
**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Ashburnham with Penhurst held on
Wednesday 27th July 2022 at 7.30pm in the Ashburnham Sports Pavilion**

Parish Councillors present: Cllrs Jay Ashworth, Nicci Gagel, Ron King, Paul Spicer
(Chairman for the meeting), Chris Sinden, Fraser
Williamson.

Parish Councillors absent: Richard White (Chairman),

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

In attendance: Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council
2 members of the public

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr Richard White, Chairman (tested positive for Covid-19)

2) Disclosures of interest

a) item 6) b) - Cllr Sinden is the applicant for planning application RR/2022/1398/P.

3) Additional agenda items

a) This being her first council meeting, Cllr Nicci Gagel signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4) Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26th May 2022 were circulated with the agenda. On the motion of the Chair the minutes were adopted without amendment.

5) Open Forum

a) ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field reported as follows

- i) The LGA Conference has reported that Michael Gove has approved a 2-year settlement with local authorities which is welcome news as it gives more certainty to forward plans.
- ii) There are now 1,000 Ukrainians living in the county.
- iii) RDC has up to £1mil from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) available for improvements to village halls which reduce their carbon footprint. Criteria include hall usage statistics.

b) RDC Cllr Gary Curtis reported as follows

- i) The plans for the new town hall are proving to be very contentious. The detail plans are still not fully in the public domain.
- ii) The planning department has managed to make some more permanent staff appointments.

c) Members of the public

- i) Mr Clive O'Sullivan spoke about the recent serious accident on the A271 near the entrance to Ashburnham Place and asked what could be done to deter speeding on this notorious long straight stretch of an A road. Cllr Williamson added that where he lives has direct access on to this road and that speeds in excess of 100mph are frequently evident. RDC Cllr Curtis suggested that the council register with SpeedWatch and ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field provided the email contact for the local organiser, Keith Robertson.

6) Planning

- a) On-going applications *Members noted the current position. Those decided will not appear on future agendas.*

RR/2022/28/P The Woodman's Yard, Penhurst Lane, Penhurst TN33 9BW - Demolition of existing storage building and construction of building for brewery production, parking, landscaping and associated works. Use of existing access and retention of existing buildings. *Parish Councillors have visited. Approved conditional*

RR/2022/302/P - Parkes Farm, Brays Hill, Ashburnham TN33 9NZ - Proposed menage and new barn for straw and hay. *Members viewed the application on line and resolved to post a comment that the parish council takes a neutral stance. Refused*

RR/2022/849/P, RR/2022/850/L - Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street, Ashburnham TN33 9NX - Removal of existing timber clad addition, rebuild with increased footprint and with dressing-room in roof. Removal of modern internal partition wall. *Members viewed the application on line and resolved to post a comment that the parish council supports it. Undecided - remain on agenda*

RR/2022/813/P - The White Cottage - Land opposite, Brownbread Street, Ashburnham TN33 9NX - Retention of pond and associated earth works. Retention of hardstand next to pond and summer house. (Retrospective) New planting of indigenous species throughout the site. *Members viewed the application on line and resolved to post a comment that the parish council takes a neutral stance on this application. Undecided - remain on agenda*

RR/2022/691/P - Burnt Barns Farm, Freckley Hollow, Ashburnham TN33 9LZ - Conversion of existing garage into an osteopathic practice work studio. *Members viewed the application on line and resolved to post a comment that the parish council supports it. Undecided.*

- b) New applications

RR/2022/1398/P - Red Barn Thatch, Herring's Road, Ashburnham TN33 9PE - Proposed balcony extension and sitting room extension to existing holiday accommodation / annexe building.

Cllr Sinden declared an interest as the applicant and left the meeting.

Members viewed the application and resolved to support it, but with a recommendation to RDC that the applicant fit triple glazing in view of the large area of glass.

RR/2022/1395/P - Redpale Farm, North Road, Bodle Street Green, Ashburnham BN27 4RJ - Proposed entrance to the Redpale Barn and the Red pale farmhouse. Installation of two roof lights and the introduction of the bathroom replacing the tank room.

