

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

**held on Wednesday 6th March 2013 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs R.Burfoot (Chair), R.Jones, R.Hann,  
G. Ratcliffe, R.White, P.Winfield

**In attendance:** Brian Holdstock (Clerk), ESCC Cllr K.Field,  
RDC Cllr A.Davies plus 2 members of the public.

**Councillors not present:** Cllr C.Baker

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

- a) Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllrs Hann and White (members of Village Hall Management Committee).

**2) Apologies for absence** Apologies have been received from Cllr. C.Baker.

**3) Minutes** - the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January were APPROVED by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### **4) Matters Arising**

- a) Public Access Defibrillator – Cllr White reported that there was some delay to the siting of the defibrillator as some electrical installation work is required. This will be paid for by the Jubilee Fund Raising Committee.
- b) War memorial repairs – Cllr White reported that a new contractor has not yet been found.
- c) Village notice boards – no update from the W.I. regarding the sourcing of a suitable notice board.

### **5) Sports Pavilion**

- a) Cllr Burfoot reported that EDF had requested an increase of the direct debit as a result of a long period of estimated readings followed by an actual reading indicating arrears.
- b) The Art Club have booked a further 14 meetings but have requested that two more tables be provided. Cllr Burfoot proposed and Cllr Winfield seconded a motion that two more tables be purchased and this was AGREED.

### **6) Village Hall**

- a) Cllr White reported that a draft bid for funding from the Big Lottery Fund has been sent to ESCC's external funding expert for a final check before submission to BLF as an initial outline bid. It is still hoped to have some feedback on this bid by the time of the Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April.  
RDC Cllr A.Davies advised the parish council that RDC has a Rother Community Grants Fund which will provide up to £30,000 for this kind of initiative. The next round of grants will be in April and it may be prudent to lodge a bid in support of a lottery fund bid.
- b) Cllr White reported that the electrical work has been completed and that contracts have been let for the building maintenance work in the kitchen and the toilets. The work on the windows has been held over until Richard Bickersteth has been appraised of the costs to date and, therefore, his and the trust's liability for partial funding. Work initiated to date can be funded by the Village Hall Management Committee.

## **7) Village Questionnaire Survey**

- a) Cllr. R.Hann tabled a document summarising some of the village initiatives and actions which have arisen from the survey and suggested that the parish council could play a role in coordinating some of the activities and in ensuring that momentum is not lost. A number of issues were then reviewed as follows.
- b) Rural Broadband – Parish Council are leading on this and a note will be put in the parish magazine and on the village web site urging people to go to the ‘go-east sussex’ web site and register their desire for faster broadband.
- c) Public Transport – Parish Council are leading on this and will establish contact with Battle Area Community Transport (BACT). This will be delayed until after Nicky Bishop has made a presentation on the survey to Ashburnham Christian Trust (ACT) as ACT are thought to be able to generate almost daily traffic if a bus service were to be provided.
- d) Home visits – The churches will lead on this and Richard Hann is actively seeking to generate a more strategic approach by the churches to visiting those at home who would benefit from more community support.
- e) Penhurst involvement – The survey clearly showed a level of interest from Penhurst respondents in greater involvement in the community although it is not clear what people had in mind. Cllr Hann will investigate further.
- f) It was agreed that the topic of response to the questionnaire survey should remain an agenda item.

## **8) Annual Parish Meeting**

- a) The Clerk reported that a positive response had been received from organisations active in the village and most had agreed to participate.
- b) The Clerk reported that invitations to participate had been sent to those represented as trustees of the Village Hall – i.e. those on the Management Committee. Councillors pointed out that although entitled to be on the Management Committee, some organisations were not represented. These include the After Schools Club and the Parish Lunches. Councillors also voiced the view that all the churches be invited. The Clerk will seek out the appropriate invitees and contact them.

## **9) Highways**

- a) Cllr R.Hann reported that he continued to make multiple notifications on the ESCC web site about dangerous pot holes and had also reported a number of emergency action holes.
- b) Cllr R.Jones reported that a colleague had recently damaged a wheel and tyre (costing £100 to repair) in a pot hole on the A271 near Steven’s Crouch. RDC Cllr A.Davies advised that an insurance claim can be lodged with ESCC by telephoning 0345 60 80 193.

## **10) Planning**

- a) *Existing applications decided*
  - i) RR/2012/2474/O - Henley Bridge Stud - lawful development certificate in respect of holiday letting accommodation – Approved 8/2/13.
  - ii) RR/2013/4/P & 5/L – Red Barn Thatch – revisions to enlargement of balcony – Listed Building Consent 22/2/13.
- b) *New applications*
  - i) 9/13/1/B1/A - Henley Bridge Stud - Removal of a section 52 agreement and its substitution with a section 106 amending clause 4(b) to occupation either for someone employed in agriculture or someone employed at the equestrian business. After discussion councillors AGREED to oppose any expansion of the existing restrictions.

- ii) RR/2013/3/P - Olivers Hill – Retention of structures on site, utilised in conjunction with agricultural undertaking. Councillors AGREED to support.
- iii) RR/2013/298/P - Oak Bank Farm - change of use of land to form hard standing for residential building recently approved as lawful. No comment.
- iv) RR/2013/277/P - Gardeners Farm, Brays Hill - Existing residential property changed into 2 residential properties. No comment.

**c) Enforcement update**

- i) ENF/ASH/2012/28 - Olivers Hill Farm (Penhurst Distant Holding) - breach of condition. Application received Feb 2013 RR/2012/3/P
- ii) ENF/ASH/2012/469Henley Bridge Stud - conversion of building to holiday let - application requested. RR/2012/2474/O, received and approved.

**d) Neighbouring parishes – Mountfield**

RR/2012/2343/P Baldwin's Farm – new residence plus 6 eco lodges – parish council have opposed. Decision is awaited.

**11) Finance**

- a) Cllr R Burfoot, as RFO, reported that the bank balance currently stands at £8,334.
- b) Cllr Burfoot reported that a new internal auditor will need to be found at the end of this year. The Clerk will make some enquiries.

**12) Correspondence**

- a) None

**13) Any Other Business**

- a) None

**14) Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 6.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion.**