

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 28 February 1984

PRESENT:	Mr. K. Baker	Chairman
	Mrs. D. Wallis	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs. J. Oldroyd	
	Mr. F. Harman	
	Mr. E.C. White	
	Mr. L. Keeley	
	Mr. J. Beeny	
	Mrs. C. Edwards	Clerk
	Mr. D.C. Tye	Eastbourne Waterworks Co.

Absence: Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Cox

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30 November 1983 were read and approved.

Matters arising therefrom:

(a) Planning Application RR84.0079: Henley Bridge Stud Plans had been re-submitted for a house with an altered design, but utilising the same materials. Mrs. Wallis reported that RDC were currently doing tests on aercrete to see if it were acceptable for building a house. The Council agreed that this planning matter was now in the hands of the Planning Committee of RDC, and that the Parish Council's views had been made known. No further action could therefore be fruitfully taken.

(b) Sewage at Ponds Green: The Clerk read out a letter from RDC which confirmed that they had investigated the matter. However Mr. White confirmed that the situation remained very much unchanged. It was decided that a letter should be written pointing this out. \*

Eastbourne Waterworks Co

Mr. Tye gave a full report of the proposed and current developments affecting our Parish, with plans and diagrams. The Council were satisfied that all possible steps had been taken to ensure that the developments fitted in with the environment, and that trees etc. were protected or replanted where necessary.

Mr Tye then left the meeting after the Chariman had extended to him the Council's warm thanks for attending the meeting.

Overgrown Hedges

Mr. Beeny reported badly overgrown hedges at Mansfield Cross, & Clearview, and those belonging to the Smiths. It was decided that Mrs. Wallis would again contact the owners of the first two properties, and the Chairman would speak to the Smiths.

Temporary Traffic Survey Assistants

The Clerk read a circular letter which she had received concerning these posts. It was decided to put one of the notices in the post \* office.

Penhurst as a Rural Development Area

The Clerk had attended a seminar at Northiam on 24 February with Mr. Cox. She read out a paper prepared by Mr. Cox for use by Parish Councils. The paper confirmed that Ashburham would not at all be affected, and that it seemed most unlikely that Penhurst would be affected by these proposed developments.

Any Other Business

(a) Best Kept Village Competition: The Council decided that it was not appropriate to enter this.

(b) Middlesprays Farm: The Clerk read a letter which she had received from the owners of this property to the effect that Mr. Ritchie, who had for some time been living in a small caravan on Mr. Cornford's land was becoming a nuisance. They also raised the question of the number of caravans per night during the summer season on Mr. Cornford's land exceeding the proper number. It was decided that this letter should be brought to the attention of RDC. \*

(c) Penbur Farm: It was reported that although an inspection had been made of this property no visible improvement had been made. It was decided to write to RDC to see what was happening in this case. \*

Kenneth J Bahr

24.5.84

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 24th. May 1984

PRESENT:	Mr. K. Baker	Chairman
	Mrs. D. Wallis	Vice-Chairman
	Mrs. J. Oldroyd	
	Mr. F. Harman	
	Mr. E.C. White	
	Mr. L. Keeley,	
	Mr. J. Beeny	
	Mr. I.C. Cox	District Councillor
	P.C. S. Mintram	
	Mrs. C. Edwards	Clerk

1 member of the public attended for part of the meeting.

Minutes Since the meeting began a few minutes late, the minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and were approved.

Matters arising therefrom:

(a) Sewage at Ashburnham: The Clerk read a letter which she had received from RDC stating that the matter had been raised with the appropriate householder in Ponts Green, and that, since rectification would take some time the nuisance had not yet disappeared but would in the future.

(b) Caravan adjacent to Middle Sprays Farm: The Clerk reported that the Council had visited Mr. Cornford and discussed the questions raised in the Callows' letter. Mr. Cornford had told them that Mr. Ritchie had now moved into their spare bedroom. Since this visit the matter had not progressed any further. Mr. Cox promised that he would ascertain from Rother what the up-to-date position was.

Planning Applications:

(a) RR83.1411: Opposite the Ash Tree Inn: The Clerk reported that this planning application had been turned down by RDC

(b) RR84.1000: 1 Poundgate Cottage, Ashburnham: This application to alter the access to this property was considered by the Council. It was decided that since the safety of the access would be improved by this intended alteration, the Council approved of it.

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Rother Council Community Programme;

The paper on this subject was read and considered by the Council. No projects could be immediately thought of which would fit in with the criteria stated on this document.

European Elections

It was reported by Mrs. Oldroyd that the Village Hall had already been booked for the 14th. June. The Chairman proposed that it should be raised with RDC whether the Clerk could attend in future elections as one of the officers present during the day. Mr. Cox was to raise this with Rother

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Audit of Parish Accounts:

(a) The Clerk presented the accounts to the Council, which were to be audited earlier this year, on 5 June. No comments were made apart from the fact that a cheque for £1.50 made payable to the Village Hall Committee had not been presented in time, and had become out of date. It was agreed that Miss Jones was to ~~have the~~ hand back the original cheque, and that a fresh one was to be re-drawn.

(b) The precept for 1984/85 was approved. This was for a sum of £160.00.

(c) The payment of the annual subscription to SAOPC was approved. This was for a sum of £26.00

SAOPC Circular

This was tabled.

Councillors Courses 1984

Details of these were given. It was decided that they did not warrant the expense.

Any Other Business

(a) Signposts P.C. Mintram reported that we did not have any news yet of the fate of the missing signpost to Penhurst, which had apparently been sawed off with a handsaw. It was decided that the Clerk would contact Mr. D. Wallis concerning this signpost, together with that pointing to Ninfield down Compass Lane.

(b) Clearview: It was reported that this site was still a terrible mess. It was decided that Mr. Cox would firstly find out the name of the new owner of the property, since the Hams had sold this.

(c) Motorcross at Brown Bread Street Stud: The Clerk had received a report from Mrs. Tebbs concerning this matter. Apparently there had been Motorcross Meetings on two consecutive weekends at Brown Bread Stud. Damage had been done to a signpost outside Mansfield House, which Mrs. Tebbs had reported to Rother. Caravans had been parked for a week on a field adjacent to the Motorcross Field; and up to about 1000 people had attended. P.C. Mintram reported that the Sussex Police had received notification from the owners of the site that three meetings were to be held during the year (the maximum permissible number); but that the second of the two consecutive meetings had not tied in with the dates given. Mr. Cox was to liaise with P.C. Mintram concerning the dates, and was to write to the owner of Brown Bread Street Stud pointing out the discrepancy in the dates.

The Meeting ended at 8.35 p.m. after the Chairman had thanked Mr. Cox for his assistance, and had said how nice it was to welcome P.C. Mintram to the area.

*Kenneth Baker*

19 July 1984.

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 19 July 1984.

PRESENT: All Councillors with the exception of those listed under Apologies for Absence below.

Apologies for Absence An apology was received from Mr. White.

Minutes: The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising therefrom:

1. Owner of Clearview. Mr. Cox had found out the name of the new owners: Mr. and Mrs. Penfold of Three Cups. The Council agreed that in view of the previous circumstances, it was RDC's responsibility to act. Mrs. Wallis suggested that it may be prudent to wait until the next meeting to see if any complaints were made about Clearview before contacting RDC again.

2. Great Sprays Farm: The Council decided that since RDC had been fully informed concerning the caravans and had not taken any real action, the council could do no more.

Planning Applications:

RR 84.1170 : ~~Opposite Ash Tree Inn~~ Brigden Hill Cottage:  
No objection.  
RR 84.1267 : Agmerhurst House and Cottage: No Objection  
RR 84.1360 : Reedlands Oast: No objection.

Change of Bank Account:

Following a report from the Clerk that she thought it wise to change the Council's Bank Account from the National Westminster to Barclays Bank in Battle on the following grounds:

- (i) The P.C.C. account was held at the Nat West, and some confusion had arisen on the part of the Bank.
- (ii) The standard of service at the NatWest was very poor.

it was unanimously agreed that the change should occur. \*

Wallers Haven, Penhurst

Mrs. Wallis reported that she had received several complaints from residents concerning the use of slate on portions of the roof at this development. It was decided that the clerk should write to Mr. Tye of the E.W.C. expressing this disquiet, and asking if anything could be done to camouflage the slate or weather it prematurely.

Highway Matters

Mrs. Wallis reported that the hedge opposite Pigknoll Farm, belonging to the Old Rectory was badly overgrown. It was decided that Mrs. Wallis should approach the owner.

