

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 29th February 2012 at 6.30pm

in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Present: Cllrs Baker, Burfoot, Jones, Ratcliffe, White and Winfield

Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr K.Field, 1 member of the public.

1) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 4 a) Personal interest – Cllrs Baker and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee)
- b) Agenda item 5 Personal interest – Cllrs Jones, Ratcliffe and White (members of the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee)
- c) Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllrs Baker and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee)

2) Apologies – Cllr Hann

- 3) Minutes - RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th January 2012 (circulated) be signed as a correct record.

4) Matters Arising

- a) Village Hall – No reply yet from Nick Watson of Strutt and Parker to written request from Cllr White that availability of site for new village hall at sports field be put in writing.
Cllr White reported that the surveyor's report on the maintenance required on the existing hall over the next few years has been priced by John French (Cornerstone Construction). This is for planning purposes only and, should any work be proceeded with, then the VH Management Committee would be put it out to competitive tender. The short term work immediately necessary has been priced at £10,000 and the longer term work at £163,687. The VH Management Committee are to meet again in 4 weeks time to review a preliminary application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and also to review all current and potential users and uses of the hall. In the meantime a number of members of the committee are to undertake some short term maintenance, but no contracts for works have been let.
- b) Sports pavilion
 - i) The first aid kit has been obtained and installed.
 - ii) The hire charges are reviewed annually at this time. It was RESOLVED to leave them unchanged.
 - iii) The Jubilee Fund Raising Committee will hire the sports field and pavilion for the jubilee celebrations. It was RESOLVED to waive the hire fees. In this connection it was noted that bookings for fixtures on Saturday 26th May should be declined.
Fund raising has reached £2,700 with two more coffee mornings to be held.
 - iv) A dangerous man hole cover has been noted and Cornerstone Construction will be asked to give an estimate to replace it.
 - v) The powered roller (belonging to the Cricket Club) which is unserviceable needs to be moved before the Jubilee. The Chairman will contact Bernard Baker to request this.
- c) Hammer Hill fingerpost – Cllr Hann has notified the Clerk that the matter is still in hand.

- d) Stephens Crouch fingerpost – Cllr Hann has notified the Clerk that the matter is in hand.
- e) War memorial repairs – Cllr White advised that he will have a quotation for the next PC meeting.
- f) Pavilion entrance pot holes – Cllr White has the matter in hand.
- g) Local Action Plan – Cllr White has the matter in hand.
- h) Rural Broadband – Jasper Wallace, the webmaster for the village community website, has expressed interest in assisting with the Parish Council’s support for the County Council’s initiative.

5) Jubilee Fund Raising Committee. Cllr White reported that new terms of reference (tabled at this meeting) have been drawn up and adopted by the Village Hall Management Committee establishing the fund raising committee as an official sub committee of the VH Management Committee. This clarification is in order to establish insurance cover for the fund raising committee as organisers with the Parish Council continuing to only be liable for Public Liability as landowners. This risk is covered by the Parish Council’s insurance.

The Parish Council is now relieved of any responsibility for underwriting the jubilee celebrations with this role being taken over by the Village Hall Management Committee.

6) Village Hall Management Committee. The annual accounts for the VH Management Committee and for the Appeal Fund were tabled for adoption (having already been adopted by the Village Hall Management Committee). Cllr Jones proposed and Cllr Ratcliffe seconded the proposal that they be adopted and this was AGREED.

7) Planning

Old

- a) RR/2011/2649/P - Ashburnham Place – Temporary climbing tower and abseil tower – Granted on a seasonal basis.
- b) RR/2011/2654/P – Thornden Farm – Extension – Refused
- c) RR/2012/106/P – Olivers Hill – Replace existing building on land in Lakehurst Lane – (farm notification). Permission not required.

New

- d) RR/2012/176L – Penhurst Retreat – Connection for bathroom waste to sewerage system with external pipe – No comment.
- e) RR/2012/242/P – Ashburnham Christian Trust (Cllr Jones declared a prejudicial interest but was requested to stay to answer questions.) – Application for erection of recreational zip wire (seasonal) adjacent to Target Wood – Support- provided seasonal.

Enforcement

- f) 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.
- g) 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. Enforcement continues.

Potential planning matters

- h) Cllr White reported receiving an approach from Strutt and Parker about a 600-pitch camping site being established in Penhurst Lane above Tower House. The Parish Council would oppose any planning application on several grounds. The site is a SSSI and the woods are on the National Register (and the tri centenary of Lancelot Brown is imminent).

8) Finance

Cllr Burfoot as the RFO reported that the account is £10,457 in credit.

9) Correspondence

- a) The proposed merger of East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove fire services will not proceed at this timing due to insurmountable funding difficulties. These stem from the different timings of the county funding compared to unitary authority funding. However, the three services will continue to pursue management rationalisations.
- b) Village Maintenance Requests have been lodged by Cllr Burfoot before the closing date of 29 Feb 2012.
- c) Bridleway maintenance needs were raised with the Clerk by a member of the public. Cllr Burfoot has dealt with it by contacting Keith Datchler, the bailiff at the Beeches Estate, who has made the necessary repairs.

10) Any Other Business

- a) It was RESOLVED that a flag pole should be erected on the sports field in time for the jubilee. Cllr Jones agreed to organise it (planning permission is not required if the pole is for flying the national flag).

11) Next meeting - Wednesday 28th March at 6.30 pm in the sports pavilion.