

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 6.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Councillors present: Cllrs C. Baker, R. Burfoot, R. Hann, R. Jones, G. Ratcliffe

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

Councillors not present: Cllrs R. White, P. Winfield

1) Disclosures of interest

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

2) Apologies for absence

Cllrs R. White, P. Winfield

3) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2013 were adopted and signed by the chairman.

4) Matters Arising from the minutes

- a) Item 4 a) Village notice board - Cllr Hann reported that he has obtained from ESCC Highways a license permitting the relocation of the redundant notice board to a position adjacent to the telephone box at The Pound. Cllrs expressed the wish to review at the March meeting alternative vendors of a new notice board with glazing to protect the notices from the rain.
- b) East Sussex flag – a fresh supply has been obtained by Cllr Ratcliffe and a fresh flag is now on the flag pole.

5) Sports Pavilion

- a) Grounds maintenance – the Cricket Club have offered to replace the boundary fence along the road side if the parish council will provide the materials. Cllr Baker proposed and Cllr Racliffe seconded a proposal to provide materials up to a value of £300 and this was *agreed*.
- b) Community Friends have asked if the parish council will support their work by waiving the hire fees for a meeting on 5th February and the official launch coffee morning on 15th February. Councillors *agreed* to this request.
- c) Interior notice board – users have suggested that a small notice board inside the pavilion would be useful. Councillors agreed and the Chairman will obtain a small pin board.

6) Village Hall

- a) In the absence of Cllr R White there was no report. Cllr Hann, also a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, noted that little has changed since the last parish council meeting.

7) Community Matters

- a) Cllr Hann reported that Community Friends has wide support and is planning a launch event as a coffee morning on 15th February. The necessary organisational arrangements are being put in place and the phone line, which moves with whoever is on call, has been set up.
- b) The clerk reported that the Parish Council news page in the parish magazine has been established starting with the February edition.

- c) East Sussex broadband rollout – the clerk reported that the latest newsletter was issued a few days ago. It shows that Ninfield and Rushlake Green exchanges are now in the works programme while Brightling and Herstmonceux are scheduled for surveying to start in 2015.
- d) Annual Assembly
 - i) The date is Thursday 17th April and the arrangements will be broadly as before with a start at 6.30pm. Cllr Hann will ask Mens Institute members if they will act as hospitality hosts once again.
 - ii) The business part of the meeting is likely to focus on a new village hall.
 - iii) There will be additional publicity with a roadside banner at The Pound. The headline on the banner was agreed as ‘Annual Parish Meeting’.

8) Highways matters

- a) The uprooted signpost outside the Old Chapel near Lakehurst Lane is still down. Cllr Hann will take up the matter with his ESCC highways contact.
- b) Highways have reorganised the areas and this parish is now in area 3 instead of area 1 and has a new highways steward. Cllr Hann requested the contact details.
- c) Councillors requested that the clerk contact ESCC highways and lodge a complaint about the new barbed wire fence erected along the verge outside Deer Park. It is too far from the property boundary and so close to the road as to constitute a danger to passers by.

9) Planning

- a) *Existing applications*
 - i) RR2013/2158/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow, Ashburnham - proposed installation of photovoltaic solar panels on south facing barn roof. Approved 29/11/13
 - ii) RR2013/2159/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. Approved 12/12/13
 - iii) RR2013/2195/L - Vicarage Cottage, Church Road, Ashburnham - Existing floor to be relaid with recovered and matching reclaimed bricks. Installation of two windows to front elevation. Approved 11/12/13
- b) *New applications*
 - i) RR2014/102/P - Springside Farm, Ashburnham - Removal of agricultural occupancy condition A/70/158 & A/70/626. Councillors wish to express support for the application provided that the correct planning procedure is complied with.
- 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. The appeal has been dismissed – announced today.

10) Finance – budget proposals and precept for 2014/15

- a) The Chairman, as RFO, tabled a summary of the budget proposals which incorporate the discussions from the previous meeting. Budget proposals are for expenditure to be met out of projected income so that the same level of reserves will be maintained. Cllr Burfoot proposed that the budget be adopted; Cllr Baker seconded the proposal and all members *agreed*.
- b) With regard to the parish precept, Cllr Burfoot proposed and Cllr Ratcliffe seconded the proposal that it be maintained at the current level of £7,000 and all members *agreed*.

11) Correspondence

- a) Cricket Club (see 5 a) above)
- b) ESCC – information document regarding shale gas exploration (fracking)
- c) RDC – confirmation of tax base as £184.29
- d) ETE PTS public transport in Wealden, Rother and Hastings
- e) BACT request for precept funding
- f) ESCC Rights of Way officer – volunteer group formation options.

12) Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

- a) Councillor Rhod Jones informed members that in February he and his wife are relocating to Oxted, Surrey and he will be handing his letter of resignation to the Chairman at the close of the meeting. He thanked his colleagues for making his seven years experience as a parish councillor an enjoyable and rewarding one. Cllr Baker led expressions of best wishes to Cllr Jones and members thanked Cllr Jones for his service.

A Notice of Casual Vacancy in the Ashburnham ward will be posted by the clerk on the parish notice boards. The clerk will send a copy to RDC for wider circulation. Unless 10 electors write to request that an election be held, the parish council is obliged to seek to fill the vacancy. The clerk will ensure that an announcement is placed in the next parish magazine inviting expressions of interest in writing with brief biographical details. Councillors will consider the submissions and take a vote, either at a regular meeting or one convened for the purpose, and coopt someone to fill the vacancy until the next elections which are due in 2015.

13) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held, as scheduled in the forward calendar, on Wed 26th March 2014 at 6.30 pm at the Pavilion.