Any Other Business NONE

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

*Kenneth Baker*

1 November 1984

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 8 November 1984

PRESENT: All members of the Council were present, together with Mr. Ian Cox and two members of the public.

MINUTES: The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

- (a) PARISH BANK ACCOUNT The Clerk reported that she had transferred the account to Barclays Bank, having agreed with the Manager that there would be no Bank Charges. The account was now running smoothly. The Clerk also read a letter of apology from the Manager of the Nat. West. Bank.
- (b) WALLERS HAVEN The Clerk read a letter from E.W.C. stating that they had not discovered a method of prematurely ageing slate.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

1. RR84.1599: Penbur Farm: Councillor Cox reported that this application had been refused on some 6 grounds. The Chairman had received a letter from Mr. Thorogood asking for copies of the minutes referring to this application together with that relating to the conversion of the oast barn at Little Beech. The Clerk was asked to reply to this letter.
2. RR84.1455: Thornden: No objection
3. RR84.1877: Brayshill Cottages: No objection
4. RR84.1945: Caravan at Court Lodge: Members of the council drew attention to the following facts:
  - (i) Planning permission for the conversion of the oast Had been granted;
  - (ii) One of the cottages which had originally belonged to Court Lodge was still for sale via Braxtons for around £44,000.

The Council decided that, whilst it was not necessarily reasonable for the new owner of Court Lodge to pursue either of these two points, they should be minuted.

The Council decided that it could not reasonably reach a conclusion concerning this application due to lack of sufficient information. The Chairman therefore asked the Clerk to write to Mr. Kaye, asking for further information relating to the caravan. A copy of this letter is to be sent to RDC. It was decided that when a reply had been received from Mr. Kaye, another meeting of the Parish Council should be called.

5. RR84.1954: Land adjoining Old Thatch Lane : The Council objected to this planning application on the same grounds as RR84.1599 had been refused.
6. RR84.2032: Brook & Vale Cottages: No objection.

PRECEPT FOR 1985/86

This was approved by Council. The Clerk mentioned that Mr. Cox had recently been rationalising the salaries of the Clerks in his Parishes, and apparently the minimum salary was £100. The Council therefore approved an increase in the Clerk's salary to £100.

AUTOPOINT BUS SERVICES

The new timetables for these were tabled.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

The recent circular from RDC was read. Mrs. Oldroyd explained that a licence for the Village Hall had just been applied for. Mr. Beeney reported that he had been in touch with RDC concerning this.

It was decided to send copies of this circular to the folk wing: The Appeal Committee of the Village Hall, Roy White, and the Ward-Smiths.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) SAOPC Circular concerning straw burning was read: no comment.
- (b) Letter concerning Trees and Woodlands in the Parish was read. The Clerk said that she was willing to obtain the information referred to.
- (c) Lingham Farm Cottages: Mrs. Oldroyd reported that there had been several accidents due to motorists mistaking the driveway of the Cottage for the main road, and consequently hitting the bank. She suggested that red and white danger posts should be erected there. The Clerk to write concerning this.
- (d) The Clerk mentioned that Canon Barham had now been licenced as the Minister for Ashburnham & Penhurst and would be pleased to meet the Parish Council at the next meeting. The Chairman agreed that he should be invited to attend.
- (e) War Memorial Hedge: It was decided that Michael Wallis was to prune this.
- (f) Mrs. Wallis reported that the Vicarage hedge would be cut soon.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

*Kenneth J. Baker*

10.1.85

MINUTES OF THE ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Held on 10 January 1985

PRESENT: All members of the Council were present, except Mrs. Wallis, together with Mr. Ian Cox.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 8 November 1984 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

1. Entrance to Lingham's Farm Cottages: The Clerk reported that she had visited this site with David Wallis. He had explained that he did not think that red and white warning posts were appropriate, but that he would arrange for RDC to paint a white line across the entrance of the Cottages, to indicate the main road.

2. Court Lodge Caravan: Mr. Cox reported that he has not yet been able to see Mr. Kaye. RDC's decision concerning the caravan has now been twice deferred. The Council agreed that they could take no further action.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

1. RR84.2353: Thornden Farm. The Council objected to this application deploring the large number of barn conversions that had taken place in the Parish during recent years, with the result that farms had become split, and only expensive homes were available. \*

2. RR84.1599: Penbur Farm Appeal. The Council decided that Mr. Cox and the Clerk should visit Mr. Ammoun to discuss this appeal in detail. \*  
Mr. Beeny offered to attend the appeal hearing if the Clerk was unable to. Mr. Cox mentioned that an appeal against refusal of planning permission for the erection of a barn opposite to the Ash Tree Inn was due to come up soon.

OTHER MATTERS:

1. The Planning Dept had now been centralised in Bexhill.
2. The Clerk read a letter from Alex Robertson, in which he sought the Council's permission to attend meetings; it was decided that a letter should be written to Mr. Robertson explaining that he would be most welcome once he was actually elected as representative for the Battle District, but that at present, it was deemed inappropriate. \*
3. The Fourth Alteration to the County Structure Plan was tabled.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Notice Boards: The Clerk reported that the Council's Bank Balance at present stood at some £200, before the receipt of the 1985/86 precept. She added that at a meeting of the PCC the question of the provision of Parish Notice Boards had cropped up. The Council authorised the Clerk to obtain some quotations for the cost of a new Notice Board (possibly two if reasonable enough) and to report back at the next meeting. \*

2. More Information concerning Planning Applications: Mr. Beeny raised the point that the Council should have as much information as possible concerning Planning Applications in future, and the Clerk said that she would endeavour to obtain this.

*Kenneth Baker*

25 April 1985



3. Mr. Keely agreed to take over from Mrs. Wallis the role of 'hedge-watcher' in the Parish.

4. The AGM of the Parish Council is to be 18 July 1985.

5. The Clerk was asked to write to David Wallis concerning the extremely dangerous state of Farthings Lane between Potts Green and Glydes Farm. A Milk Truck travels this route daily, and the winter had done much damage to the road surface. It should be suggested to Mr. Wallis that the ditch should be piped and filled in.

6. Best Kept Village: no action to be taken.

The Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

*E. G. White*

29 May 1985.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29th. May 1985

PRESENT: All members of the Council attended with the exception of the Chairman and Mr. Harman. In the Chairman's absence the Vice Chairman took the Chair. Mr. Cox also attended.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were read. One amendment had to be made under Matters Arising therefrom, point no. 2: this amendment is shown in red on the minutes. Since the Vice Chairman had been absent from this meeting, the minutes were signed by Mr. E.C. White.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: The Clerk read a letter which she had received from E.S.C.C. Highways Dept. to the effect that white lines would be painted outside Lingham's Farm Cottages once road repairs had been effected; and also that the ditch in Farthing Lane should be piped and the road repaired.

TREE WARDENS: The Vice Chairman reported the contents of the Seminar which she had attended on the role of the Tree Wardens in the Parish. Salient points were as follows:

1. The term 'Tree Guardian' rather than Tree Warden was more appropriate. The role is to protect woodland rather than watch one's neighbour.
2. Rother & Wealden District councils account for most of the wooded area of East Sussex, and Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish is in the heart of the most densely wooded area of Rother D.C.
3. The purpose of the Tree Warden scheme is to amass material which will be stored in a data bank at Falmer.

Councilor Cox gave a brief report on Luxford Wood, from which it was clear: (i) that the Forestry Commission are autonomous; and (ii) that it was most beneficial to approach a landowner who wished to fell timber personally.

It was resolved:

- (a) that it would be best to establish a grid system for our parish;
- (b) Mr. Beeny was to investigate the grant position for replanting woodland;
- (c) that Mrs. Wallis, Mr. Broomhall, Mr. Jack Harmer, and Mr. Beeny should form a committee to meet and review the whole situation in the Parish (proposed by Mrs. Oldroyd, and seconded by Mr. Keely)

NOTICE BOARDS: The clerk sought the authority of the Council to order a notice board for posting outside the post office at Ponds Green. The Council resolved that provided that the Post Office had no objections to the erection of a notice board, she should go ahead and order one. The facility was to be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: It was reported that there were no developments concerning the sale of Springfield.  
The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

*Kenneth Baker*

18 July 1985.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 1985

PRESENT: All members of the Council attended. Mr. Amies, our County Councillor also attended.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 29 May 1985 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

1. Tree Wardens: The sub-committee had not yet met. A meeting would take place within the next few days.
2. Notice Boards: The Chairman was to meet with Mr. Peters in order to discuss the question.

Appointment of school Governors, Dallington

The Council agreed that the Chairman, Mr. Baker, should continue to represent the Parish on the Board of School Governors.

