

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Present: Cllrs R.Burfoot, R.Jones, R.Hann, G.Ratcliffe, R.White

Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

Absent: Cllr C.Baker

In attendance: RDC Chairman, Cllr Lord Ampthill, RDC CEO Mr Derek Stevens, RDC Cllr A.Davies, 1 member of the public.

1) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 4 a) Personal interest – Cllrs R.Hann and R.White (members of Village Hall Management Committee)
- b) Agenda item 4 c) Personal interest – Cllrs R.Hann, R.Jones, G.Ratcliffe and R.White (members of the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee)
- c) Agenda item 5 a) Prejudicial interest – Cllr R.Hann employed by applicant
- d) Agenda item 5 b) Prejudicial interest – Cllr R.Jones employed by applicant (in another role)

2) Apologies for absence – Cllr P.Winfield

3) Minutes - RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th February 2012 (circulated) be signed as a correct record.

4) Matters Arising

- a) Village Hall – Still no reply after two months from Nick Watson of Strutt and Parker to a written request from Cllr White that availability of a site for the new village hall at the sports field be put in writing.
Electrical safety tests have been conducted on the hall wiring and revealed major failures. Estimates are awaited for cost of essential remedial works.
- b) Sports pavilion
 - i) The hiring agreement has been reworded to advise hirers that the insurance cover provided by the agreement covers hirers' liability.
 - ii) The repairs to the dangerous man hole cover have been quoted by Cornerstone Construction at less than £50 including the cost of materials at approximately £20. It was AGREED that repairs be put in hand.
 - iii) Repairs to the pot holes at the entrance are in hand (Cllr R.White).
 - iv) The powered roller (belonging to the Cricket Club) which is unserviceable still needs to be moved before the Jubilee. Its condition may cause injury to children climbing on it. The Chairman will contact Bernard Baker and advise him that if it is not removed within seven days, the Parish Council will organise its disposal.
- c) Jubilee
 - i) The flag pole is prepared and awaiting painting before being erected at the sports field.
 - ii) Funds raised to date are approximately £3600 following a grant of £400 from Rother District Council which will be used to pay one of the bands.
- d) Hammer Hill and Stephens Crouch Fingerposts - Cllr Hann has been notified that the works will be completed in 4 – 6 weeks.
- e) War memorial repairs – Cllr White advised that he has a quotation from Joe French of 50 pence per letter repaired. There are approximately 150 letters to repair making a total cost of approximately £300. It was RESOLVED to put the repairs in hand.
- f) Local Action Plan – Cllr White has the matter in hand.

5) Planning

Existing applications

- a) RR/2012//106L - Penhurst Retreat – Connection for bathroom waste to sewerage system with external pipe – Decision awaited
- b) 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 – Supported at PC meeting in February provided seasonal and dismantled at end of season. One member of the public has objected to the potential for noise nuisance. Cllr A.Davies (present at the PC meeting) volunteered to investigate whether a new application is required each year for the erection of the zip wire.

New applications

- c) RR/2012/426/P — Gardeners Farm – Fishing Lake – Previously permission granted for limited period – This application is to make the permission permanent – Application is supported.
- d) RR/2012/509L - Vicarage Cottage, Church Road, Ashburnham – change colour of weather boarding from pink to white – Application is supported.
- e) RR/2012/598P - Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street – replace existing extension with single storey extension plus replace conservatory with single storey extension – Property is Listed Grade II and an application for Listed Building Consent is expected. AGREED to support the recommendations of the Conservation Officer.

Enforcement updates

- 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. No updates to enforcement action.
- 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. No updates to enforcement action.

6) Finance

Cllr Burfoot as the RFO reported that the account is £10,468 in credit.

- 7) Localism Act 2011**– A new code of conduct is to be adopted following the repeal of section 55 of the Local Government Act 2000 which provides for the current statutory Standards Committees. New legislation is still being drafted but it is known that Regulations to be made under the Act will require the registration and disclosure of “Disclosable Pecuniary Interests” (DPI’s) which it is believed will be similar to the current prejudicial interest. RDC and ESCC are keen that all councils adopt a common standard rather than each setting out its own standards. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council will adopt the same standards and procedures as other East Sussex councils.

8) Correspondence

- a) Waste and Minerals Plan – County Council have adopted the plan.
- b) South East Water restrictions – PC has been advised that consultations with customers about exceptions to the restrictions will end tomorrow (29th March). Restrictions will come into force on 5th April.
- c) English Heritage – guidance for lighting Jubilee beacons received via Public Liability insurers – guidance forwarded to Jubilee Committee.
- d) Surrey & Sussex Assn of Local Councils – subscription to be renewed at invoiced cost of £99.85
- e) Andrew Wooding-Jones – letter of thanks for gift on his retirement as Parish Clerk.

9) Any Other Business

- a) Rural Broadband features in the latest edition of 'Your Council', the East Sussex County magazine. Individuals are urged to register their interest on the web site, The Parish Council will add their support by posting a repeat in the parish magazine of the 'Your Council' plea – "To fill out the broadband survey and register your interest or find out more, go to eastsussex.gov.uk/broadband or call 01273 481476."
- b) Highway maintenance requests were passed to Cllr R.Hann who will register them with the highway authority. These concern
 - i) Drainage at Stephens Crouch
 - ii) Nursery Cottage dangerous exit
 - iii) Pot hole above Lingham's on the hill before Corner House
 - iv) Pot hole near Keeley's Wood Yard
- c) Cllr R.Hann requested information about intentions to give a memento of the Diamond Jubilee to children in the village. It was RESOLVED that a commemoration mug be given and that the Parish Council will meet the cost.

10) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 23rd May 2012 at 6.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and on the same day will be held the Ashburnham Parish Meeting and the Penhurst Parish Meeting.