

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 31st July 2013 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

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

In attendance: Brian Holdstock (Clerk), Cllr Kathryn Field plus 2 members of
the public.

Councillors not present: Cllr C.Baker

1) Disclosures of interest

Agenda item 6 Personal interest – Cllrs White, Hann and Baker – members of Village Hall Management Committee

2) Apologies for absence

Cllr Pat Winfield. RDC Cllr Anghared Davies

3) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th May 2013 were adopted and signed by the chairman.

4) Matters Arising from the minutes

- a) Road side banners to advertise annual parish assembly. The clerk will continue to research options regarding suppliers, costs and layout. It was noted that a suitable location would be The Pound and that the wording needs to be large enough to be read from passing vehicles.
- b) War memorial repairs. The clerk will continue to research suppliers.
- c) Rural Broadband. The clerk has been informed that ESCC have signed contracts with BT to provide 95% coverage, that Ashburnham and Penhurst is included and that a fibre based solution is proposed. BT are expected to start work in the county this autumn. Actual provision in this parish is subject to survey.

5) Sports Pavilion

- a) Window cleaning (exterior) – it was agreed that in order to overcome the practicalities of the window cleaner having access to the exterior of the building he should be provided with a key to the padlock on the main gate. The chairman will obtain an additional key.

6) Village Hall

- a) Cllr White reported that members of the management committee had an informal meeting with Richard Bickersteth. Mr Bickersteth advised that the Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust (ATT) were neutral on the matter of building a new village hall, would look favourably on a request to provide land for it at the sports field but had no plans to provide any supporting finance. Cllr Hann reported that in a subsequent email, Mr Bickersteth acknowledged that the existing village hall building is no longer suitable.
- b) Cllr White reported that the committee had formed three working groups to pursue the new hall project. These are to focus on design with costs, on fund raising and on grant applications and form of organisation.
- c) In the meantime, Cllr White reported that maintenance work on the village hall is up to date and that there are no current health and safety issues. The plan is to continue with the old hall and access ATT's offer to pay for 75% of any future maintenance work should the need arise.

7) Village Questionnaire Survey / Community matters

- a) Cllr Hann reported that he had met with Nicky Bishop, Carol Lovett and Storm Hann to review comments made in the survey and subsequent action regarding community involvement and loneliness and also the bolstering of village trade by means of a community shop or farmers market.
- b) On the subject of community involvement and loneliness, Cllr Hann reported that he had met with Val Smith, Community Friends Rother Development Officer. The Community Friends Scheme, funded by the Tudor Trust, provides a more organised approach to supporting those in the villages who need support by way of a visit or having a small job done. Val Smith has offered to make a short presentation to the parish council and it was agreed to accept her offer. Cllr Hann will offer the date of the next meeting (25th September). Funding for a scheme is said to be modest and Cllr Burfoot advised that support grants can be made as a Section 317 grant provided it is budgeted for in advance.
- c) Cllr Jones enquired if any actions are being undertaken to address activities for young people. He advised that the Ashburnham Chapel are looking for an opportunity to support any initiative in this area. Members were not aware of any activity and Cllr Jones promised to pursue the matter and report to the next parish council meeting.
- d) Cllr Hann reminded members that the parish council has been invited to respond to a village bus survey. Cllr Hann agreed to complete the survey on behalf of the parish council.

8) Highways matters

- a) Members are not aware of any verge cutting having been undertaken in the parishes this year.
- b) The clerk reported that the chevrons warning of the bend at the top of Brownbread Street have now been repaired.
- c) A member of the public reported that gulley emptying in Brownbread Street was only partially complete with the ones at the end nearest the chapel having been missed.
- d) Members continue to be concerned about the slow progress in repairing pot holes. The clerk will post a notice in the parish magazine advising people how they can make a report direct to the ESCC web site.

9) Planning

- a) *Existing applications*
 - i) RR/2012/2343/P Baldwin's Farm – new residence plus 6 eco lodges – decision awaited.
 - ii) RR/2013/828P - Burnt Barns Farm, Frickley Hollow - Proposed toilet facilities and biodisc water treatment plant – approved 1/7/13
 - iii) RR/2013/829/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Frickley Hollow – Proposed boat house – approved 2/7/13
 - iv) RR/2013/979/P – Reed Wood, Brownbread Street – Restoration of existing woodland track – approved 3/7/13
 - v) RR/2013/3/P Olivers Hill - Retention of structures on site, utilised in conjunction with agricultural undertaking - approved
 - vi) RR/2013/298/P - Oak Bank Farm - change of use of land to form hard standing for residential building recently approved as lawful – awaiting decision
- b) *New applications*
 - i) None
- c) *Enforcement update*

- i) ENF/ASH/2011/293 - Brays Hill - holiday let rules breached - enforcement action – prosecution process instituted 16 May 2013; prosecution commenced for non compliance 23 July 2013
 - ii) ENF/ASH/2013/10 - Oak Bank Farm - Breach Of Planning Permission regarding commercial parking – inspection visit made which confirms commercial parking – owner requested to address the issue or face prosecution.
 - iii) ENF/ASH/2013/229 – Oak Bank Farm - Breach Of Planning Permission And Control RR/2012/1053/P and RR/2013/298/P - inspection visit made which confirms breaches – owner requested to address the issue or face prosecution.
 - iv) ENF/ASH/2013/231 - Anderson Wood, Ashburnham - Importation of MoT type 1 onto bridle path. Application requested.
- d) Coldharbour Farm travellers site.
- i) Cllr Burfoot reported that the appeal decision is still awaited regarding the limitation to temporary consent and that RDC have promised that a public consultation will commence this autumn.
 - ii) Cllr Burfoot reported that the Action Group had discovered that the existing site is not in fact owned by a traveller but by a company whose directors include the husband of a traveller.
 - iii) Financial support for the Action Group was discussed. Cllr Baker reminded members that Wendy Myers had not appeared to be actively in favour of such funding. Cllr White suggested that this is not our fight and that it would be wrong to pledge funds. Other members agreed and it was decided to review the matter again if and when the Action Group asked for support and to wait for the public consultation.

10) Finance

- a) Cllr Burfoot reported that funds in the bank stand at £12,156 and a further £3500 precept money is expected shortly.
- b) The annual village flower show and fete is to be held at the sports field on 10th August with a marquee to be erected. Cllr Baker proposed and Cllr Ratcliffe proposed that the pavilion hiring fee be waived and this was *agreed*.
- c) Cllr White asked members to consider what future support might be given by the parish council to the new village hall project.

11) Correspondence

- a) None

12) Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

The clerk requested leave to table an agenda item at the next meeting regarding the community web site. The work load in updating it needs sharing between more people. Furthermore, a site which accepts donations might be useful in future and this is not possible with the current site. Members agreed that the matter be discussed at the next meeting and in the meantime the clerk will research some options.

13) Date of future meetings (until next AGM)

The next meeting will be held, as scheduled in the forward calendar, on Wed 25th Sep 2013 at 7.30 pm.