EAST SUSSEX RURAL TRANSPORT PROJECT

The Clerk read a notice which she had received explaining that a series of meetings had been arranged in order to inform the rural parishes of this project. Mr. Amies explained that the main point was to co-ordinate all forms of transport available because of the lack of subsidy now received by the County for rural transport.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mr. Amies offered his help to do with all county council matters. He mentioned that he was on the following committees: Finance, Education & Schools, Finance and General Purposes, Sussex Police Authority, and Library.

2. Mr. Keeley reported that the hedge from Court Lodge down to the Furnace was overgrown. The Council decided that Mr. Keeley should have a quiet word with Mr. Kaye about this.

3. Little Beech Oast. A caravan was stationed there whilst the conversion took place. The Clerk said that she would find out what was happening about the application to create an annexe.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m. after the Chairman had warmly thanked Mr. Amies for his attendance.

*Kenneth Baker*

*15 August 1985*

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 1985

PRESENT: All members of the Council attended with the exception of Mr. Beeny. Mr. Cox and Mr. Amies also attended.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 July were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

(a) The Chairman reported that, following his discussions with Mr. Peters, the placing of a notice board outside the Post Office would not appear feasible. The Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council in order to get some guidelines as to placing it in the layby at Ponds Green. \*

(b) Little Beech The Clerk reported that RDC had permitted the amended planning application to proceed, but only on the basis that the annexe should always form part of Little Beech Oast, and should not be able to be sold as a separate property.

(c) Rural Transport The Clerk confirmed that the date for the meeting to consider the Rural Transport project for Ashburnham & Penhurst was 10 September in Dallington Village Hall.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

(a) RR85.1426: Street Farm, erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling. In view of the size of Mr. White's farm, the Council considered that the erection of a dwelling was reasonable, and they therefore had no objection to this application. \*

(b) RR85.1564: Court Lodge Farm, renovation of part of the house. The Council examined the plans relating to the proposed alterations. They considered that in view of the importance of the building (Grade II \* listed), the County architect should be consulted, and his advice sought as to the proposed alterations. \*

PLANNING POLICY IN ROTHER

The Clerk read a letter which she had received from Brightling Parish Council in which they questioned the wisdom of some of RDC's planning decisions. The Council discussed their findings at some length, and instructed the clerk to reply to this letter stating that this Council supported the general view expressed, (i.e. that the Parish Councils should be fully informed of planning matters, and that their opinion should have a fair amount of weight, owing to their local knowledge.) but that in this parish, our experience has been good to date.

A.O.B.

A general question was raised about mowing the verges, which had only been done once this year, and that only in parts. Councillor Amies confirmed that in view of costs, the cutting was only to be annual, and only where the road was dangerous as a result of overgrown verges.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m. after the Chairman had thanked Councillors Cox and Amies for their continued interest in the affairs of the Parish.

*Kenneth Baker*

14 November 1985

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER \*1985

PRESENT: All members of the Council attended. Mr. Cox also attended. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Amies.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15 August 1985 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

(a) Parish Notice Board: the Clerk reported that she had had a meeting with E.S.C. Highways Dept (Mr. Wallis) concerning the positioning of the Notice Board at Pounts Green. Mr. Eric White had also been consulted on site. The outcome was that a suitable position had been established - hidden from the Post Office by their orchard, visible from the road, and yet not obstructing the highway, and not obstructing any access to farm fields. A licence in the form of a letter from E.S.C.H. was to be returned if the Parish Council were in agreement with the positioning as described. The Council agreed that the Clerk should go ahead and order the Notice Board; and the Chairman signed the licence

(b) Planning Applications RR85.1426 (Street Farm); and RR851564 (Court Lodge). A report was heard on the outcome of these applications.

WALLERS HAVEN The Clerk had received a letter from the E.W.C concerning the likely interest in a public meeting concerning further works to be done at this site in Penhurst. Much interest was expressed.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Mr. P.J. Broomhall had raised various points concerning road repairs around Penhurst. The Clerk was instructed to write to E.S.C.H. concerning these.

PLANNING APPLICATION RR85.2068: REDPALE FARM: Change of use of dairy building to holiday cottage. The Council opposed this application on the grounds that the amount of land belonging to Redpale is only about 8 acres, and already permission was granted for the conversion of a barn adjacent to the farmhouse which is now inhabited as an annexe.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCILS The Clerk had received a letter and questionnaire, drawing the attention of the Council to the services which could be supplied by the Community Health Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. PRECEPT 1986/87 This was agreed by the Council.
2. Mr. Keeley reported on a meeting that he had attended concerning minibuses for Ashburnham & Penhurst.
3. Complaints were made concerning the nature and positioning of saltbins in the Parish.
4. Mr. Cox reported on a new approach to woodland management, whereby substantial grants are available to approved schemes

The tree sub-committee was to meet during the following week.

5. A caravan was reported on Brays Hill. Mr. Beeny was to investigate.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m. the Chairman having thanked Mr. Cox for his continued interest and his attendance.

*Kenneth Baker*

*20 February 1986*

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 1986

PRESENT: Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Oldroyd and Mr. J. Beeny.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 14 November 1985 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

An item arose under Any Other Business, item 5, concerning the positioning of a caravan on Brays Hill. It was now reported that a local man, who was homeless, was living there. The Council decided that the matter should be postponed until information had been obtained by Mmi Beeny, who was in the process of doing this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

(a) RR85.2570: Agmerhurst Farm Building Conversion: Councillor Cox commented that the plans were well and thoughtfully drawn up, and that he considered that this was one of the few occasions when conversion of a farm building was not of detriment to the countryside. There was some discussion as to whether planning permission had, or had not been granted, and Cllr. Cox promised to ascertain this definitely. Since the D. of E. was now giving sympathetic consideration to thoughtful conversions it was decided that it was pointless to object.

(b) RR86.0055: Erection of a new garage at the Post Office  
This application was not objected to.

(c) RR85.0165: Outline permission of conversion of barn adjacent to the Ash Tree Inn : Some of the points raised under (a) above were reiterated, and the council decided that they could not therefore object to this application.

RESIGNATION OF MRS. OLDROYD, AND ELECTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

The Council asked the Clerk to write to Mrs. Oldroyd, and to thank her for her service on the Parish Council over the past years. Discussion ensued as to a possible new councillor. The Chairman suggested Mr. Roy White of Street Farm, Ashburnham and there were no other suggestions. The Chairman promised that he would approach Mr. White.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.25 p.m.

*Kenneth Baker*

30.4.86 .

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 1986

PRESENT: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Amies. All members of the Parish Council were present, together with 5 members of the public.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 February 1986 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

1. AGmerhurst Oast: Cllr. Cox reported that PP had been granted for conversion in 1982.
2. Caravan on Brays Hill: The Council decided that the Clerk should write to the owner of the caravan saying that the council understand that the caravan id being occupied, and have RDC been notified. This motion was proposed by Mr. Beeny and seconded by Mr. Keeley

PLANNING APPLICATION

RR86.0750: Mobile Home at Slivericks Farm

Correspondence concerning this application was read out. A lengthy discussion ensued, during which Cllr. Cox drew the Council's attention to a simelar case, actually in Dallington Parish, but in fact only some 200 yds. away from the proposed site at Slivericks. In this case the applicatt's name was Law, and the matter went to appeal, when it was turned down with close referrence to the County Structure Plan, and in particular clause R.39 (precedent). The Council decided that the Clerk should write opposing this application on grounds R.1, 3,5,9,17,18,24,27 and 39. With the excption of Mr. Harman, the Council were unanimous on this point. The Chairman was to see the letter before it qent to Rother.

A.O.B.

NM

1. A cheque for the hire of the village hall was signed (meetings in November and February).
2. The Clerk asked if she could arrange to have printed some Parish Notepaper. The Council agreed.
3. It was reported that two drains: one at the top of the hill near Stephen's crouch ; and the other by Little Spray'ds Farm were broken with the result that the roads were flooded in wet weather.

The meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.

*Kenneth Baker*  
19.6.86.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 1986

PRESENT: All members of the council were present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Amies.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: Nil

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

1. Court Lodge: (a) Conversion of Oast. The Council were reminded that PP was granted for conversion to a dwelling some 5 years ago in September. The Council examined the plans and were concerned that they were not wholly in keeping with an important building in very close proximity to a Grade II\* listed building - Court Lodge itself. The Council asked the Clerk to write to RDC pointing out this proximity and suggesting that the County Architect should be consulted with regard to the details of the proposed conversion as he was with regard to the extension and alterations to Court Lodge itself.

