

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council**

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

**Present:** Cllrs R.Burfoot, R.Jones, R.Hann, R.White, P.Winfield  
Brian Holdstock (Clerk)

**Absent:** Cllrs C.Baker, G.Ratcliffe

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

### **1) Disclosures of interest**

- a) Agenda item 4 a) Personal interest – Cllrs Hann, Jones, and White (members of Jubilee Fund Raising Committee)
- b) Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllr White (chair of Village Hall Management Committee).

### **2) Apologies for Absence** Cllr G.Ratcliffe

- 3) Minutes** - the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September were APPROVED after correction of item 4 a) – report was by Cllr White, not Cllr Ratcliffe (who was absent).

### **4) Matters Arising**

- a) Queen’s Diamond Jubilee – Cllr White reported that a Public Access Defibrillator remains the first choice for disposition of a large proportion of the funds. The landlord of the Ash Tree Inn has agreed that it can be sited on the exterior wall facing the car park. Councillors suggested that, as a courtesy, the landlord, who is a tenant, should check with the owners that they are content with this arrangement.
- b) War memorial repairs – Cllr White reported that repairs to the lettering had not been carried out despite firm promises that they would be done before the Remembrance Day service. Councillors AGREED that a new contractor must be found.

### **5) Sports Pavilion**

- a) The clerk reported that a supplier contract for cleaning, including the supply of cleaning materials, is now in place with Carol Lovett as the supplier.
- b) Cllr Burfoot reported that the approved procurement of tables and chairs has been completed at a cost of £2475 (budget £2500).  
It was AGREED that the sofas were out of place in the main room and the cricket club are to be asked to keep them in one or other of the changing rooms.
- c) Cllr Burfoot reported that the approved refurbishment of the toilets has been completed at a cost of £1675 (budget £1700). Painting of the interior walls of the main room was undertaken at additional cost and the entire refurbishment cost, including tables and chairs, totalled £4300 (budget £4350). The cost has been met from the council’s reserves.  
A secure storage container in which to keep the mowers outside has not been located yet but councillors will continue to look for something suitable.  
The other remaining refurbishment tasks are making secure storage cupboards (the contractor has promised to complete within two weeks) and a ramp for wheel chairs to leave by the emergency exit.
- d) Cllr R White reported that the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee are keen to pursue their other main project which is the creation of a memorial garden by extending the area around the war memorial into the sports field with a patio or paved area linking it to the pavilion. The Clerk was instructed to write “at the request of the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee” to the land agents and seek approval as the parish council are only tenants of the sports field.

- e) Hirings of the sports pavilion continue to grow with the Art Club having transferred from the Village Hall and the new Film Club having located there.

## **6) Village Hall**

- a) Cllr R White reported that questionnaire survey organised by the Village Hall Management Committee, reported at the last meeting, was now in progress and a high percentage of responses is expected. Questions included concerned rural broadband and bus services, both subjects on which the views of the parish council are being sought. Cllr P Winfield proposed and Cllr R Burfoot seconded the motion that the parish council share the cost (printing and stationery plus professional analysis) equally with the Village Hall Management Committee up to a total cost of £500 and this was AGREED.
- b) Cllrs R Hann and R White reported that they had met with Richard Bickersteth to provide him with information about the state of repair of the village hall, the thinking about a bid for lottery funding and other related matters. They were reminded by Mr Bickersteth that the offer made some years ago that his family would augment funds raised by the village still stands. This offer is to add £3 for every £1 raised as a result of fund raising activity and can be used both for repairs to the village hall and as a contribution to the cost of a new one. Cllr White reported that the estimated cost of bringing the electrical installation into compliance with IEE regulations is estimated at £3500 and that a further £5000 might be needed for remedying serious defects to the fabric. The Village Hall Management Committee are to debate this issue at their forthcoming meeting next Monday.

## **7) Highways matters**

- a) The 'No Through Road' fingerpost (sign 12) in Farthing Lane has been replaced with a new 3-arm sign. A broken finger post at Slivericks has also been replaced.
- b) Verge cutting was finally carried out in Penhurst Lane and Lakehurst Lane following requests from the parish clerk.
- c) Farthing Lane – the warning bollards on the approach to the bridge between Glydes Farm and Redpale have been progressively demolished by one or more vehicles. The clerk will report the matter to ESCC highways with a request for reinstatement.

