

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 27th November 2013 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

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

In attendance: Brian Holdstock (Clerk), ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field,
RDC Cllr Anghared Davies plus 1 member of the public.

Councillors not present: Cllr R. Hann

1) Disclosures of interest

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

2) Apologies for absence

Cllr R. Hann

3) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2013 were adopted and signed by the chairman.

4) Matters Arising from the minutes

a) Item 10 d) i) Relocation of replaced village notice board - ESCC Highways have advised that relocating the redundant notice board to a position adjacent to the telephone box at The Pound would require a license from them for which there would be no charge. There is the possibility of planning permission also being needed from RDC but this depends on the size of the board.

5) Sports Pavilion

- a) Clerk report: The hedge has been partially removed from behind the war memorial and ranch fencing installed funded by the Jubilee Fund. 400 daffodils have been planted in and around the area, funded by the Women's Institute. The Jubilee Fund plan to hard landscape from its own funds reserved for the purpose. The Gardening Club have agreed to adopt the soft landscaping in the Spring and to maintain the area thereafter.
- b) East Sussex flag: It was agreed that the flag should be replaced as and when needed. Cllr G Ratcliffe advised that the cost is under £4 per flag when purchased on line.
- c) Ninfield Beavers: Cllr R Burfoot asked for guidance on what hire fee to charge the Ninfield Beavers who wish to hire the pavilion for a sleep-over event. As a hirer from outside the village the fee should be £50 whereas those within the village pay £25 and regular users pay £15. Cllr C Baker proposed and Cllr R Burfoot seconded the proposal that they be charged £25 as they are a neighbouring parish and membership of their group is open to Ashburnham youngsters.

6) Village Hall

- a) Cllr R White reported that three fund raising events, in aid of a new village hall, had been held. A quiz night raised £250, a barn dance raised £502 and the village bonfire night event raised approximately £150. Proceeds are banked in the Appeal Fund account but ring fenced for the new village hall.
- b) Cllr R White reported that support for fund raising for a new village hall was not universal and that the extent of the support has yet to be established.

7) Community Matters

- a) Following the presentation to the Parish Council in September by Val Smith, the Rother Community Friends Project Officer, a local group has been started. The scheme has adopted the name "Friendly Neighbours" which aligns with its aims. The survey conducted on a house to house basis achieved a response of 76 people offering help, plus 19 'customers'. Based on experience with other schemes the organisers anticipate the number of people requesting help will grow over time. Both groups are spread all around the village and there is a wide mix of offers and needs. All volunteers (except short-term volunteers at Ashburnham Place) will be DBS checked.

An Organising Group has been formed, a constitution agreed, and officers appointed: Hannah Latty and Nicky Bishop are co-chairs, Carol Larkin is treasurer, Carol Andrews is secretary, and Phil Tarrant is database officer. Other committee members are: Edith Reavill, Peter Hollands, Regina Ebner and Richard Hann.

The group propose to soft-launch the scheme in January 2014, with a full launch event in February to which both volunteers and customers will be invited. One volunteer briefing session has already been held, and a further session will be run in January during the launch phase. Also in January, the setting up and fine-tuning of the phone-holder system will take place as well as the finalisation of the scheme handbook.

During December a bank account will be opened and will receive the set-up grant from The Tudor Trust. Ongoing running costs will be low (perhaps £200 - £250 per year), and the group aim to fund this through donations and grants. During 2014 and subsequent years, the group will be asking the Parish Council (as well as other potential grant-funding sources) for modest financial support for the scheme.

8) Highways matters

- a) No matters reported apart from the continuing deterioration of minor roads with more and more pot holes appearing.

