

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Tuesday 29th January 2013 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Councillors present: Cllrs R.Burfoot (Chair), C.Baker, R.Jones, R.Hann, G. Ratcliffe, R.White

In attendance: Brian Holdstock (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

Councillors not present: Cllr P. Winfield

Apologies for absence: Cllr. P. Winfield, ESCC Cllr K. Field

1) Disclosures of interest

- a) Agenda item 3 a) Personal interest – Cllrs Hann, Jones, Ratcliffe and White (members of Jubilee Fund Raising Committee)
- b) Agenda item 5 Personal interest – Cllrs Baker, Hann and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee).

2) Minutes - the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 28th November were APPROVED by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3) Matters Arising

- a) Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Cllrs reported that the Public Access Defibrillator, funded by a donation to the parish council, is now available at The Ash Tree Inn. It remains for it to be installed in a cabinet which arrived yesterday.
- b) War memorial repairs – Cllr White reported that a new contractor has not yet been found.
- c) Annual Parish Meeting – the clerk reported that all village clubs and societies have been notified of the date (Thursday 18th April 2013) and asked to have a presence.
- d) Communications with land agents – Cllr Hann reminded the meeting of the discussion at the last meeting and of his wish that dealings between the parish council and the land agents managing the Ashburnham Estate and the Penhurst Estate should be more transparent and less confrontational. It remained his view that a communication from the parish council to the land agents should be sent encouraging them to come forward at an early stage to discuss their future intentions.

The chairman tabled the draft of a letter which simply informed the land agents that the parish council had agreed to invite them to “discuss any future development proposals which would be a matter of public interest in the parish.”

There was some debate on the matter during which Cllr Baker said that he had no objection to the land agents coming to address a normal meeting but would be opposed to holding a special meeting for this purpose.

Cllr Ratcliffe did not see the need to send an invitation as the dates of future parish council meetings are widely publicised in the parish magazine.

All were of the opinion that it would be better if agents came to the parish council before lodging a formal planning application, but many were of the view that this was unlikely to happen (although this was not a reason to withhold an invitation).

The sending of the draft letter was then put to a vote with Cllrs Hann and Jones in favour and Cllrs Baker, Burfoot, Ratcliffe and White against and so the proposal was lost.

4) Sports Pavilion – the new lockers are installed and in use.

5) Village Hall

- a) Cllr White reported that questionnaire survey organised by the Village Hall Management Committee had been completed with some 300 responses. The meeting was then adjourned to allow Nicky Bishop to make a PowerPoint presentation of the findings. The chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Bishop for the work she had put into the design of the questionnaire and the analysis of the findings.
- b) On the resumption of the meeting Cllr White reported that, following a competitive tender process, a contract had been let with Hannington-Gilbert for carrying out repairs and alterations to the electrical installation and work had commenced yesterday, 28th January. Work is expected to take a little over a week and the cost is £2995 including vat.
- c) Cllr White reported estimates for building repair work were still being obtained.

6) Highways matters

- a) The clerk reported that ESCC is consulting parishes about future costs of maintenance of finger posts.
- b) Councillors observed that there are now so many pot holes in so many of the roads in the parish that it was impossible to log and report them all. Cllr Hann intends to make representations to the ESCC highways department.

7) Planning

- a) *Existing applications decided*
 - i) 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. Granted, 19 Dec '12
- b) *New applications*
 - i) RR/2012/2474/O - Henley Bridge Stud - lawful development certificate in respect of holiday letting accommodation – no comment
 - ii) RR/2013/19/FN – Reed Wood, Brownbread Street - forestry access road – REFUSED full application required (too close to a metalled road)
 - iii) RR/2013/4/P & 5/L – Red Barn Thatch – revisions to enlargement of balcony – no comment
- c) *Enforcement update*
 - i) ENF/ASH/2011/492 - Oak Bank Farm - creation of separate dwelling and running a landscaping business – initial outcome is application RR/2012/873 (above) '873 granted so development is lawful. Permission granted 12 Dec '12
 - ii) ENF/ASH/2013/10 – Oak Bank Farm - Breach Of Planning Permission And Control RR/2012/1053/P (Retrospective widening of farm track) Information requested
- d) *Neighbouring parishes – Mountfield*

RR/2012/2343/P Baldwin's Farm – new residence plus 6 eco lodges – position of the parish council is that it is opposed and will make representations that the proposal is entirely inappropriate, the style and scale contravenes numerous AONB criteria and the proposal does not meet the criteria for new residential building.

8) Finance

- a) Cllr R Burfoot, as RFO, tabled a small revision to the detail of the precept proposal but this does not alter the overall value which remains at £7000 for the next financial year.
- b) The bank balance currently stands at £8,767.

9) Village Notice Boards – The Women’s Institute are offering to donate a sum of money to be spent for the benefit of the village by providing an additional notice board for parish notices. It is expected that this will be to replace the one outside the chapel which can then be placed in a new location either at The Pound or outside The Ash Tree Inn.

10) Correspondence

- a) ESCC have submitted for consultation a draft of their Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

11) Any Other Business

- a) Cllrs requested that an agenda item at the next meeting be about the dissemination of the questionnaire survey results and the consequential actions.

12) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 6th March at 6.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion.