

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 25th July 2012 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

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

Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

In attendance: ESCC Cllr K.Field, RDC Cllr A.Davies, 1 member of the public.

1) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllrs Ratcliffe and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee).
- b) Agenda item 7 c) Personal interest – Cllr Jones (employed by venue proprietor in another role).
- c) Agenda item 8 a) and 8 f) – Prejudicial interest - Cllr White (farms the land on which the proposed development would take place).

2) Apologies for Absence Cllr C.Baker

3) Minutes - the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, the Annual Meeting of Ashburnham parish and of the Annual Meeting of Penhurst parish, all held on 23rd May 2012 (circulated), were APPROVED without amendment and signed as a correct record.

4) Matters Arising

- a) Queen's Jubilee – Cllr Ratcliffe reported that the fund raising committee have narrowed to four the number of projects which are being investigated for costs and detailed planning. These are -
A Public Access Defibrillator, a memorial garden incorporating the war memorial plus the hard standing of the former pavilion, equipment for the sports pavilion and a charitable project, possibly in a third world country, which has the potential for direct involvement by local residents.
It was AGREED that if the creation of a memorial garden involved professional fees, then the Parish Council would consider meeting the cost.
- b) War memorial repairs – Cllr White reported that a quote for the repairs has been accepted and work will now proceed.

5) Sports Pavilion

- a) The clerk reported that key users had met to discuss housekeeping and cleaning and future enhancements to the facilities. Notes of the user group meeting were tabled. Carol Lovett has been engaged to clean on an ad hoc as required basis, especially prior to non-sports bookings such as coffee mornings.
- b) Cllr Ratcliffe reported that the recent coffee morning had produced a surplus of £219 to be spent on crockery and cutlery for the pavilion. Upgrading of tables and chairs was suggested by the user group at their meeting and several councillors supported such a move. Cllr R. Burfoot proposed and Cllr. R. Jones seconded a proposal that a budget of £2000 be approved for the purchase of new tables and chairs and this was AGREED unanimously with a comment that if other village organisations cared to add to the fund this would be welcomed. Investigations of costs and suitable types of chairs and tables will be undertaken by councillors.
- c) There was discussion about room for improvement to the condition of the interior of the building. It was agreed that a specification be drawn up for improvements to the two (non disabled) toilets. These would include panelling the back wall and

installation of close coupled WC suites, provision of toilet roll holders and paper towel dispensers, tiling of splash backs behind the hand basins and tiling the floor with quarry tiles (or some other hard wearing surface). It was suggested that Andy Stevens and Clive O'Sullivan be approached to submit quotations for undertaking the work.

It was also agreed that the mower should be taken out of the pavilion via the side door adjacent to the store room where it is kept. To this end a ramp needs to be made to clear the door step and this has to be suitable for wheel chair access too.

It was agreed that any enhancements to the grounds maintenance arrangements be held over until the memorial garden has been created.

- 6) Village Hall** Cllr R White reported that there had been delays in preparing an initial bid to the Big Lottery Fund for a new village hall on the site of the sports field, but that a small team are due to meet in the next few days to share out the tasks involved.

7) Highways matters

- a) New signs at Stevens Crouch have been installed.
- b) The 'No Through Road' sign (sign 12) in Farthing Lane is broken off at the base and the clerk will inform ESCC highways.
- c) A triathlon was recently held by an organisation which hired Ashburnham Place for the purpose. Concern was expressed at the way that the cycle time trial was held on local roads without prior notification to the police or consultation with the Parish Council. The Chairman will write to the Community Police Support Officer asking him to speak to the organisers with a view to further risk assessment of this potentially dangerous practice.
- d) The survey of salt bins and tubes in local roads, requested by ESCC Highways, continues and the clerk will feed back all results received from councillors by the due date of 1st August.

8) Planning

Existing applications

- a) RR/2012/726/P – Land at Penhurst Lane, Penhurst. Eco Campsites – Siting of facilities building and compost toilet in connection with campsite – refused 19/7/12.
- b) RR/2012/598/P & /698L – Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street – replace existing extension with single storey extension plus replace conservatory with single storey extension.- awaiting
- c) 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 – awaiting.
- d) RR/2012/901– Brook Cottage, The Forge – Alterations incl First Floor balcony – Approved (retrospective) 20 June 2012.

New applications

- e) RR/2012/1053/P - Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham – widening of existing farm track to form improved agricultural manoeuvring and storage area (retrospective application) – approved 11/7/12.
- f) RR/2012/1131/P – Eco Camp Sites – car park and access – RDC delegated 19/7/12 to refuse pending receipt of reports.
- g) RR/2012/1451/P – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham – Covered yard and general purpose building. Applicant statement states that manure from this facility will be spread at Deer Park Farm which is farmed by Cllr. R. White who therefore declared an interest although he had no prior knowledge of the application. Councillors noted that the facility is less than 100 metres from a residential dwelling

(Lattendens Farm) and that the said dwelling is not occupied by the applicant.

Enforcement

- h) ENF/ASH/2011/293 – Brays Hill – Holiday home used as a permanent home. Compliance date 17 May 2012. Enforcement notice served which runs from 1st July to 30 Sep 2012.
- i) ENF/ASH/2012/163 - Brook Cottage, The Forge - alterations - No Further Action - No breach of planning control.

9) Finance - Cllr Roger Burfoot as the RFO reported that the current bank balance is £11,600.

10) Correspondence

- a) ESCC Highways requested a survey of ownership of finger posts. The clerk has responded confirming that all are owned by ESCC and not the parish council and therefore no maintenance costs fall directly on the parish.
- b) The South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) NHS Trust request from Tony Smith, the designated Community First Responder (CFA), for assistance with the funding of his medical kit was noted at the March meeting of the parish council and a donation of £100 was pledged to the scheme. Since then the clerk has made numerous attempts to find out more details, including contacting the SECAMB team leader of the CFAs, but the only information forthcoming is that Tony Smith has deposited the required funds and there is an inference that additional funding is only required should more CFAs be recruited. In the circumstances, it was AGREED that the clerk should write to Tony Smith explaining that, as it is the council's understanding that funds are not immediately required and as the parish is going to obtain a Public Access Defibrillator, the council will not be making a donation at this stage.
- c) Warbelton PC (Wealden District) have requested assistance with ascertaining ownership of land through which two footpaths once ran. Both are current footpaths which stop in a dead end at the parish boundary. One (Warbleton 41) ran through Oak Bank Farm and the other ran from Winters Farm to Brays Hill via Frankwell Wood. Cllr. R. White undertook to find out whose land the latter path traverses.
- d) Mrs Linda Thompson has written to the PC expressing her thanks for the flowers sent in appreciation of her production of the 'review' at the jubilee celebrations.
- e) RDC planning department have advised a new scale of charges from July 2012.
- f) NHS Sussex have launched Shaping our Future, a public consultation on the future provision of stroke, general surgery and orthopaedic services in East Sussex. This runs for 14 weeks until 28th September and two booklets detailing a set of proposals were taken by councillors for reading and circulation.

11) Any Other Business

- a) Governance issues have arisen as a result of the Localism Act which requires a new form of Declaration of Interest, including a controversial provision for spouse or partner interests to be declared as well. The new form must be completed within 28 days of election but until the next elections the existing forms on file will be displayed on the RDC web site. However, forms are not on file for Cllrs R. Hann and P. Winfield and both are now filing them.
The Code of Conduct adopted by the parish council is that modelled on the RDC template. Signed codes are on file for all councillors except Cllr. C. Baker who (in his absence) is asked to sign.

12) Date of next meeting – 26th September 2012 at 6.30 pm in the sports pavilion.