(b) Proposed building of workers' cottages. The Council discussed this at length and instructed the clerk to write to RDC making the following points: (i) properties were currently on the marked which would provide viable alternatives to building new houses. In particular Springfield was originally built for a worker on Peans Land, and now, following its extension could be divided into two quite easily. (ii) The original cottages constructed for workers on Court Lodge Farm were for sale some 3 years ago. This was drawn to Mr. Kaye's attention, but no action was subsequently taken by him to purchase these, and they are now in private and independent ownership. As far as the Council were aware the farming enterprise at Court Lodge had not increased materially since this time. (iii) Since the agriculture at Court Lodge comprises mainly grapes, no close supervision of this crop is required.

2. Springfield Although the plans and background information to this application were examined by the Council, the Council could not be sure of the exact nature of this intended enterprise, and objected on the following grounds: (i) It was not apparent whether an industrial rather than an agricultural business was to be carried on; (ii) It was proposed to erect ~~some~~ a barn and 5,000 sq. ft. of plastic greenhouses, and this was felt to be out of keeping with the policy for this area of outstanding natural beauty; (iii) any degree of importation of goods in bulk presupposes any ~~vast~~ <sup>increased</sup> quantity of traffic of quite large size on extremely narrow and dangerous lanes (iv) the situation at Springfield is wet and very exposed.

3. The Council discussed in some length the question of the possibility of applying for an Article 4 directive in respect of Tent Hill and the ridge surrounding. Cllr. Cox informed the council that such a directive applied to the land surrounding the needle at Brightling, and after consideration the Clerk was instructed to write to RDC seeking guidance on this whole question for Penhurst.

4. The latest unattractive development at Penhurst, on the land between Great Spraxs House and Old Thatch was mentioned as yet another example of intrusion and untidiness into the countryside, and the Council asked the Clerk to write to RDC requesting an outline of their policy towards this sort of development in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Clerk had received a letter from Burwash Parish Council, enclosing a copy to RDC in which they requested that plans for proposed developments in their parish should be made available to them. It was decided that the Ashburnham & Penhurst Parish Council echoed these feelings since a sight of these plans before a meeting would give the councillors much more time for careful deliberation of the application; and the Clerk was asked to write to Rother on these lines

2. The Clerk was asked to write to E.S.C.C. concerning various potholes at the side of some of our lanes - especially by the Chapel where there was a lot of traffic pulling on and off the road for both children and elderly people. The Clerk was asked to seek guidance from the Highways Dept. as to whether any surplus road mending materials could be made available free of charge for mending such areas.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

*Henrietta Baker*  
28.8.86 .

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 28 AUGUST 1986

PRESENT: All members of the Council, together with Cllr. Amies were present.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19 June 1986 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

1. Springfield: The Council discussed developments re this planning application at some length. The Council instructed the Clerk to find out the position concerning the water supply if a vast quantity of water should be used at Springfield, by contacting Mr. Tye of E.W.C.; and then, if relevant, reporting to R.D.C. on the situation.
2. Representation by rurally involved persons on Rother Planning Committee. A discussion followed 1. above concerning the general position of rural representation on Rother Planning Committee. Mr. Cox, together with two other local inhabitants with a keen interest in the countryside were no longer on the Planning Committee and the Council were extremely concerned that the real nature of certain planning problems could not fully be understood by the committee as it now stood - comprised of persons living in suburban areas, where different criteria of judgement apply. The clerk was asked to write to RDC voicing the general disquiet of the Council. \*
3. The Clerk reported on Rother's response to her letter concerning the supplying of plans to Parish Councils. (In brief that the position would be reviewed next year; but at present, owing to increased cost the situation would remain unchanged)
4. The Clerk reported that RDC had considered the Parish Council's application for ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ an article 4 direction re Tent Hill, but that this had been turned down.

ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

RR86.1828 Application to station a caravan on 'Spring Acres' at Penhurst (Land adjacent to Old Thatch Road) Lane  
The Council were unanimously against this application, and the grounds of their objection fell under the following coded reasons for refusal in the RDC Planning Statement of April 1985: R 1,3,5,9, 10,11,12, 22,27 and 30. \*

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PRIOR TO AUDIT ON 28 Sept.

A.O.B.

1. A cheque for one meeting at the Village Hall was signed.
2. Highway Matters: There was lengthy discussion concerning the anomalous position of signposts in the Village. As a matter of urgency the Clerk was asked to write to E.S.C.H. concerning the replacement of the Brownbread Street sign, which has again disappeared. Mr. Eric White was to examine the signposts and report back at the next meeting. Secondly there is a large hole in the road at Mansfield Cross. \*

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

*Kenneth Baker*

30.10.86

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 1986

PRESENT: All members of the council together with Councillors Cox and Amies were present.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 1986 were read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

The signposts in Ashburnham, and especially to, Ashburnham were still illogical, and no response had yet been obtained from E.S.C.H Cllr. Amies promised to chase them, and to ask for a response also to the problem of Mansfield Cross' access to their own field following the building up of a road island.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) No. 2 Peltham Cottages: unanimous support.

(b) RR86.2206: Land at Brays Hill, use as a caravan site: the Council were unanimously opposed to this application. Discussion ranged around reasons for refusal coded from R17 - 21 (Highway Matters R27 and R39.

(c) RR86.2217 Springfield, removal of agricultural restriction  
The council were unanimously opposed to this mainly on the grounds that this restriction was a central one upon which the original planning permission for the dwelling was given. It was also felt that the current sale price of the property (some £168,000) was too high since it excluded the majority of agricultural workers from buying it, especially since the amount of land to be sold with the property (some 7 acres) could not viably support an agricultural enterprise.

(d) Forestry project at Slivericks. There was support for this, the general feeling being that the proper management and replanting of woodland was a very good thing.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) The Clerk reported that the Accounts had been approved (b) the Clerk brought before the Council the question of a triennial audit, and gave the written information that she had obtained from the Auditors. Cllr. Amies reported that other Parish Councils had found this a valuable facility. (c) the precept for 1987/88 was approved.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Court Lodge Mr. Keeley reported that he had been approached by Mr. Kaye, who had pointed out that his farming enterprise had expanded and was due to expand in the near future. After some lengthy discussion the council felt that there was no reason to prevent Mr<sup>1/2</sup> Kaye from reapplying for the building of these cottages making these points clear.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

*Henneth Baker*  
1.4.87

ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON THE 1st APRIL 1987.

PRESENT: Messrs. Baker, Harman, Keeley, E. White, Mrs. Wallis acting temporary Parish Council Clerk and Councillor Amies.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Roy White and Councillor Cox.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 30th October 1986 were read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING:

- 1) Highway problems: The Clerk was asked to see Mr. Olesen of East Sussex Highways Dept. about the built-up central grass area at Mansfield Cross, the lack of signposts to Ashburnham from Woods Corner, the Brownbread Street sign by the Chapel, and broken or missing signs.
- 2) Rother Planning:
  - a) Results -  
RR86 1992, Peltham, approved.  
RR86 2206, caravans, Clear View, Brays Hill, refused.  
RR86 2217, Springfield, refused.  
Forestry at Slivericks, approved.
  - b) Appeals -  
RR86 1101 and RR86 1118, Court Lodge Appeal, Watch Oak, Battle, to be 19th May. Extensively discussed. The Clerk was instructed to write to the D.O.E. and the Chairman said he would attend the Inquiry.  
RR86 0750 Appeal, Mobile home, Slivericks, dismissed.
  - c) RR86 1000.  
A letter of 25th March was read from Councillor Cox to the R.D.C. The particulars issued by Penburs, the estate agents, were misleading and, following the dismissal of the appeal for a house, it is important that the record should be put straight by the agents for prospective purchasers, that building a house is impossible.

CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS: No objections.

- i) RR87. 0615D The Furnace, stables and store.
- ii) RR87. 0636D Burnt Barn Farm Bungalow, single storey extension to dining room.
- iii) RR87. 0732 Agmerhurst Farm Buildings conversion.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL CLERK:

Councillor Amies pointed out how time-consuming and complicated the work could be. It was decided to invite Mr. Don Pirkis to attend the next meeting on the 14th May. The Temporary Clerk was asked to write to Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Beeney to thank them for their hard work during their terms of office.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor Amies reported that there appeared to be no truth in the rumour of a major road link to the Channel Tunnel coming through Ashburnham.

The Chairman kindly thanked the Temporary Clerk for her work and asked her to continue until the 14th May.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

*K Baker*

14.5.1987.