9) Planning

a) Existing applications

- i) RR2013/298/P - Oak Bank Farm - change of use of land to form hard standing for residential building recently approved as lawful – approved conditional 20/5/13
- ii) RR2013/1878/P – Olivers Hill Farm – Modification of existing agricultural building to provide 2 holiday lets with emphasis on disabled facilities – approved conditional 30/10/13.

b) New applications

- i) RR2013/1927/P (retrospective) - Anderson Wood, Lakehurst Lane, Woods Corner - Laying crushed concrete on 200 metres of existing forestry track. Laying a culvert underneath the track – Refused 22/11/13 on the grounds of damage to the ancient woodland floor and eco-system. Parish Council will be monitoring next steps which will be either an appeal by the applicant or enforcement of reinstatement.
- ii) RR/2013/2158/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow, Ashburnham - proposed installation of photovoltaic solar panels on south facing barn roof. Parish Council will register that they have no objection.
- iii) RR/2013/2159/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow, Ashburnham - Proposed hardstanding area and new barn to provide shelter at livestock gathering area and to manage and control cattle effluent. Parish Council will not register any view.
- iv) RR/2013/2195/L - Vicarage Cottage, Church Road, Ashburnham - Existing floor to be relaid with recovered and matching reclaimed bricks. Installation of two windows to front elevation. Parish Council will not register any view.

- 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 – received (RR2013/1927/P) and refused.
- d) *Out of area*
 - i) Brightling – Telegraph Point, Coldharbour Farm – Permanent travellers’ site. Planning Inspectorate Public Hearing at Bexhill Town Hall, 10am Tuesday 10th December.

10) Finance – budget proposals for 2014/15

- a) These expenditure proposals will be confirmed at the January meeting when the precept will also be set.
- b) Cllr R Burfoot, as RFO, tabled a paper showing income and expenditure to date, the budget out turn for the full year and a proposal for the budget for 2014/15.
- c) Expenditure proposals to be incorporated into the budget include the following
 - i) £500 provision for a new village notice board following an offer in writing from the W.I. to contribute £500 to the same cause. (Note – before any purchase decision is made members wish to see some alternative offers to supply.)
 - ii) £400 provision for increasing the level of grounds maintenance at the sports field.
 - iii) £1000 contingency for contributing to professional fees if they are incurred by the Village Hall Management Committee in pursuance of a new village hall.
 - iv) £1000 for support for the churches. This is comprised of £300 to both of the parish churches for the upkeep of burial grounds (a statutory duty). In addition, at the last meeting it was agreed to vote a payment of £100 to the chapel in recognition of their hosting the village notice board. Lastly, Cllr R Burfoot proposed and Cllr C Baker seconded a proposal that the parish council agree to contribute £300 to the upkeep of the private burial ground of the Bickersteth family at Penhurst if a request is received from Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust who are responsible for its upkeep. Although a private burial ground, in practise parishioners of Ashburnham are routinely buried there as the Ashburnham burial ground became full some years ago.
 - v) £200 for the Annual Assembly of which approximately £100 is for a one off cost of providing a roadside banner to advertise the event.
 - vi) £720 for refurbishment of the war memorial based on the quotation from Arthur C Towner as reported at the September meeting.
 - vii) £110 subscriptions to NALC and SALC
 - viii) £100 ex gratia payment to the Citizens Advice Bureau (proposed by Cllr P Winfield and seconded by Cllr G Ratcliffe).

11) Correspondence

- a) Notice of SALC and NALC subscriptions
- b) Formal offer of £500 from the W.I. towards the cost of a new village notice board.
- c) RDC review of polling places (for 2015)
- d) Rother Transport Action Group (RTAG) – Info on Flexible Transport Services (to be passed to “Friendly Neighbours”).

e) Request for a donation from Citizens Advice Bureau – approved, see *viii*) above.

12) Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

- a) The clerk suggested that the various items in the parish magazine which are generated by the parish council (notice of meetings and planning matters) be consolidated, with the agreement of the editor, into a regular item of news from the parish council. Members were in favour of this suggestion.
- b) Consideration of maintenance of car park area adjacent to Pavilion. Investigations will be made of the cost of some 20 tonnes of road planings being rolled into the car park area which has become very muddy even though it does have a hard core base. It is anticipated that the cost will be in the order of £600 and that the work would best be done in the Spring when the ground is drier and harder than it is at present.

13) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held, as scheduled in the forward calendar, on Wed 29th January 2014 at 6.30 pm at the Pavilion.