Council has posted support.

Remains undecided.

RR/2022/1732/P - Thornden Sawmill, Herrings Road, - Erection of extension to machine shop and link to connect handle/sanding shed to wood store.

Members viewed the application and resolved to support it.

Remains undecided.

- c) Breaches and Enforcement – to note updates and progress

i) (new) **ENF/191/20/ASH** - Buckwell Ghyll, Lakehurst Lane, Ashburnham - Breach of Appeal - using property for residential.

Site visited by officer. Negotiated settlement. No Further Action. Case closed.

ii) **ENF/107/18/ASH** – Oak Bank Farm, Farthing Lane, Ashburnham RR/2012/1053/P – The Clerk has twice written to the owners as instructed by members urging them to submit an application (retrospective) regarding the siting of a temporary agricultural workers dwelling.

Members resolved that the owners of Oak Bank Farm be put on notice that the parish council will be lodging a formal complaint to RDC within two weeks from the date that notice is served.

iii) **ENF/303/20/ASH** - Springside Farm, Herrings Road, Ashburnham, TN33 9PE - Change of use of agricultural land to store materials for business use. *Latest action: Contra Notice Served, deadline for response has passed. 10th June 2022*

Members noted that some restoration action has been taken and the gateway has been narrowed. Members will continue to monitor the position.

7) **RFO Report**

a) Receipts and Payments

Members received the tabled schedule of receipts and payments for the period 19th May to 20th July 2022.

b) Bank reconciliation

Members received the bank reconciliation (on file) as of 20th July 2022.

c) Income and expenditure against budget

The RFO tabled a report (on file) against budget to 20th July 2022. Variations from budget are no different to those reported to the previous meeting.

d) Earmarked reserves

The RFO tabled a report on movements in earmarked reserves for the year to 20th July 2022.

e) Payments to authorise

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Cllr Sinden members resolved to authorise the following payments:

Details	Payee	Budget head	Total £
Marquee Platinum Jubilee	Matt & Keith Pie	Reserve: Community	1500.00
Annual insurance premium	BHIB Insurance	General administration	560.91
Barn dance band Platinum Jub	Paul Roberts	Reserve: Community	350.00
PA system Platinum Jubilee	James Harris Hire	Reserve: Community	50.00
Event alcohol licenses	Fraser Williamson	Reserve: Community	63.00
Marquee for Flower Show	The Main Event Marquee Co	Reserve: Community	936.08
Verge reinstatement war memorial	Rob Dedman	Reserve: Pavilion & Grounds	635.00
Refurb posts 3, 5 and 7	Douglas Andrews	Reserve: Finger posts	1260.32
First Aid kit pavilion	FirstAid4Less	Pavilion and Grounds	27.90
Irrigation timer, pavilion	World of Garden	Pavilion and Grounds	37.95
Security lock for shipping cntr	Keytrak Lock	Pavilion and Grounds	68.34
2 No. Hydrangea Petiolaris	Crocus Plants	Pavilion and Grounds	31.78
Replacement controller	World of Garden	Pavilion and Grounds	20.93
			<u>5,542.21</u>

f) Payments of charitable donations

Members resolved to continue with annual charitable donations of £100 to each of the following:

Citizens Advice Bureau, Battle Area Community Transport, Rother Rural Trust, Air Ambulance and The Chapel. They further resolved to grant £300 to the parish magazine. Members agreed to review the level of grants in a year's time as they have been static for some time.

8) **Governance**

- a) Members conducted the annual review of internet banking authorisations. It will continue with Cllrs Spicer and White as the two authorisers and they will be joined by Cllr Ashworth as soon as the signed mandate has been submitted. The submission of payments will continue by the clerk. After Cllr Ashworth has been authorised by Lloyds Bank, previous authorisers will be removed from the account.

- b) At the previous meeting there was discussion about a fourth member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The decision was deferred until this meeting as a review of lead responsibilities was a key agenda item today. As a consequence of that review, Cllr Fraser Williamson agreed to serve on the F&GP Committee.