New Commit dated May 1987:-

Messrs. V.K. Baker -

Mrs. D. Wallis -

R. White -

E. White -

. Harman ✓

L. Keeley -

F. Atchurst -

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May, 1987, at the Village Hall at 7.35 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Five Councillors (Messrs. F.W. Akehurst, K. Baker, L. Keeley, E. White and R. White) duly elected in the recent election in Ashburnham, and two Penhurst Councillors (F.W. Harman and Mrs. D. Wallis) unopposed, signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office. There were 23 members of the public present.

2. ELECTIONS

Mr. Baker was proposed for Chairman; this was supported unanimously. The Chairman proposed Mrs. Wallis as his Vice-Chairman; this was accepted unanimously.

The Chairman then moved and Mr. Harman seconded, the proposal that Mr. Pirkis be asked to take on the rôle of Clerk. This was agreed to unanimously and Mr. Pirkis consented to accept the position.

Thanks were extended to Mr. Cox, the Rother District Council Councillor, for his strenuous activity and his sound and valued advice on behalf of the Parish.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. David Amiess, the local County Council representative, who was standing in the General Election.

At 7.45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned so that the Parish A.G.M. could take place; it was recommenced at 8.48 p.m.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st April, 1987, were read, approved and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Highway problems

Parts of the road report from Mr. Olesen of E. Sussex Highways Dept. were read out by the Clerk and the contents duly noted.

(b) Rother Planning

Appeals RR86 1101 and RR86 1118. Court Lodge Appeal, Watch Oak, Battle, 19th May. The Chairman and the Clerk said they would attend. Current Planning Application. Great Sprays. Broadleaved Woodland Grant Scheme Application 19/196/1. Approved.

6. Excessive noise at Brownbread Street Stud

This had been aired fully at the Annual General Meeting and discussion was confined to questions of what was allowable under the Planning Laws, the changed use of the land, the danger to other people on adjacent farms, traffic problems and the use of microlight aircraft. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain the legal requirements for the licensing and operation of landing facilities for microlight aircraft.

7. Tree felling at The Old Vicarage

This, too, had been extensively covered at the A.G.M. so discussion was limited to the possibilities of road accidents arising from the position of the new wall. On a majority vote the Clerk was instructed to take up the matter with E. Sussex Highways Dept.

8. Clear View - a tip

Mr. Cox reported that the tip, which is advertised in Friday-Ad, is an eye-sore and lacks any planning consent. He, representing R.D.C., would be tackling the problem and felt it should be straightforward to cope with.

9. Any other business

- (a) Mr. Harman proposed and Mr. R. White seconded the motion that Mrs. Wallis be thanked for her excellent work as Acting Clerk. This was agreed unanimously and the Chairman instructed the Clerk to write to her officially.
- (b) Mr. E. White asked for better publicity of Planning applications and Appeals and Mr. Cox agreed to look into the matter.
- (c) The Clerk was instructed to write to Strutt and Parker about the poor state of the footbridge at Ashburnham ~~Forge~~ Furnace.
- (d) The Clerk suggested that the Council finances might be invested in order to earn interest; he was asked to look into the possibilities.
- (e) The Clerk enquired whether the Parish had any insurance. No member of the Council knew so the Clerk offered to enquire further and to seek the advice of the Sussex Association of Local Councils.
- (f) The Clerk asked whether some reference to certain matters of general interest that arose in Parish meetings might be included in the Parish Magazine. He was asked to consult Canon Barham.
- (g) The Clerk undertook to notify the Sussex Express reporter of future meetings.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

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Kenneth Baker

16<sup>th</sup> July 1987

## ASHBURNHAM AND PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on 16 July 1987 at the Village Hall at 7.32pm.

1. All Councillors were present together with two parishioners and a member of the press. Mr Baker was in the chair. Apologies were received from Messers Amies and Cox.
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 1987 were read approved and signed.
3. Matters arising:-
  - a) Finance. The Clerk reported ~~to~~ the amended precept for 1987/8 for £367.00 had been approved by and received from Rother D.C. - the increase was partly brought about by i) the salary paid to the clerk, ii) the insurance premium and iii) the fee for an audit which will arise in ~~September, October.~~
  - b) Planning. i) The latest position regarding the noise problem at Brownbread Street and the tip at Clear View was explained by the Clerk. Both problems are being very actively pursued by Rother D.C. following pressure by the Parish Council, including a long interview with the Chief Planning Officer. Progress will inevitably be slower than local residents would wish but Rother has assured the Council that the legal wheels will move on these two matters. ii) The Clerk reported that he had been engaged in correspondence with Mr Howell of the Old Vicarage regarding the planting of saplings there and he hoped for a successful outcome. iii) The decision of the Department of the Environment inspector on the Court Lodge appeal had been made known. iv) The bridge at Ashburnham Furnace had been inspected by E.S.C.C. and the Clerk had been assured that it would be repaired within the next three months.
4. Further Planning Matter:-
  - a) Application RR 87 1542 Rainbow End, Brays Hill - building was proceeding.
  - b) The Clerk reported that as a consequence of a telephone conversation with Mrs Proctor of Brays Hill he had contacted Rother about the unsightly wall and the highly unsatisfactory sewage arrangements of Mrs Proctor's neighbour's house, owned by Mr Clark. Progress on the wall will necessarily have to take its legal course and therefore be slow but the Clerk was expecting quick action by Rother on the matter of the sewerage. He was asked by the Chairman to keep a close eye on developments.
5. Highways. E.S.C.C. assured the Council that repairs to the lane of Little Sprays would be expedited - that work on Forge Lane would start very soon.
6. Election Charge on the Rates. The contents of a letter from Rother were read out - the Clerk was instructed to reply to the effect that the affairs of Ashburnham and Penhurst were generally dealt with as for a single Parish rather than as two and so accordingly the charge for the local election would be allocated to both parts rather than to Ashburnham alone.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 October 1987 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

- 1 All councillors attended except for Mr Keeley, from whom an apology was received. The Rother District Councillor Mr Cox was also present.
- 2 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 1987 were read, approved and signed.
- 3 Matters arising:
  - (i) At the audit held on 2 October the finances for the year ending 31/3/87 was approved. A cheque for the fee of £16.10 was signed.
  - (ii) Brownbread Street Stud. A note had been received from Mr Bensusan in which he stated the position as at 29.9.87 consequent upon a telephone conversation he had had with the Deputy Planning Officer, Mr Rallings. The contents were read and discussed. The Vice-Chairman proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that because so much shooting is now with semi-automatic rifles, a letter should be sent to the Chief Planning Officer, to the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the Chairman of the Rother District Council, in which the alarm of local people should be expressed. Mention should be made, too, of the fact that Mr Smith is still advertising events despite his assurances to Council officials of restricting his activities for the rest of this year. The Parish Council's request to Rother DC to act decisively and with determination should be stressed.
  - (iii) Clear View tip. Mr R.White observed that the tip, though not 'dormant', was not in such active use but there did appear to be a certain amount of movement of skips in the evenings from time to time. No effort had been made to clear the piles of rubble - a fact that had been reported to Mr Colthurst at Watch Oak.
  - (iv) The Old Vicarage. The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Howells in which he stated his intention to plant saplings in the autumn. The Chairman asked for the situation to be monitored.
  - (v) Brays Hill House. (a) Lowering of the wall. A three months enforcement order, which is due to expire in mid-November, has been appealed against by Mr Clarke and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Secretary of State in support of Rother's action. Legally nothing can be done to improve the appearance of the wall. (b) Sewerage. A similar order will expire in mid-November when Rother's officials will carry out an inspection.
  - (vi) Footpaths, bridges and signposts. The Clerk referred to correspondence he had had with the County Highways Department regarding (a) the repair of footpaths, ditches and bridges; this would entail a brief survey which the Clerk would co-ordinate with the aid of various parishioners so that the work could be undertaken for the County Council by the Manpower Services Commission at no cost to the Parish. (b) the replacement of missing signposts, especially at Mansfield Cross, which the County Council hoped to effect over the winter months.
  - (vii) The County Planning Department had informed the Clerk

7. Hastings - Bexhill by-pass. The Clerk said that Mr Amies had told him that he had nothing new to report beyond the contents of the letter from E.S.C.C. dated 20 February 1987.
8. Low-flying Aircraft. The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Ministry of Defence about the extreme case of low-flying aircraft over the Parish on 19 May. A cyclostyled reply had been received and it may have been no more than a coincidence that there had been no repetition of unusually low-flying in the area since.
9. Any Other Business. Mr.E.White mentioned that the Brownbread Street sign at Mansfield Cross had been broken and he offered to try to repair it.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.18pm.

