

Minutes of Ashurst Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 5th April 2018 AT 8PM at Ashurst Village Hall

Present: 40 members of the public, 6 Parish Councillors, 1 District Councillor, 1 County Councillor and the Clerk to Ashurst Parish Council

1. Introduction and welcome from the Chairman

Cllr Chas Hammond, as Chairman to Ashurst Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting of 20th April 2017

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th April 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3. Presentation on possible future affordable housing for Ashurst

Jeremy Page, Development Manager for the Rural Housing Trust, attended the meeting to present on affordable housing. Mr Page's slides are included in appendix 1 at the end of these minutes. The audience were also shown a short film on affordable housing and shared ownership. Homes are designed in keeping with the local area and the Parish Council and Community are consulted throughout. In addition, shared ownership properties are only available to people with a link to the Parish and who cannot afford to otherwise buy their own home. If no-one came forward within three months to purchase a property, then it is made available to the rest of the District. This rule applies each time the property is re-sold.

It was also noted that Ashurst had already had a Housing Needs Survey undertaken in 2012, which demonstrated that there is a need for affordable homes in the Parish.

There are two sites in the Parish which could be developed, as two land owners have come forward. Planners for each site spoke to members of the community and answered questions. In addition, one of the landowners spoke to the audience about his family link to the Parish.

The Parish Council asked the Clerk to add an item to the agenda for 3rd May to discuss this further and how to take forward a public consultation on the proposals.

4. Chairman's Annual Report and report from other Parish Groups and Societies

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and thanked his fellow councillors and the Clerk for the great job that they do for the Parish. Cllr Hammond said that he felt that there is a real community spirit in Ashurst, and that the village works well together. He reported on some of the Council's successes over the year, including repairing the play equipment at the Recreation Ground, pursuing Horsham District Council Planning to ensure that trees are planted around Prior's Byne Solar Farm and implementing health and safety measures at the Recreation Ground. Other members of the Council and groups were invited to report as follows:

Joint Parishes Youth Committee

Cllr Russell updated on the decision to leave the Joint Parishes Youth Committee, but that the Parish Council has committed to making a grant every year to Horsham Matters, so children in Ashurst would still be able to use the service, should they wish to.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Susie Fischel informed the Parish that the SWAB Neighbourhood Plan Cluster had ceased to exist when the Parish of Wiston withdrew. Further information can be found on the website <http://www.ashurstparishcouncil.org/neighbourhood-plan.php>

Partridge Green Football Club

Club Chairman, Steve Nyhoe attended the meeting and reported that PGFC appreciate the use of the Ground, as they cannot always use their own pitch. It was noted that the Club is in the second year of a three-year agreement. Cllr Hammond thanked PGFC for helping to keep football in Ashurst.

Ashurst Cricket Club

David Fischel attended and updated the community with the following report:

2017 Season

- We played 10 games (nine home, one away) in 2017 (2016-9) starting on 30 April v. Henfield and finishing v. Wineham/Twineham on 10 September.
- Our playing record was our most successful in memory with 8 victories (Henfield, Broadwater, S. Duffett XI, Tillington, Abinger, Bramber & Beeding, Hove Unicorns and Arundel), one narrow defeat by 8 runs against Littlehampton and a draw v. Wineham/Twineham when rain prevented what was looking like certain victory.
- Highlights were another century from Isaac Tidley and a hat-trick from Dan Saunders.
- Encouragingly, a number of players who had started with us a few years ago as 12 and 13 year old juniors have now progressed to Steyning 1st and 2nd XI. That, of course, now makes it harder to get them to play for us so we need a constant supply of new players with juniors especially welcome. Nearly all our players have strong local connections.
- As mentioned last year, our side, and those of many of our opponents, tends to be composed of mostly under 16's and over 40's with the in-between years finding it hard to commit.
- Cancellations at the last minute are rife now in village cricket, but as a result quite a number of sides are left looking for a game at short notice, so when it has happened to us we have usually managed to get matched up.

Ground and Pavilion

- The pitch played well in 2017 helped by additional heavy rolling. Rabbit invasion and damage continues to be a problem and the intention this year is to replace the fencing surrounding the square which has reached the end of its useful life.
- The cricket Pavilion was made available for the School on a number of occasions, for the Dog Show and other village events.
- We are extremely grateful to Ashurst Parish Council and the councillors who, further to works in previous years, performed internal decorating work to the Pavilion in 2017.
- We are hopeful of performing some further external maintenance work to the Pavilion this year

Thanks

- We would like to express our thanks to the trustees for the continued use of the ground, both home team and visitors alike greatly appreciate the pleasant and tranquil setting of the recreation ground.
- We look forward to another year of enjoyable cricket at Ashurst in 2018 with spectators always welcome.
- As ever, we are on the lookout for players, so if you are interested or know someone who might be, please let me know (text or call 07710 582843).

