

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 6.00pm**

**in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

**Present:** Cllrs Baker, Burfoot, Hann, Jones, Ratcliffe and White

Revd A Wooding Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr K.Field, Cllr A.Davies, 2 members of the public.

**1) Disclosures of interest**

- a) Village Hall – Cllrs Ratcliffe, White
- b) Gardening club – Cllr Jones

**2) Apologies – Cllr Winfield**

**3) Minutes** of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**4) Matters Arising**

- a) Village Hall – Nick Watson of Strutt and Parker has conveyed verbally that there is no objection from the Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trustees to provision of a site for a new village hall adjacent to the Sports Pavilion. However, before a Lottery funding application can proceed this has to be put in writing. Cllr White will pursue. Meanwhile, a surveyor's report on the maintenance required on the existing hall over the next few years is being priced by John French (Cornerstone Construction).
- b) Pavilion
  - i) Fire risk assessment completed today following recent servicing of the fire extinguisher.
  - ii) There is no first aid kit - an omission which will be rectified.
  - iii) A coffee morning is being held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb in memory of Caroline Woodhams to raise money for a syringe driver and the normal booking fee for the pavilion will be waived.
- c) Queen's Jubilee
  - i) Possible grant from Rother in process.
  - ii) Fund currently at £2300 and thus underwrite further reduced to £700.
  - iii) Four events now being planned starting on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June and continuing over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.
- d) Gardening Club Bench – now in place close to the pavilion. Adjacent redundant roller to be relocated.
- e) Hammer Hill fingerpost – Cllr Hann reported that need for replacement is on record. However, existing style said to be safety hazard and replacement will be a rubberised sign.
- f) Stephens Crouch fingerpost – Cllr Hann reported that replacement is imminent.
- g) War memorial repairs – Cllr White has repairs in hand.
- h) Pavilion entrance pot holes – Cllr Ratcliffe reported that repairs planned by Hailsham Roadways are subject to further delays. Cllr White will take on task using alternative resources.
- i) Action Plan – Cllr White has a number of activities planned to move this forward and has appraised Angela Alexander (RVA) of progress so far.

- 5) Parish Clerk** – The Revd Andrew Wooding Jones is resigning as Parish Clerk due to his relocation away from the district. A vote of thanks to him was approved by all members and he is to be presented with a token of appreciation. Cllr Burfoot proposed that Brian Holdstock be appointed Parish Clerk with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The proposal was seconded by Cllr White and passed unanimously by the meeting.

**6) Planning**

New

- a) RR/2011/2649 - Ashburnham Place – Temporary climbing tower and abseil tower – supported.
- b) RR/2011/2654 – Thornden Farm – Extension – supported
- c) RR/2011/2521 – Gardeners Farm – Public use of fishing lake and car park – supported (and approved).
- d) RR/2012/106 – Olivers Hill – Replace existing building on land in Lakehurst Lane – no comments.

Enforcement

- e) Brays Hill – Stables approved as holiday let but are in use as a residence. Requests that the owners apply for permission have not been met. Enforcement continues.
- f) Oak Bank Farm – complaint from a member of the public that a landscaping business is being operated without permission has led to the owners being requested to make application for appropriate permission.

**7) Finance**

- a) Current position – £11,227 in credit.
- b) Bank signatories: The Chairman stated that new signatories were required for the bank accounts at HSBC.
- c) The following motion proposed by Cllr Burfoot and seconded by Cllr White was approved unanimously:
  - i) That a bank account or accounts be continued with HSBC Bank plc (the ‘Bank’) and the Bank is authorised to:
    - (1) pay all cheques and other instructions for payment or accept instructions to stop such payments signed on behalf of the PCC by any two of the listed signatories these being Brian Holdstock, Roger Burfoot and Richard White whether any account of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council is in debit or credit.
    - (2) deliver any item held on behalf of the Parish Council by the Bank in safe keeping against the written receipt of the signatories; and
    - (3) accept the signatories as fully empowered to act on behalf of the Parish Council in any other transactions with the Bank (including closing any account(s)).
  - ii) That any debt incurred to the Bank under this mandate shall, in the absence of written agreement by the Bank to the contrary, be repayable on demand.
  - iii) That the Secretary from time to time is authorised to supply the Bank as and when necessary with lists of persons who are authorised to sign, give receipts and act on behalf of the Parish Council, and that the Bank may rely upon such lists.
  - iv) That these resolutions remain in force until cancelled by notice in writing to the Bank signed by the Chair Person or Secretary from time to time acting or claiming to act on behalf of the Parish Council and the Bank shall be entitled to act on such notice whether the resolutions have been validly cancelled or not.

- d) Cllr White proposed and Cllr Baker seconded the motion that £300 be granted to St.Peter's Church, Ashburnham and to St.Michael's Church, Penhurst towards the upkeep of the churchyards (approved).

**8) Rural broadband** – ESCC has been awarded £10.6 million by Broadband Delivery UK and is matching it with £15 million of council funds with the aim of delivering a broadband speed of 100 mbps to all residents by 2017. ESCC will procure private sector partners to provide the appropriate solution in each area. Cllrs approved the registering of the parish council's interest in being included in the project. The web master of the new parish web site (Jasper Wallace) will be appraised with a view to his involvement in the next stage which is to determine the level of local support using a questionnaire (format to be obtained from ESCC).

**9) Correspondence**

- a) Draft Waste and Minerals Plan has been submitted by ESCC.
- b) RDC devolution of services – no assets in the parish council area so no involvement.
- c) ESCC Highways Team annual request for small works issues.

**10) Any Other Business**

- a) Highways maintenance items to be lodged with ESCC include clearing SW drains in Brown Bread Street, the cleaning of the finger post near the village hall. The large puddle of surface water at Stephens Crouch and the return of the flooding on the S-bends on the A271 near the junction with Catsfield Road to be passed on to Highways by Cllr Hann.
- b) The Byeway which leads from Brigden Hill to Pear Tree Farm is subject to seasonal closure but the padlocks are not in place and parties of 4x4 vehicles have started to use it. The clerk will notify the Rights of Way officer.

**11) Next meeting** - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 pm (the usual time for future meetings).

signed.....Date.....  
Chairman