*Kenneth Baker*

8/10/87

that the consultants' various proposals for a bypass for Bexhill and Hastings are now in the hands of the Department of Transport. Rather ambitious hopes exist for the selected road to be completed by the time the Channel Tunnel will be opened in 1993.

#### 4 Trees

##### (i) Felling in Luxford's Wood

The Vice-Chairman had reported to the Clerk that with Mr Jack Harmer she walked the area involved and that, whereas she could recommend agreement to the felling in the main, three or four better oaks on the peripheries should be left. Mr R.White confirmed the Vice-Chairman's opinion and she agreed to consult with Mr Harmer about them. The Clerk undertook to inform Rother of the Council's decision.

##### (ii) National Tree Week

The Clerk said he would send off for a few posters which would be displayed in places such as the Shop.

- (iii) The Clerk mentioned that he had replied to an enquiry from the E.Sussex Woodland Forum about progress with the woodland survey in the Parish.

#### 5 Any other business

##### (i) Housing

A note from Mr Laurence Keeley was circulated and discussed. The general need for housing for young first time buyers was appreciated by the Council but, as Mr Cox pointed out, needs varied very much from parish to parish. The Clerk reported on Rother housing policies as they existed in the context of the County Structure Plan and Central Government policy. It was agreed that he should write to Mr Keeley and invite him to meet with the Chairman.

- (ii) Planning applications. (a) RR 87.2382 Court Lodge Farm: Erection of a shepherd's house. The Clerk was instructed to write to Rother giving reasons why, on a vote of 5 to 1 - Mr Harman dissenting - the application was not supported. (b) RR 87.2088 Amended Plan. Erection of a garage at No2 Ponds Green Cottages. The Council had not written to Rother about this as no difficulties were foreseen.

##### (iii) Caravan at Henley Bridge Cottage.

The Clerk understood from the Rother District Council's solicitor that an enforcement order would be served for the removal of the caravan.

- (iv) The Consultative Draft Statement of Intent on the document "High Weald - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty" had been received. The Vice-Chairman and Mr R.White agreed to read it and meet with the Clerk on 29 October in order to draw up observations to forward to the County Planning Office.

(v) The Council consented to the fee for the Clerk to attend a course on 23 November.

(vi) The date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday 11 November.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.

*Kenneth Baker*  
11/10/87

- 1 All councillors attended together with Mr Cox, the District Councillor. Mr Amies sent apologies for his absence.
- 2 The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 October were read, approved and signed.
- 3 Matters arising therefrom:
  - (a) Enforcement orders had been served on the Brownbread Street Stud and on Clear View tip to take effect on 31 December 1987.
  - (b) The survey on footpaths and bridges had been set back as a result of the storm damage but the Clerk hoped for faster progress during November and December. The footbridge at the Furnace had been repaired by the County Council although the Chairman thought it has been damaged by a fallen tree. The Clerk was instructed to write to Strutt & Parker and to Mr Wallace about clearance of trees blocking the bridle path to the Furnace. The Vice-Chairman mentioned that a tree was on the footpath in the valley at the foot of Tent Hill and Mr R.White reported that the bridge at Mary's Bottom needed repairing. The Clerk took note of these points and said he would include them with others when he wrote to the County Council.
  - (b)The Clerk said that the observations resulting from his discussions with the Vice-Chairman and Mr R.White concerning the document on the High Weald had been forwarded to Lewes.
  - (c) The Clerk mentioned that the attendance fee for the Clerk's Course was more than he had anticipated and he asked for the Council's approval of the payment of £12.00. This was agreed unanimously.
- 4 The estimated current functions grant figures for 1987/88 and 1988/89 were put to the Council for information.
- 5 Planning RR87.2419 and RR87.2430 Sliverick's Farm, barn conversions. The Clerk reminded the Council that papers related to these had reached him after the last meeting. He had consulted the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and written to Rother expressing a sympathetic understanding of the applications but declining to give complete support until satisfactory plans showing elevations and materials to be used had been received. The applications, together with RR87.2382 Court Lodge Farm should come before Rother Planning Committee on 19 November. In response to a question from Councillor Keeley, the Clerk said that the appeal by Mr and Mrs Sheffield of 'Springfield' had been rejected by the Inspector.
- 6 Storm Damage. The effects of the hurricane of 16 October were discussed. Immense damage had been caused, especially on the Ashburnham Estate where it was estimated that 50% of the trees, mainly oak and beech, were down and an even higher figure of those standing were damaged. The avenue of limes near the Pound was nearly all down. The estate workers, the farmers and the County Council had acted promptly in clearing the lanes but it was agreed that it would take a long time for local people to recover from the frightful experience the parishes had suffered.
- 7 The Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council regarding (a) the rubbish and damaged signpost at the layby by Beechfield Pond and (b) the potholes on the lane at New Buildings. A further letter was to be sent to Mr Richardson in view of the fact that he had not cut back part of Reed Wood where it abuts on to the lane.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on <sup>1987</sup> Tuesday 8 December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

- 1 All councillors attended, together with the District Councillor Mr Cox. Mr Amies sent apologies for his absence.
  - 2 The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 November were read, approved and signed.
  - 3 Matters arising therefrom:
    - The clerk reported that (a) the survey of the damage on footpaths was proceeding at a faster pace;
      - (b) the bridge at the Furnace was only slightly damaged;
      - (c) the Slivericks and Court Lodge planning applications were not considered by the Rother Planning Committee at its November meeting but are scheduled for the meeting on 17 December;
      - (d) a letter has been sent to the County Council regarding the rubbish and signpost at Beechfield Park layby and the potholes at New ~~Houses~~ Buildings. Two Councillors reported that they thought the latter had been repaired;
      - (e) a further letter had been sent to Mr Richardson about Reed Wood. No reply had been received nor any hedge-cutting done, so the Chairman instructed the Clerk to inform the County Council.
  - 4 Grants for replanting trees after the storm. In response to a letter from the County Council the merits of various sites were considered. The Council was unanimous in its desire to see a grant given for the replanting of the avenue of limes in the old coach road of the Ashburnham Estate, and was totally in support of recommending the award of a grant for replanting along that part of the Estate which is forested beside the Kitchenham Road. The Council rejected the suggestion of replanting in the vicinity of Penhurst Church and within the recreation ground. The case of certain trees within Anderson, Buckwell and Hogstye Woods was considered and the Vice Chairman was asked to discuss the matter with the owner, Mr Vaines.
  - 5 Any other business. <sup>Association of</sup> Mr Keeley proposed that the Council should join the Rother District of Parish Councils in order to be more clearly in the picture with what is going on in other parts of the District. The proposal was not accepted. Mr Keeley mentioned that, in connection with his paper on housing, he was seeing the Rother Housing Officer, Mr Catt, on 14 December and in due course he would send a revised version of the paper to the Parishes in East Sussex. He intimated that he would report back to the Parish Council at its next meeting, when he hoped his paper would be discussed.
  - 6 A cheque for £5.00 for the use of the Village Hall was signed.
- There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

Kenneth Barber  
10/2/88

Handwritten initials at the bottom of the page.

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 1988 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

- 1 All Councillors attended, together with County Councillor Amies and District Councillor Cox.
- 2 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th December were read, approved and signed.
- 3 Matters arising therefrom. The Clerk reported:

(a) Planning

(i) RR87.2382, Court Lodge Farm: building of a shepherd's house.

Approved by RDC with provisos that neither the new dwelling nor the existing landholding shall be disposed of or sold separately from each other, that there should be conditions of agricultural employment applied to the occupier, that the colour of bricks and tiles should meet the approval of the Planning Authority.

(ii) RR87.2429, barn conversion and RR87.2430, oast/malthouse conversion <sup>at Stivenels Farm.</sup>  
Both approved by RDC but full details of proposed manner of conversion to be agreed by the Planning Authority.

(b) Reafforestation. An ESCC 90% Grant of £9000 had been received by the Ashburnham Estate for the avenue of limes, on which work had commenced, and for a 30 metre strip of woodland adjacent to the Kitchenham Road.  
A letter from Mr Vaines indicated that his woodland did not qualify for a grant.

(c) Reed Wood. Cutting back had been ordered by ESCC and the work had been carried out now.

(d) Potholes at New Buildings had been repaired. Discussion followed on the very poor state of Farthing Lane, Lingham Hill and Penhurst Lane at Little Sprays Farm. Mr Amies kindly offered to bring this to the attention of Mr Olsen, Chief Engineer of ESCC Highways Department. The Clerk then mentioned that he had received from Mr Broomhall a map to be forwarded to ESCC showing those areas of lanes in Penhurst where drainage is poor. With the aid of Ashburnham Councillors the Clerk undertook to compile a similar map for that Parish, ~~along~~ <sup>showing both</sup> poor road surface and poor drainage.

