telephone Boxes at The Pound. (Tina French will caretake) and Ponto Green

8. AOB

- a. Remembrance Service at 2.30pm on the 8th November 2009

9. Next meeting - Wednesday 18th November 2009

10. Matters Arising:

b. 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.

11. 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

12. Finance

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

13. Correspondence

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

14. AOB

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

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