David Fischel

Chairman

5 April 2018

Ashurst CE Primary School

Janet Williams, Head Teacher of Ashurst Primary School was unable to attend but spoke to the Clerk and asked her to pass on thanks to the Trust for the use of the recreation ground. Janet informed the Clerk:

"The school truly appreciates this wonderful facility. It is used for sports day, games, athletics and cricket. Happy memories are created for the school children using the Recreation Ground. Ashurst Primary School is very grateful for the continuing use of the recreation ground".

St James' Church

Cllr Susie Fischel reported that the new Vicar had settled in well, and sent his apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Fischel reminded the community that there is a weekly service at 10.30am on Sundays.

Village Hall

Cllr Chris Jesse reported on events which have raised money for the Village Hall including the Pantomime, Flix in the Stix and the Dog Show. The Village Hall AGM will be held on 17th May at 8pm.

Flix in the Stix

Bob Harari gave his apologies, but submitted the following, which was reported to the audience:

- The average attendance is 37
- They are now on the 19th screening
- The events always pay for themselves and provide a good surplus for the Village Hall funds
- Highlights of the year have included updating the acoustics and projection equipment thanks to a generous donor
- The next film night will be on Saturday 12th May at 7pm for 7.30pm, and a Western will be shown
- Thanks to the community for their ongoing support.

District & County Councillors

Cllr Hammond thanked the District and County Councillors for all that they do for Ashurst.

Cllr Tim Lloyd (Horsham District Council) informed the Parish that the changes to the waste and recycling collections had been hugely successful.

Cllr David Barling (West Sussex County Council) explained that he has a geographically large division, with a lot of experience with Highways. Cllr Barling suggested that the Council ask for traffic calming measures on the B2315 to be incorporated as part of any proposed development.

The meeting was closed at 10pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Appendix 1:
Slides from the presentation given by the Rural Housing Trust



Rural Housing Trust Ltd

Presentation to Ashurst Annual
Parish Meeting
April 2018

Rural Housing Trust Ltd

Providing rural housing since 1978....



Marcham, Oxfordshire
2 Bedrooms 69% share
£191,820



Challock, Ashford
2 Bedrooms 75% share
£221,250



Tarpoley, Cheshire
2 Bedrooms 59% share
£118,000



Newport, Essex
2 Bedrooms 68% share
£210,800
(Under Offer)



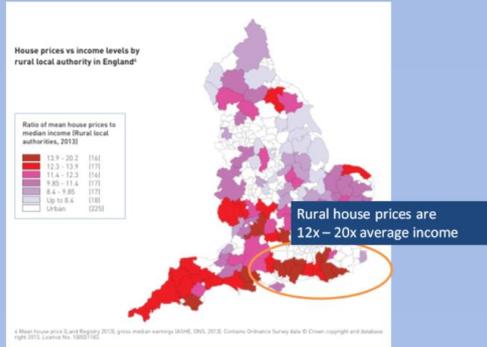
Lenham, Kent
2 Bedrooms 71% share
£166,850
(Under Offer)



Dunchideock, Devon
2 Bedrooms 59% share
£123,900



Affordable Rural Housing What is the problem?

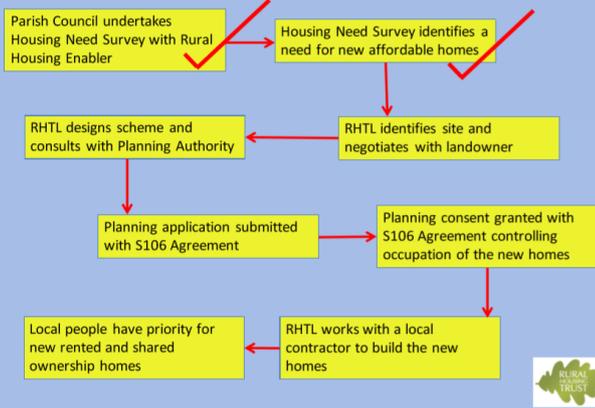


Community Benefit

- Local people will have priority - enshrined in a legal agreement linked to the land in perpetuity.
- RHTL will lead the development and *work in partnership with the Parish Council*
- **No cost to local community** or landowner – RHTL will buy the land and finance the design for a planning application.
- RHTL will notify the Parish Council whenever there is a shared ownership home for sale.



Key Elements of Development Process



Next Steps

The Parish Council will consider if it would like to work with RHTL and a landowner to build affordable housing for the village.

RHTL will

- Negotiate a price and enter into an Option to buy the land for the purpose of building affordable housing.
- Appoint an architect and specialist consultants to design a scheme.
- Liaise with the Parish Council throughout the process.
- Arrange a community consultation event for feedback on a proposed design.

RHTL and the landowner will submit a detailed planning application.



Rural Housing Trust Ltd