

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Present: Cllrs C.Baker, R.Burfoot, R.Jones, R.Hann, R.White, P.Winfield

Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

In attendance: ESCC Cllr K.Field, RDC Cllr A.Davies, CPSO D. Holter (as a member of the public) plus 1 other member of the public.

1) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 4 a) Personal interest – Cllrs Jones and White (members of Queen's Jubilee Fund Raising Committee).
- b) Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllrs Baker and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee).

2) Apologies for Absence Cllr G.Ratcliffe

3) Minutes - the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 25th July were APPROVED without amendment and signed as a correct record.

4) Matters Arising

- a) Queen's Jubilee – Cllr Ratcliffe (amended to Cllr White before adoption) reported that the fund raising committee have not met since the last parish council meeting but are due to meet on 9th October. No comments have been received since it was publicised that the projects which are being investigated for costs and detailed planning 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.
- b) War memorial repairs – Cllr White reported that work is in hand with a guarantee from the contractor that it will be completed before the memorial service in November.

5) Sports Pavilion

- a) The clerk reported that he has been in negotiations with Carol Lovett regarding her cleaning services.
- b) Cllr Burfoot reported that part of the budget of £2000, approved at the previous meeting for the purchase of tables and chairs, has been spent and the 12 new tables are in service having cost £681. Two sample chairs have been ordered at a cost of £38 each. Should they prove suitable it was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Baker to make up the total number of chairs to 50 and this was AGREED. This increases the previously authorised spend on tables and chairs to £2500.
- c) Cllr Burfoot reported that two quotations had been received for refurbishment of the toilets and that the lower of the two, at £625, was from William Ludekens. This is essentially a labour only quote and the sanitary fittings have already been purchased. There was discussion about the most appropriate type of floor and a quote has been received for a moulded resin composite floor at a price of £1140 for all three toilets. This is more than councillors felt it appropriate to spend and a tiled floor was approved instead. Cllr White proposed and Cllr Hann seconded a proposal that £330 be provisioned for the floors which makes the total for the refurbishment £1760 and this was AGREED.

- 6) Village Hall** Cllr R White reported that the delayed AGM will be held one week from today followed by an ordinary meeting which will consider a survey questionnaire which it is proposed will be circulated in the village before Christmas. The purpose is primarily to provide ‘evidence of need’ which is the most important criteria for a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund for funding support for a new village hall.

There was discussion about the finances of the village hall and councillors noted that the village hall had received a donation from the Annual Ride and Walk of something in the order of £1000. This year’s donation is probably the last as the organisers are retiring after 25 years of organising.

7) Highways matters

- a) The ‘No Through Road’ sign (sign 12) in Farthing Lane has been removed for repairs by ESCC highways.
- b) Verge cutting continues to be a source of concern. On the one hand ESCC are putting out publicity to the effect that in response to the exceptionally favourable growing conditions they are carrying out an additional cutting (making three in total) and on the other hand not one cut has been carried out in Penhurst and the same is true of Lakehurst Lane in Ashburnham.

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with the Highways Steward for the area but had been informed that it was not the responsibility of the Steward and the request for information had been forwarded to Ken Sorhaindo as the person responsible. No response to enquiries has so far been received.

8) Planning

- a) *Existing applications decided*
 - i) RR/2012/1131/P – Eco Camp Sites – car park and access – refused 23/9/12
 - ii) RR/2012/598/P & /698L – Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street – replace existing extension with single storey extension plus replace conservatory with single storey extension – granted 2/8/12.
 - iii) RR/2012/901– Brook Cottage, The Forge – Alterations incl First Floor balcony – granted retrospectively 20/6/12.
 - iv) RR/2012/1053/P – Oak Bank Farm, Ashburnham – retrospective widening of farm track – granted retrospectively 10/7/12.
 - v) RR/2012/1451/P – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham – Covered yard and general purpose building – granted 5/9/12.
- b) *Existing applications decisions awaited*
 - i) RR/2012/873 – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham. Mr Ruben Van der Meer – Lawful Development Certificate – decision awaited.
- c) *New applications*
 - i) RR/2012/1442/P - High Ridge, Penhurst Lane, Penhurst, TN33 9QN - New stable and tractor shed plus new entrance from road – comment AGREED as “the parish council has no objection to the building but fail to see the need for an additional vehicular access”.
 - ii) RR/2012/1610/L - Red Barn Thatch - enlargement of existing balcony to create improved disabled access – parish council has no particular view.
 - iii) RR/2012/1835/L - Vicarage Cottage - restoration of original features, new roof light; new lobby storage and wc in old garage etc., - parish council has no particular view.
 - iv) RR/2012/1875/L - High Ridge, Penhurst Lane, Penhurst, TN33 9QN - New attic window to give light and ventilation to attic storage area - parish council has no particular view.

d) Enforcement update

- i)** ENF/ASH/2011/293 – Brays Hill – Holiday home used as permanent home. Compliance date 17 May, Enforcement notice served which runs from 1st July to 30 Sep 2012.
- ii)** ENF/ASH/2011/492 - Oak Bank Farm - creation of separate dwelling and running a landscaping business – initial outcome is application RR/2012/873 (above). Further update awaited.

- 9) Finance** - Cllr Burfoot as the RFO reported that the current bank balance is £13,446 after paying for the new tables and receipt of this year's precept. The annual accounts have been approved by the auditors *with a commendation for the preparation of the accounts.* (phrase in italics deleted before adoption)

10) Correspondence

- a) A letter from Tony Smith was circulated regarding the decision of the parish council not to contribute to the cost of equipment for his role as a Community First Responder. The clerk was asked to reply stating that the parish council, as custodians of public funds, based their decision on the information available to members at the time.
- b) The Rural Rother Trust have requested a donation to assist with their continuing work in assisting those in need in the villages. It was AGREED to make a donation of £100 as in previous years.
- c) An email reminder has been received regarding the election for Police & Crime Commissioners and the meetings giving the public the opportunity to meet the candidates. The next is at Battle Memorial Hall at 7.45 pm on Friday 5th October 2012.

11) Any Other Business

- a) The clerk reported on his attendance at the Rother Annual Parish Conference on 13th September. A topic of discussion was the ingredients for a successful annual parish assembly / meeting. Specified in the Localism Act as being required between March and May with a starting time after 6 pm, recommendations from the experience of other parishes is to separate it from the parish council by holding it on a day when there is no parish council meeting, to provide some refreshment to make it more of a social occasion, to invite local clubs and organisations to 'exhibit' what they do and, if possible, to find a local topic with which people are likely to engage.
- b) The PCSO was invited to report on crime and crime prevention in the area.

- 12) Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 28th November 2012 at 6.30 pm in the sports pavilion.