4 Enforcement Orders.

Copies of the letter from Mr Edwards, the RDC Solicitor, had previously been circulated to Councillors. It referred to:

(a) Brownbread Stud. The E.O. expired on 31.12.87. Activities in 1988 would be restricted to 28 days. The owner had let it be known that on occasions he would use a day for more than one event and according to Mr Edwards this is within his legal rights. The only grounds on which he could be censured would be on the counts of excessive noise ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> highway obstruction.

(b) Little Acre Farm. An E.O. took effect on 1.1.88 but has had to be set aside temporarily following a written appeal to the

Minister by the owner. The Clerk was authorised to draft a letter to the Minister, for the Chairman's approval, in which the Council's objections to the carrying on of a tip business could be set out.

(c) Brays Hill House. There is a written appeal against the E.O. and possibly a public appeal.

At 8.05pm the meeting was adjourned so that Mrs Procter, the next door neighbour, could speak about the wall and about the state of the sewage. The Clerk offered to contact RDC again about the latter.

<sup>The meeting resumed at 8.10 pm</sup>  
(d) Henley Bridge Cottage. The E.O. against the caravan was due to expire on 31.1.88 but has had to be set aside temporarily because an appeal has been submitted.

Planning Applications.

(a) RR88.0175 Conversion of Lakehurst barn into a dwelling. In principle the Council was not unfavourable towards this but had reservations about the design of the south elevation and the proximity of the barn to the road.

(b) RR88.0198 Conversion of Court Lodge Oast into a dwelling. On appeal the Inspector had granted permission for change of use but added provisos about plans and materials. The Council saw progress on this application as largely a case of rubber stamping but expressed to RDC reservations about the large windows in the roundel.

(c) RR88.0203 Conversion of Middle Spray barn into a dwelling. The Council had strong reservations about the design and the proximity to the existing building and considered that since there is a serious water supply problem for all the consumers on the pipeline and because Eastbourne Water Works Company had already intimated that no further extension of the existing supply could be entertained, the RDC ~~would~~ <sup>probably</sup> refuse planning permission. The Vice-Chairman pointed out that the barn, which is a listed building, had been allowed to deteriorate; the owner had a statutory duty to ensure its proper refurbishment and this should be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority along with two apparent discrepancies in the application form.

Housing.

Councillor Keeley read out the report on the meeting convened by Battle Town Council that he had attended and he invited Councillors to send him any observations they might have on his paper and on the housing situation generally in the Rother villages. Mr Amies emphasised to Councillor Keeley that he must support his ideas with solid, indisputable facts if his scheme ~~would~~ <sup>were to</sup> be fostered. This was endorsed by the Vice-Chairman.

Under any other business Councillor E. White mentioned that at Brownbread Street the gate to the footpath leading to Glynde Farm was obstructed. The Clerk was asked to have the matter attended to.

A cheque for £5.00 for the Hall was signed.

Being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.06pm.

H Baker 24/3/88

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th March 1988 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. All Councillors attended except for the Vice-Chairman, from whom apologies were received. County Councillor Amies and District Councillor Cox were also present.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th February were read, approved and signed.

3. Matters arising therefrom:

3.1 The Clerk suggested that minutes of future Council meetings be circulated in advance to Councillors in order that they might have a better opportunity to study them and, secondly, to save time at Council meetings. The idea was endorsed by the Chairman and accepted unanimously by members of the Council.

3.2 The Clerk reported that (i) he had written to the County Highways Dept about the state of Farthing Lane, Lingham Hill and Penhurst Lane by Little Sprays; and (ii) that the Ashburnham Councillors had virtually completed their survey of the road surfaces and drainage in their part of the Parish but they felt that recent repair work was not likely to prove very effective. The Clerk said he would mention this in his next letter to the Highways Department.

3.3 Planning.

3.3.1 Current applications

RR 88.0175 Lakehurst, barn conversion,  
RR 88.0198 Court Lodge, east conversion,  
RR 88.0203 Middle Sprays, barn conversion.

As far as was known at the time of the Council meeting no decisions on these applications had been made by Rother Planning Committee.

3.3.2 Current appeals.

Little Acre Farm, tip business. This appeal is now to be a public one on 23rd June.

Brays Hill House, wall. This is a written appeal. The Clerk reminded the Council that the sewerage problem here had not been resolved. The owner had two more of his three months in which to install an approved septic tank but Rother officials were finding it difficult to make contact with the owner. The Clerk offered to write again to the Rother official Mr Colthurst on Mrs Procter's behalf.

4. New Planning applications.

No objections were made by the Council to the following:

RR 88 0313 Forge Lodge, home extension,  
RR 88 0431 Little Beech Farmhouse, new window,  
RR 88 <sup>0434</sup> Agmerhurst Farm, conversion to two semidetached dwellings.

But concerning RR 88 0445 Henley Bridge Cottage, retention of a caravan for an agricultural worker, the Council objected on the same grounds as it had raised in previous correspondence with RDC.

Regarding RR 88 0356 Clays Farm (Brownbread Stud), erection of

a barn, the Council had made strong written and verbal representations to RDC. The Parish Council considered that the building would be far too large for the limited needs of the Farm or the Stud and it would be a major eyesore in a sensitive part of the AONB. The Clerk said that on the morning of Sunday 21st February 23 vehicles had been parked in the lane by the Stud, causing a traffic hazard. This had been reported to the County Highways Department (with copies to Bexhill Police, and the County Fire and Ambulance Chief Officers) with a request that "No waiting" instructions be imposed along the lane from Mansfield Cross to just south of the Ash Tree, but the County Engineer said he could not manage this. The Police at Bexhill merely advised that ~~that~~ future cases of parking problems should be reported to Battle Police at the time they arose. The Clerk mentioned that Mr Colthurst of the Environmental Health Department had written to the owner of Clays Farm (Brownbread Stud) to say that he was considering serving an Abatement Notice banning all shooting at the Stud (except for private leisure and for the control of vermin) and inviting the owner to let him have his comments within 21 days. The Clerk felt that matters were coming to a head but the Chairman was not hopeful that a long term settlement would be easy to achieve.

5. Finance.

The 1988/89 precept for £410 was proposed by Councillor R. White, seconded by Councillor E. White and ~~is~~ approved by the Council. Payment of the Clerk's salary for 1987/88 (£168) and expenses for 1987/88 (£63.76) was proposed by Councillor Harman, seconded by Councillor Akehurst and ~~is~~ approved by the Council. A cheque for £5.00 for the Village Hall was signed. The Clerk revealed briefly the details of the rates for Ashburnham and Penhurst for the forthcoming year.

6. Housing.

Councillor Keeley, in mentioning that the next meeting of the Association of Rother Parishes, to discuss housing, would be on 6th May, urged the Council to reconsider its decision not to join the Association. The Chairman put the matter to the vote and it was decided unanimously to join (at an annual fee of £2.00).

7. Annual General Meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Council that its own AGM had to be held on any day in May and that of the Parish some time in March, April or May. The Council settled provisionally on 5th May for both meetings and it was agreed that at the Parish meeting the Clerk should summarise what the Council had done in the past year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.53pm.

*Renneth Bahn*

4/5/88



## ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Financial Statement of Account for the year ended 31st March 1988

### RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward	130.74
as at 31/3/87	
Precept from Rother DC	367.00
Petty cash and stamps in hand	12.97
	-----
	510.71

### PAYMENTS

Hire of hall	40.00
Sussex Ass'n of Local Councils - subscription	32.00
- forms and literature	8.68
Cornhill Insurance	25.00
Audit fee	16.10
Petty cash for stamps and stationery	25.00
Clerk's salary	168.00
Clerk's expenses - phone	45.58
- petrol	18.18
Clerk's training course fee	12.00
Credit balance	120.15
	-----
	510.71

I hereby certify that the above is a true statement of Accounts.

D.H.B. Pirkin

## ASHBURNHAM &amp; PENHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 1988 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. All Councillors except for Councillor Keeley attended, together with County Councillor Amies and District Councillor Cox. Two members of the public were also present.

2. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th May, previously circulated, were approved and duly signed.

3. Arising therefrom the Clerk reported:

## 3.1 Roads

3.1.1 The drainage and pothole work on Farthing Lane should have commenced in July but had been delayed. Complete resurfacing is scheduled for 1989.

3.1.2 A representative of Strutt & Parker had met an officer of the County Highways Department at Lingsams Hill and it was agreed that drainage control work would be undertaken in High Field by Strutt & Parker once the crop had been harvested.