## **8) Planning**

- a) *Existing applications decided*
  - i) RR/2012/873 – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham. Mr Ruben Van der Meer – Lawful Development Certificate – certificate granted.
  - ii) RR/2012/1442/P - High Ridge, Penhurst Lane, Penhurst, TN33 9QN - New stable and tractor shed plus new entrance from road. Approved 17 Oct 2012 subject to conditions.
  - iii) RR/2012/1610/L - Red Barn Thatch - enlargement of existing balcony to create improved disabled access. Approved 11 Oct 2012.
  - iv) RR/2012/1835/L - Vicarage Cottage - restoration of original features, new roof light; new lobby storage and wc in old garage etc.. Approved 5 Nov 2012.
  - v) RR/2012/1875/L - New attic window to give light and ventilation to attic storage area. Approved 30 Oct 2012.
- b) *Existing applications decisions awaited*
  - i) None
- c) *New applications*
  - i) RR/2012/1977/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow - extend existing barn – approved 21/11/12
  - ii) RR/2012/1980/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow - extend existing cattle barn – approved 21/11/12
  - iii) RR/2012/1981/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow - new barn – approved 23/11/12

- iv) 9/13/1/B1 - Henley Bridge Stud (Tania Stapely) - modification of planning obligation – refused 28/11/12
- v) RR/2012/2222/P – High Ridge, Penhurst - variation of conditions 2 and 10 imposed on RR/2012/1442/P to allow an increase in roof pitch from 27 degrees to 37 degrees and the use of clay tiles – parish council supports.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30 Sep 2012. Enforcement Officer is to visit shortly to check on compliance.
  - ii) ENF/ASH/2011/492 - Oak Bank Farm - creation of separate dwelling and running a landscaping business. The dwelling has been granted a Certificate of Lawful Development (above). Other matters are awaiting resolution by the Compliance Officer.
  - iii) ENF/ASH/2012/469 - Henley Bridge Stud - conversion of building to holiday let - application requested.

## **9) Finance**

- a) Cllr R Burfoot, as RFO, tabled an analysis of the current year’s budget (income £8,005; expenditure £4910) and actual to date (income £8,332; expenditure £8,702) with a proposed budget for 2013/14 (income £8,910; expenditure £3,130). His recommendation is that the precept, which has been the same for several years, remain as it is in order to maintain a reasonable balance and to allow for flexibility. For example, the cost of refurbishment of the pavilion was not part of the budget but could be undertaken because there were sufficient reserves. Cllr P Winfield proposed and Cllr. R Jones seconded the motion that the parish precept remain at £7000 for the next financial year and this was AGREED.
- b) Cllr R Burfoot proposed and Cllr R White seconded the motion that both of the parochial church councils receive £300 as the annual contribution towards the upkeep of the graveyards.

## **10) Correspondence**

- a) Rural Broadband progress was reported by the clerk who conveyed the contents of the latest press release. It was noted that if residents of Ashburnham and Penhurst want to support a claim for faster broadband they should go to [www.goesussex.co.uk](http://www.goesussex.co.uk) and register their interest. Cllrs are in favour of supporting this message wherever and whenever an opportunity presents itself.
- b) Battle Area Community Transport have requested that the parish council write a letter of support of BACT’s bid for lottery funding. The clerk was instructed to write in support.
- c) The Rural Rother Trust have written a letter of thanks for the donation reported at the last meeting.
- d) Ash die back disease is being monitored and ESCC are in the process of preparing a database for the county.

## **11) Meetings Calendar for 2013**

- a) The following dates were agreed:
  - Wed 30<sup>th</sup> January
  - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March
  - Wed 29<sup>th</sup> May (AGM)
  - Wed 31<sup>st</sup> July
  - Wed 25<sup>th</sup> September
  - Wed 27<sup>th</sup> November
- b) The date of the “Annual Assembly of the electors of Ashburnham and Penhurst” was AGREED as Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013 from 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. The clerk

will publicise this date and invite village clubs and organisations to participate in the form of some form of table top exhibition of their activities.

**12) Any Other Business**

- a) Cllr R Hann requested that councillors give some thought to establishing open and transparent communication links with the land agents who manage the Ashburnham Estate and the Penhurst Estate. Cllr Hann suggested there was much to be gained if the development agendas of the land agents were to be shared with the parish council.

The matter was debated at length but councillors rejected the idea of meetings additional to and separate from parish council meetings. Where there was agreement was that the land agents should be invited to address parish council meetings, as members of the public, when they judge there to be an issue of public interest.

It was AGREED that a letter to the land agents should be drafted requesting that the parish council be given advance notice, prior to the lodging of any planning applications, of any development proposal which in the land agents' judgement will be a matter of public interest. In this event, the land agents should request an invitation to address the parish council at one of their scheduled meetings and discuss their plans.

**13) Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 6.30 pm in the sports pavilion.