9) Community

a) Lead responsibilities

Councillors conducted a review of lead roles and responsibilities and resolved to approach local residents with appropriate knowledge to act as a 'correspondent' to supplement the skill set of the councillor group. In the meantime, members resolved on the following division of lead responsibilities -

i) The human world and society

- (1) Communications (Cllr Ashworth)
- (2) Rural broadband (a correspondent)
- (3) Village events (Cllr Sinden)
- (4) Police liaison (Cllr Williamson)
- (5) Phone box museum (Cllr Gagel)
- (6) Public transport (a correspondent)
- (7) Public health: defibrillator (Cllr Sinden)
- (8) Public health: exercise facilities (Cllr White)

ii) The natural world

- (1) Verges (Cllr Spicer)
- (2) Rights of way (Cllr Spicer)
- (3) Environment: Litter (Cllr Ashworth)
- (4) Environment: Ecology and climate change (a correspondent)
- (5) Environment: Aircraft noise (a correspondent)

iii) The built environment

- (1) Highways (Cllr King)
- (2) Housing (a correspondent)
- (3) Premises (Cllr White)
- (4) Planning (all councillors)

b) Play equipment for pre school children

The clerk reported that the supplier engaged to make some equipment similar to those in the photographs provided by Cllr Ashworth has had second thoughts and is concerned about his potential liability for accidental injury to users if he designs and supplies. He is happy, however, to supply to a parish council design and specification.

Mr Clive O'Sullivan is willing to design and specify on behalf of the parish council and members resolved to proceed on that basis.

On the question of insurance, Cllr Sinden requested sight of the parish council insurance policy.

c) Climate and Environment Emergency Bill

i) Members revisited their decision, made at the council meeting on 29th September 2021, to support this private member's bill by adopting the actions outlined in the supporting literature. They took the view that the actions were meaningless and irrelevant to local issues and that it would be far better to adopt some local policies aimed at addressing the climate emergency.

ii) The policy outlines which members wish to develop are -

- (1) Scrutinise planning applications for any possibility of the use of Astro turf and oppose it.
- (2) Where appropriate, ask Rother to urge applicants to restrict the use of exterior lighting and to avoid upward facing lighting in order to preserve the dark night sky.

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- (3) Continue to develop wild flower protection stretches of verges.
 - (4) Lobby for reduction of aircraft noise by moving the stack to a location at sea.
 - (5) Amend the content of the parish web site to draw attention to the climate emergency.

d) Other current programme updates

- i) The finger post maintenance programme for 2022 has been completed. Posts no. 3, 5 and 7 have been repainted. The clerk was instructed to investigate if a 50% subsidy is available from ESCC Highways.
- ii) A simple ditch crossing bridge has been provided by the ESCC Rights of Way team close to Brownbread Street where a stream crosses the footpath which runs from Winters Farm.
- iii) The next community events are The Bell Orchestra at the Saturday evening event after the Country Fair and the annual Remembrance Service in November.
- iv) The verge reinstatement at the war memorial has been completed, but the new surface needs more work. It was resolved to reseed the area with grass at a more appropriate season, i.e. the autumn.

10) Correspondence

- a) Cllr Ashworth read out a letter received today from the General Directors of Ashburnham Christian Trust. In the letter the Directors lament the recent serious accident on the A271 near the entrance to Ashburnham Place and offered their support to the parish council on any initiatives they undertake to address the issues of blatant speeding on this long straight stretch of road.
In discussion, ESCC Cllr Kathryn Field suggested the parish council may wish to approach Catsfield PC who have a 'Black Cat' speed data recorder which is available for hire. Members resolved to add this topic to the agenda of the next SLR meeting and to invite Nicky Bishop to make a brief presentation to the next council meeting on the speed limit topic of "20's Plenty".

11) Information for Councillors / Future Agenda items

To add a clause to Standing Orders regarding public participation at meetings, "Any person speaking at a meeting shall identify themselves by stating their name and, if they are not resident in either of the parishes, their residential address or organisation."

12) Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 28th September 2022.

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Signed (Chair)

Date