

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the

Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 at 7.15 pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

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

Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

In attendance: RDC Cllr A.Davies, 8 members of the public.

1) Election of Chairman

The clerk invited nominations for the offices of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr. Roger Burfoot was proposed as Chairman by Cllr. Richard Hann, seconded by Cllr. Colin Baker. Cllr. Richard White was proposed as Deputy Chairman by Cllr. Rhod Jones, seconded by Cllr. Roger Burfoot. There being no other nominations Cllr. R.Burfoot was declared as Chairman and Cllr. R.White as Deputy Chairman.

2) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 5 e) Personal interest – Cllrs R.Hann and R.White (members of Village Hall Management Committee)
- b) Agenda item 5 g) Personal interest – Cllrs R.Hann, R.Jones, G.Ratcliffe and R.White (members of the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee)
- c) Agenda item 6 f) Prejudicial interest – Cllr R.White – would need to be displaced as tenant farmer if the planning application were to be approved.

3) Apologies for absence – None (all present)

4) Minutes -RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th March 2012 (circulated) be signed as a correct record.

5) Matters Arising

- d) Village Hall – Cllr. R.White reported that the agents for the estate have now advised in writing that land for a new village hall will be made available, subject to terms and conditions of a lease, adjacent to the Sports Pavilion.
- e) 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 agreed repairs to the dangerous man hole cover will be carried out in the next few days.
 - iii) Repairs to the pot holes at the entrance are in hand (Cllr R.White).
 - iv) The powered roller (belonging to the Cricket Club) has been moved to a little used area of the sports field.
- f) Jubilee
 - i) The flag pole is installed and the County flag is being flown.
 - ii) All preparations are complete and the marquee will be erected on Friday 25th May. Security is being covered by a 24 hour rota which includes a minimum of 2 people sleeping in the marquee over night.
- g) Highway matters - Hammer Hill and Stephens Crouch Fingerposts: Cllr Hann has been notified that the works at Hammer Hill are complete but Stephens Crouch is now overdue.
Other highway matters: Nursery Cottage entrance – the request for warning signs has been rejected which only leaves mirrors as an option.
Drainage: a request for attention to be paid to large puddles at Nursery Cottage and

Stephens Crouch was lodged. Highways advise that they have investigated and do not believe there to be a problem now.

- h) War memorial repairs – Cllr White advised that the repairs are now in hand.
- i) Local Action Plan – Cllr White continues to monitor progress.

6) Planning

Existing applications

- a) RR/2012//106L - Penhurst Retreat – Connection for bathroom waste to sewerage system with external pipe – Approved
- b) RR/2012/242/P – Approved with conditions for one year
- c) RR/2012/426/P – Gardeners Farm – Fishing Lake. Permission granted for three years with conditions regarding car park.
- d) RR/2012/509L - Vicarage Cottage, Church Road, Ashburnham – change colour of weather boarding from pink to white – Approved
- e) RR/2012/598P - Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street – replace existing extension – awaiting decision

New applications

- f) RR/2012/726/P – Land at Penhurst Lane, Penhurst. Eco Campsites – Siting of facilities building and compost toilet in connection with campsite. Richard White, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the meeting for this item. The Chairman briefly summarised the full account of progress to date given to the Annual Parish Meetings earlier in the evening. A further application is expected for access and parking and Cllr. A. Davies advised the Parish Council that she expects that RDC will consider both applications together at a July meeting. The Council were unanimous in APPROVING all the actions taken so far to organise opposition to the application.
- g) RR/2012/873 – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham. Mr Ruben Van der Meer – Creation of a separate dwelling together with ancillary use of land incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling. The application arises from enforcement notice ENF/ASH/2011/492. The applicant claims that current use has been established for more than 4 years and is therefore applying for a Lawful Development Certificate.

The Parish Council are calling on RDC to

- i) rigorously test the evidence of established use,
 - ii) call in the application from delegated powers,
 - iii) conduct a site visit.
- h) RR/2012/901– Brook Cottage, The Forge – Alterations incl First Floor balcony – no comments.

Enforcement updates

- i) 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 notice served.
- j) ENF/ASH/2011/492 Oak Bank Farm – see RR/2012/873 above.

7) Finance

- a) Cllr Roger Burfoot as the RFO presented the annual accounts for adoption. Cllr. Gill Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. Richard Hann seconded the motion that the accounts be adopted and the motion was unanimously AGREED.
- b) Cllr Burfoot read the statutory notice regarding compliance which was unanimously approved by the Council. The accounts will now be passed to the external auditor.
- c) Cllr. Burfoot also reported that the account is £12,904 in credit.

- d) As part of the Jubilee celebrations the 3-phase electricity supply at the service entry at the pavilion needs terminating so that it can be routinely used. As this is an enhancement to the facility a request has been received from the Jubilee Committee that the Parish Council pay for the enhancement at a cost of £332. Cllr. Colin Baker proposed and Cllr. Richard Hann seconded the proposal to pay for the upgrade and this was APPROVED.
- e) The renewal of the pavilion insurance was APPROVED in the sum of £767.
- f) The renewal of the subscription for the domain name and web site hosting for the Parish web site was AGREED in the sum of £139.

8. Correspondence

- a. South East Coast Ambulance Service. A request has been received from Tony Smith, the designated Community First Responder, to assist with the funding of the special kit consisting of oxygen, defibrillator, masks, gloves, bandages etc. The full cost is £1200 and most of the other village organisations have been approached to assist. It was AGREED that the Parish Council will pledge £100 as a donation to the scheme.
- b. Theatre Sense have advised that they are seeking to engage children in performing arts in the area of Rother District Council.
- c. ESCC have initiated a survey of all salt bins on the highway in the parishes prior to scheduling repairs and restocking. Copies of the list of bins, supplied by ESCC, were distributed to Councillors who undertook to survey the salt bins in their locality and report back to the Clerk who will consolidate them for ESCC.
- d. Superfast Broadband – the project is moving to the procurement phase and a copy of the latest bulletin was distributed to Councillors.
- e. AirS have announce a new subscription service. This has been passed to the Village Hall Committee for their attention.
- f. A letter has been received from Eco Campsites regarding their planning application RR/2012/726/P. They request an opportunity to come and speak publicly to the village about their proposals in an effort to allay concerns. The Council RESOLVED to call an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 5th July at 6.30 p.m. in the village hall for the express purpose of inviting the public to attend. The Parish Council Meeting will be adjourned at a suitable point to allow members of the public to participate in a question and answer session with Eco Campsites.

9) Dates of future meetings for 2013 – (All are Wednesdays) -

23 Jan
 27 Mar
 22 May
 24 July
 25 Sep
 27 Nov

10) Declarations of Acceptance of Office – Cllrs R. Burfoot and R. White signed the statutory declarations of office for the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

11) Any Other Business – Cllrs were advised that the police have issued a warning about several strangers loitering, apparently with intent, in the village in recent days. Petrol has been stolen from a vehicle at The Pound and two men entered an unattended van outside the pavilion.

12) Date of next meeting – The Extraordinary Meeting will take place on 5th July and the next Ordinary Meeting will be on Wednesday 25th July at 6.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion.