

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council

held on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion

Councillors present: Cllrs Roger Burfoot, Richard Hann, Gill Ratcliffe,
Richard White, Pat Winfield

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

Councillors not present: Cllr Colin Baker

This meeting is the meeting originally scheduled for 26th March 2014 which was postponed to today because of unavailability of two councillors.

1) Disclosures of interest

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

2) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Colin Baker, Kathryn Field

3) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2014 were adopted and signed by the chairman.

4) Matters Arising from the minutes

a) Item 5 c) referred to the provision of an interior notice board for the pavilion. This notice board has now been installed.

5) Co-option of Councillor to fill the vacancy

- a) Nicky Bishop and Simon Hollett have both expressed interest in the vacancy and both have submitted an application giving their personal view of their credentials for the position. These have been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting.
- b) It was agreed to defer a vote on co-option until all councillors can be present and a special meeting will be convened for this purpose.
- c) Councillors wish their ballot to be secret which requires an amendment to Standing Orders. The Chairman, Cllr R. Burfoot proposed and Cllr R. Hann seconded the motion to amend standing orders to permit a secret ballot whenever members wish it. Standing Orders number 1 i) will be amended to read as follows:
Members shall vote by show of hands on any question unless the meeting decides otherwise. In the case of a show of hands, at the request of a Councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave his vote for or against that question. Such a request shall be made before moving on to the next item of business on the agenda.
- d) Because the number of councillors is 6 the secrecy of the ballot will be compromised if there is a split vote and the Chairman has to use his casting vote. It was agreed that in a secret ballot the Chairman will in fact cast two votes. The clerk will count the votes but only declare which of the two candidates received the majority (with 7 ballot papers a tie is impossible). The size of the majority will not be declared by the clerk and the secrecy of the ballot is thus preserved.
- e) Councillors expressed the wish to co-opt both candidates until the council elections next year. The clerk will investigate. *(After consultation with RDC it was confirmed*

that two people cannot be co-opted for one vacancy and councillors must make a choice.)

6) Sports Pavilion

- a) At least one of the smoke alarms is beeping indicating battery replacement is needed.

7) Village Hall

- a) Cllr White reported on the discussions with Strutt & Parker representing Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust. ATT have offered to make a donation towards the cost of a new village hall subject to two caveats –
 - i) approval of design and location of new hall
 - ii) convincing evidence that it is the will of a majority of a genuine cross section of the village that they want a new village hall.
- b) Cllr White outlined the presentation which the Village Hall Management Committee plan to make at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th April 2014. There are no proposals at this stage for any call on the parish council for funds to help develop proposals.

8) Community Matters

- a) Plan for the Annual Assembly are in hand and roadside banners have been posted outside the pavilion and at the turning off Kitchenham Road to Hammer Hill.
- b) Friendly Neighbours has been launched and a donation from Community Policing is due to be presented at the Annual Assembly.

9) Highways matters

- a) The uprooted signpost outside the Old Chapel near Lakehurst Lane is still down. Our Highways Steward has promised to contact Peter Cole at the Old Chapel to liaise regarding repair / replacement.
- b) As requested by councillors at the last meeting, the clerk contacted ESCC highways and lodged a complaint about the new barbed wire fence erected along the verge in Penhurst Lane 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. No response from ESCC as yet.
- c) Fly tipping has been reported near Slabs and Old Thatch Lane in Penhurst.
- d) Potholes are particularly bad in Farthing Lane and Compass Lane.
- e) A landslip has been noted in Linghams Lane between the Corner House and The Pound.

10) Planning

- a) *Existing applications*
 - i) No matters outstanding
- 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 – received (RR2013/1927/P) and

refused.

11) Finance

- a) The Chairman, as RFO, reported that at the end of the financial year on 5th April the balance in hand will be n£14,489 which is approximately £6,000 increase on last year.
- b) Letting of the pavilion and sports field produced an income of £1440.
- c) Insurance renewal is due shortly and AON has quoted a premium of about two thirds of the premium charged by Zurich Insurance. This is based on a 3-year contract at £707.84 per year. It was *agreed* that this should be adopted.
- d) Scottish Widows will continue to be used for the deposit account and it was agreed that £10,000 be transferred to a one year fixed term account.

12) Correspondence

- a) Sharon Spicer has advised that she is the new Community First Responder and joins Tony Smith so that we now have two CFR's in the parish. She has requested some financial support to contribute towards the cost of her equipment which has been funded by other local organisations in Bexhill and Battle. Cllr R. White proposed and Cllr. P. Winfield seconded a proposal that the parish council donate £500 to the CFR movement in respect of both CFR's and this was *agreed*. The cheque will be presented at the Annual Assembly.
- b) Battle Area Community Transport have requested a donation which they do annually. Cllr. G. Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. R. Hann seconded a proposal that the parish council donate £100 and this was *agreed*.

13) Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

- a) None

14) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held, as scheduled in the forward calendar, on Wed 28th May 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion. This will be the AGM of the parish council.

There will be a special meeting of the parish council on Friday 11th April 2014 for the purpose of co-opting a new councillor.