
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council
held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Carol Andrews, Nicky Bishop (Chair), Tina French, Richard Hann, Ron King and Andy Proudfoot.

Parish Councillors absent: Cllr Richard White

District / County Councillors present: RDC Cllr Gary Curtis, ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field

Also present: Clerk to the Council
2 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

None received

2. Disclosures of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Adoption of Minutes

The draft minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th January 2017 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chair the minutes were adopted as a true and correct record without amendment.

4. Open Forum

4.1 ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field reported that –

4.1.1 the Chancellor’s budget speech is opaque in terms of its impact on local government except that the schools national funding formula (stage 2) could see the closure of small schools due to funding pressures;

4.1.2 the Community Matched Funding scheme has had an increase in the funds available.

4.2 RDC Cllr Gary Curtis reported that –

4.2.1 RDC are collating data on civil parking enforcement (at present Rother leave parking enforcement to the police);

4.2.2 members may wish to note that Virgin are offering up to £7,500 per household in rural areas to establish a high speed broadband connection and that a free survey is available;

4.2.3 he is awaiting a response from Alan Dodge regarding the street signs at Akehurst Field.

4.3 Aircraft noise – a member of the public, Mr Clive O’Sullivan informed members about a recent meeting of Gatwick Area Conservation Society which he attended:

4.3.1 the most recent meeting of the GACC Management Group was open to public;

4.3.2 summer stacking – one of the main sources of noise is the engine air ducts on the A320 operated by easyJet and many other airlines. Modifications to the air ducts are due to be completed by December 2017 and thereafter fines will be levied on noise offenders;

4.3.3 in 2019 EXMAN, a cross border arrival management system, is due to go operational across Europe. This hands management for the flight control to the arrival airport soon after take off which should lead to less stacking;

4.3.4 in 2022 stacking over water is planned to be operational. Meanwhile, ambient noise is now recognised as a factor in determining acceptable noise levels meaning that noise levels tolerated in rural areas will be less than those in urban ones.

4.3.5 The Chair thanked Mr O’Sullivan for the information and invited him to convey this information to the Annual Parish Meeting,

4.4 Light pollution – Mr O’Sullivan asked if representations could be made to the Tarmac plant at Ninfield whose night time lights are not at all shielded from upwards glare and cause

significant light pollution. The clerk will investigate.

5. Community Matters

- 5.1 Local Action Plan – a definitive list of the elements in the plan and the lead councillor is as follows –
 - 5.1.1 New village hall – Cllr Richard White
 - 5.1.2 Rural Broadband – Cllr Richard Hann
 - 5.1.3 Village web site – Cllr Nicky Bishop
 - 5.1.4 Well being –
 - 5.1.5 Public transport – Cllr Tina French
 - 5.1.6 Affordable Housing – Cllr Tina French
 - 5.1.7 Parish Design Statement -
- 5.2 Rural Broadband – Cllr Hann reported the Andrew Wedmore (Chair of Brightling PC) is due to give evidence to the County Council Scrutiny Committee enquiry panel on 15th March. It is already known that Contract 3, now in preparation, has a more open procurement protocol allowing multiple suppliers, technologies other than fibre and an incentive to improve provision for those with the slowest speeds instead of improving speeds for those already with a high speed connection.
- 5.3 Parish Website – The Chair reported that the previously approved upgrades are a work in progress.
- 5.4 Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2017
 - 5.4.1 Members determined that John Sykes be invited to lead the service of remembrance at 11am. The clerk will approach him.
- 5.5 Friendly Neighbours – the Chair reported that the organisation is at a cross roads wondering how formal it needs to be. The more formal it is the more regulation needs to be complied with, especially if public liability insurance is to be continued. Currently the feeling of those involved is that they prefer to continue as an unincorporated loose association. Members agreed to give whatever support is requested provided that it is affordable.

6. RFO Report and Governance

- 6.1 Cllrs received the statement of projected end of financial year outcome.
- 6.2 Receipts and payment
 - 6.2.1 Cllrs received the schedule of receipts and payments since the last council meeting.
 - 6.2.2 Cllrs were advised of the overall financial position which leaves reserves below advisable levels for a few days between making the payments for authorisation below and receiving the first tranche of the precept at the beginning of April. The cash flow also depends on the transfer of a further £2,000 from the Village Hall Appeal Fund which has been agreed.
 - 6.2.3 On the motion of the Chair the following payments were approved -
 - 6.2.3.1 Town & Country Planning (previously approved prior to invoice) £2,425 + £485 vat.
 - 6.2.3.2 IoN Safety £45 (retrospective) – pavilion fire extinguisher check
 - 6.2.3.3 Baker Architectural £2,510.97 + vat £502.19
 - 6.2.3.4 AiRS Community Buildings Advisory Service £120+£24 vat
 - 6.2.3.5 Tim Wakeling web site support and hosting - £145
 - 6.2.3.6 Clerk expenses 6 months to March 2017 - £28.57
 - 6.2.3.7 Nigel Turner - £25 – pavilion window cleaning
 - 6.2.3.8 Carol Lovett - £150 provision for pavilion cleaning Jan – Mar 2017
 - 6.2.3.9 Lloyds Corporate Card purchases in January
 - 6.2.3.9.1. Wickes £34.98 – injectable resin (flagpole fixing)
 - 6.2.3.9.2. Precision Technology £30.34 – M20 threaded rod (flagpole)
 - 6.2.3.9.3. Brackets R Us - £44.99 – bracket for fixing TV monitor
 - 6.2.3.10 J K Finch - £14.70 – Wiring and junction box for TV monitor
 - 6.2.3.11 Lloyds Corporate Card purchases in February
 - 6.2.4 Euronetwork £45.22 – HDMI cable and outlet - TV monitor

6.3 Budget for 2017/18

- 6.3.1 The previously circulated draft budget was reviewed and final amendments agreed after which, on the motion of the Chair, the budget for 2017/18 (attached to these minutes) was adopted.