3.2 Trees at Hammer Hill. It is still not known who planted these but the County Council is trying to find out.

## 3.3 Planning.

3.3.1 Information regarding applications being processed by Rother at the time of the last Parish Meeting:

RR88.0198. Court Lodge, east conversion - conditional approval.

RR88.0313D. Forge Lodge, extension - conditional approval after site visit.

RR88.0356. Clays Farm (Brownbread Stud), building of a barn - rejected.

RR88.0445. Brays Hill, caravan - rejected (but reported to be occupied still and Rother had been informed accordingly).

RR88.0656. Agmerhurst Farm, conversion - conditional approval (but Rother in dispute with developer about windows in cowling).

RR88.0787D. Slivericks Farm, stables - approved.

RR88.0801. Slivericks Farm, barn conversion - conditional approval.

## 3.3.2 Enforcement and Abatement Notices.

Brays Hill House - wall. The site visit on 2nd August was not made and a new date was awaited.

Brays Hill House - sewerage. The owner had still not complied with the Enforcement Notice and Rother was taking proceedings to the Magistrates Court. The Council felt that Rother had been dragging its heels over this problem.

Little Acre - tip. A site visit was still awaited.

Springfield. An Enforcement Notice had been served to take effect from 31st July giving the owner one year in which to sell the premises. The Parish Council assumed that if the owner complied with the Agricultural Occupancy condition in a manner acceptable to the Chief Planning Officer then the Enforcement Notice would lapse.

Brownbread Stud. The Clerk reported that the owner had been informed by letter from Rother that an Abatement Notice would be served. It would ban all shooting, except for game and pest control, and all motor sports.

The Council reviewed its position in the light of events at Brownbread Stud on Sunday 24th July as outlined in a letter received from Mr Bensusan. It considered that Mr Smith, in allowing shooting to reach unacceptable noise levels and in failing to prevent a target for shooting to be set up on Mr Bensusan's land, had behaved irresponsibly. Accordingly, the Council reversed the compromise position it had adopted at the last meeting and totally supported Rother in the serving of an Abatement Notice.

4. New Planning - not dealt with by Rother yet.

The Council raised no objections to the following, provided design and materials were acceptable to Rother:

RR88.1130D. Redpde Farm - dormer windows; RR88.1355D Pigknoll Farm - extension; RR88.1466. Slivericks Farm - east conversion.

The Council raised no objection to:

RR88.1532D. Court Lodge - diversion of electricity line; RR88.1747 Street Farm - stable block; RR88 1909D. Ashburnham Place - siting of propane gas tank.

In the case of RR88.1811 - Agmerhurst House; there was no objection to the diversion of exits to the B2204 but the Council doubted the wisdom of constructing such a long and high wall fronting on to the main road. It raised strong objections to the material with which it would be built. Regarding RR88.1920D. Agmerhurst Farm - erection of double garage; the Council felt it would be obtrusive on the skyline and ought to be sited either within the main building or on land on the northern side.

## 5. Footpaths.

The Clerk had received reports on their state and details had been forwarded to the County Council with a view to clearance and repairs being effected in the forthcoming year. He was instructed to ask the County Council for the path at Street Farm to be more clearly signposted.

## 6. Any Other Business

6.1 Councillor Akehurst revealed that verges to the Ashburnham lanes had not been cut. The Clerk was instructed to report this to the County Council.

6.2 A cheque for £5.00 for the use of the Village Hall was signed.

6.3 The Chairman expressed thanks to County Councillor Amies, District Councillor Cox and the Clerk for the work they had been doing on behalf of the Parish.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.48pm.

*Kenneth Baker*

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 1988 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

1. All councillors attended together with County Councillor Amies and District Councillor Cox. Two members of the public were also present

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd August, previously circulated, were approved and duly signed.

3 Matters arising therefrom:

3.1 Roads. Farthing Lane was under repair but Councillor E.White hinted at the current dangerous state. The Clerk was instructed to inform the County Council about it.

Strutt & Parker had been pressured by the Clerk about the drainage work adjacent to Lingham Hill which had not commenced.

Verges. Several councillors confirmed that these had been dealt with by the County Council, albeit belatedly.

Footpaths. Mr Jack Harmer had supervised the clearance of a large obstacle to Penhurst 4 in the vicinity of the Ashbourne. The Vice-Chairman had previously reported that Penhurst 3 & 5 were still blocked and the Clerk indicated that he had written to the bailiff of the Beech Estate asking for the obstacles to be cleared.

Councillor E.White confirmed that Ashburnham 2 was now appropriately signposted at Street Farm.

3.2 Planning. Information regarding applications being dealt with by Rother at the time of the last Parish meeting:

RR88.1130D Redpale Farm. Dormer windows approved.

RR88.1355D Pignoll Farm. Extension approved only after considerable modifications.

RR88.1466 Slivericks Farm. East conversion approved.

RR88.1532 Court Lodge. Diversion of electricity line approved.

RR88.1747 Street Farm. Stable block approved.

RR88.1909 Ashburnham Place. Siting of propane gas tank approved.

RR88.1811 Agmerhurst House. Building of a wall and new entrances to the property rejected by Rother. The Clerk reported on a discussion he had had with Mr Bickersteth and a letter from him was carefully considered by the Council. The outcome was that the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Bickersteth indicating that although the Council still had reservations about the suitability of the materials it was prepared to give support to Mr Bickersteth in his negotiations with Rother with the stipulation that the wall was to be covered on both sides with evergreen vegetation.

RR88.1920 Agmerhurst Farm. New plans reveal that there will be only one property instead of two; that there will be control exercised on windows in the roof and cowling and that the garage will be an integral part of the building.

### 3.3 Appeals

Brays Hill House. Wall. The site had been visited on 15th August; subsequently the inspector rejected the appeal. The Enforcement Notice merely requires the owner to reduce the height of the wall to two metres and still leaves the problem of its unsightly nature unsolved.

Brays Hill House. Sewerage. A magistrates' hearing was to have been held on 27th October but the owner's solicitor had requested and secured a postponement in order to prepare his case.

Little Acre. Tip. The written appeal had been withdrawn and the site had been partially cleared.

Brays Hill. Caravan. The owner had submitted a written appeal but no date had been given for the site inspection.

### 4 Enforcement Notices

Springfield. The Clerk reported it was believed that the excavations were for a trout farm and added that although trout-farming as such was an acceptable form of employment under the requirement of the agricultural <sup>occupancy provision</sup> ~~act~~, it was <sup>so</sup> only if it was the sole or main form of income of the owner. It was agreed that nothing further could be done by the Council at this stage.

Brownbread Stud. The magistrates had rejected the appeal. The Clerk read out a letter from the Council's three witnesses in which appreciation of the Council's support was expressed. He added that he had already expressed thanks to Rother's solicitor, Mr Edwards, and to Mr Colthurst of the Environmental Health Department.

### 4. New Planning

Frankwell Farm. A builder was proposing to rebuild this property, bombed in the war, but no planning application had been submitted yet.

Beech Estate. The Clerk reported that caravans recently sited near Stevens Crouch were for forestry workers who would be on contract until December 1989 and Rother had informed him that no planning permission was required.

A letter had been received from a Mr Bell, the prospective Conservative candidate for the next County Council election, in which he asked to be allowed to attend Parish Council meetings. On a proposal from the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ashurst, the Chairman instructed the Clerk to send a suitable reply in line with a precedent set in 1985 which declined to give consent. However, it was to be explained to Mr Bell that should he be successful at the election then he would be welcome to attend.

Two Council representatives, Councillor L.Keeley and the Clerk, were asked to continue attending the meetings of the Association of Rother Parish and Town Councils. A cheque for £200 annual subscription was signed.

Two councillors, the Vice-Chairman and Mr Keeley, agreed to attend a seminar on the amended County Structure Plan for 1989 to be held at Battle on 8th December.

A letter had been received from the Post Office indicating that the Parish sub post office might become a "Community" sub post office. This was optional at this stage and Mr Peters, the sub Postmaster, had mentioned to the Clerk that he had no immediate plans to change things. The Clerk pointed out to the Council that should Mr Peters decide at some future date to accept the change or should he sell the business there would be a reduction in the number of hours available for post office business in the week. The Council deplored this but there was nothing to be done until the present circumstance could be seen to be changing.

### 4. Finance

A cheque for £5.00 for the use of the Village Hall was signed.

Councillor R.White presented a copy of the Village Hall finances for 1987-8 and the Clerk was asked to display this at the village shop.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.32pm.

H Baker  
al. Iso