6.4 Governance

- 6.4.1 Members reviewed the arrangements for the Annual Assembly on 27th April and agreed the following arrangements -
7.00 pm Reception and circulate in main room where village organisations have displays
7.45 pm Business meeting in small room.

7. Planning

- 7.1 Applications on previous agendas – members noted the current status:

- 7.1.1 RR/2015/998/P – Ashburnham recreation ground – proposed new village hall (*Approved conditional*)
7.1.2 RR/2016/3036/P and /3098/L - Agmerhurst House, Kitchenham Road, Ashburnham/Catsfield TN33 9NB - Two storey rear extension with alterations to the ground floor courtyard. (*Approved conditional*)
7.1.3 RR/2016/3092/P & /3093/L - Ashburnham Place, Ashburnham, TN33 9NF - Conversion of redundant traditional 'bothy' style sheds into four artisan workshops. (*Remains undecided.*)

- 7.2 Applications on the agenda for the first time:

- 7.2.1 RR/2017/54/P & RR/2017/55/L – 4 Brays Hill, Ashburnham TN33 9NZ - Two storey rear/side extension, alterations to fenestration & decking. (*Approved conditional*)
7.2.2 RR/2017/111/P - Gardeners Farm, Brays Hill, Ashburnham TN33 9NZ - Demolition of existing ground floor side extension. Construction of new two storey side extension. (*Approved conditional.*)

- 7.3 Breaches and Enforcement – members noted the following breaches or enforcements -

- 7.3.1 ENF/244/16/ASH – Land at Ponds Green adjacent to The Bungalow – siting and residential use of caravan. *RDC have sent 3 month letter to complainant.*
7.3.2 Telegraph point – The deadline for the termination of the existing residential use is 17 Jul 2018.
7.3.3 ENF/14/15/ASH - Little Acre (Clear View Farm), Brays Hill, Ashburnham - New building and tarmac drive - *Enforcement with requirement to remove unapproved drive and reinstate to agricultural use appealed. (see below)*

7.4 Appeals

- 7.4.1 To note the following undetermined appeal against the enforcement notice ENF/14/15/ASH above. APP/U1430/C/16/3156685 –(RDC portal ref 2408) - Little Acre (Clear View Farm), Brays Hill, Ashburnham - Appeal against Enforcement Notice RR/2016/2630/ENF requiring land to be reinstated to former use. *Status: current, decision awaited.*
7.4.2 The Stables, Brays Hill, TN33 9NZ – Appeal against refusal of planning applications RR/2016/1570/P and RR/2016/1766/P accepted by Inspectorate. Waiting start date and appeal reference number.
7.4.3 Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow - ENF/11/17/ASH – breach of condition 3 of RR/2013/829/P “the boat house . . . shall be used only for purposes incidental to the occupation and enjoyment of the occupants of Burnt Barns Farm . . . and not for any trade or business.”

8. Highways matters

- 8.1 Pot holes – Cllr Richard Hann reported that Highways have deemed the broken road surface at the very top of Brownbread Street to be not dangerous enough to warrant repair at present.
8.2 Finger posts – Cllr Hann is to meet a representative of JAKK Deigns, the preferred contractor, to examine the state of the post at the T-junction at the top of Brownbread Street next to Old Shop.

9. Premises

- 9.1 New Village Hall
 - 9.1.1 Planning permission has now been granted. Advice is awaited from the New Hall Steering Committee (an Advisory Committee of the parish council chaired by Cllr White) who meet on 17th March 2017.
- 9.2 Village Hall - Cllr White reported that there are no outstanding maintenance issues apart from further clearance of the garden area.
- 9.3 Pavilion – the clerk reported that -
 - 9.3.1 the new floor covering will be installed in the early part of the new financial year;
 - 9.3.2 the remainder of the boundary fencing project will be completed as soon as ground conditions permit;
 - 9.3.3 the completion of the landscaping around the concrete slab will be commenced after 31st March;
 - 9.3.4 repairs to the hot water system are being undertaken following a leak from the cylinder. Cost is expected to exceed £150 but likely to fall in the next financial year.

10. Correspondence received from -

- 10.1 Phil Tarrant – regarding tree felling at Brays Hill
- 10.2 ESCC Cllr Laurence Keeley – a briefing paper on Community Land Trusts
- 10.3 BACT thanking the pc for its donation
- 10.4 the chapel thanking the pc for its donation
- 10.5 Rother CAB thanking the pc for its donation
- 10.6 Air Ambulance requesting a donation – members resolved to reply with an invitation for the Air Ambulance to have some fund raising activity at The Country Fair.
- 10.7 Land fill for local residents – letter of support from pc requested.

11. Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

None

12. Dates of Next Meetings

- 12.1 Annual Assembly 27th April 2017
16th May 2017 (Annual Council Meeting)
- 12.2 Planning committee meeting 12th April 2017
If there are no planning matters to consider the meeting will not be called.

..... Date

Signed (Chair)