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## MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ASHURST PARISH COUNCIL, HELD AT ASHURST VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT 8.00PM

### Attendance

<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Fischel
<b>Ashurst Parish Council</b>	Cllrs Hedley, Hammond, Jesse, Knight and Russell
<b>Horsham District Council</b>	Cllr Lloyd
<b>Clerk</b>	Elizabeth Leggo

**To provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements at the Chairman's discretion.**

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Nicholson.

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests.**

Cllr Hedley declared an interest in planning application **DC/20/0233** and did not take part in discussions on this item.

**3. Planning Matters:** To comment on planning applications received from Horsham District Council.

**Application no: DC/20/0233:**

**Proposal:** Erection of a two-storey side extension for the use of a granny annex

**Address:** Bines Brook Cottage Bines Green Partridge Green Horsham

The Clerk was asked to submit the following comments:

**Stance:** Support

**Comments:** This is the sort of development that the Council likes to see in Ashurst.

**Application no: DC/20/0120**

**Proposal:** Installation of a satellite communication mast

**Address:** Ford Solar Farm Honeybridge Lane Dial Post West Sussex

*Note that this application falls under permitted development so any comments submitted will not be consulted on by HDC.*

The Clerk was asked to submit the following comments:

**Stance:** Neutral.

**Comments:** The Council recognises that this is permitted development, but would like to ask that the mast is as unobtrusive as possible and ideally painted green.

**4. To discuss and agree comments, if any, on the Horsham District Local Plan.**

The plan includes draft planning policies and draft allocations of land for employment and housing. It will be subject to a consultation period between 17<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr Lloyd attended the meeting and advised the Council that it is invited to make comments on the Local HDC Plan during this consultation period. HDC is hoping that the plan will go through by the end of the year. HDC, however, has struggled to meet its housing targets of 800 new houses per year over the last five years, so that the current additional allocated numbers (965 minimum) will prove quite a challenge.

Ashurst Parish Councillors were in agreement that the local area does not have sufficient infrastructure to cope with this level of development. Cllr Lloyd was asked whether HDC could challenge the Government on the figures. He responded that he suspected that this might well happen. He advised that taking up some of the large 'strategic' sites would go a long way to helping HDC meet its housing targets; developing existing towns is not easy.

The Council expressed regret that large essentially rural areas of the Horsham District were being considered for development. It was also particularly concerned over the added risk of flooding, as 7,000 proposed additional homes at Mayfield and a further suggested 3,000 at Bucks Barn would lead to a significant amount of additional water flowing into the River Adur. It was also felt that local communities would be seriously affected by the inevitable large increase in the volume of traffic in the area if these developments were to go ahead.

**Actions:**

- Parish Councillors to read the Plan and send their notes/comments by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March to Cllr Fischel who would collate this information and prepare a draft submission for review at the next meeting.

**5. To discuss and agree comments, if any, on Horsham Association of Local Councils' (HALC's), proposed letter to be submitted to local MPs regarding the current proposed housing levels in the Horsham District Local Plan.**

Cllr Fischel circulated the proposed letter to HDC and the local MPs, for which HALC has asked for comments by 17<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that the letter should be asking HDC to make a strong representation to the Government regarding the unrealistic hike in annual housing numbers. The current requirement of 800 houses a year should be sufficient and is proving difficult enough to achieve. HDC should also be resisting the principal of adopting 'the duty to co-operate' with other councils (especially Crawley). The idea of promoting large strategic sites in the middle of essentially rural areas does not tie in with HDC's stated policies of sustainability and the protection of the environment.

**6. To decide whether Ashurst Parish Council wishes to continue in the Inter-Parish group which opposes the proposed Mayfield Development.** It was RESOLVED that the Council would continue to support the Group and would order some of their flyers for local distribution.

**Action:** Clerk to contact the Clerk to the IPG to order 150 flyers.

**7. To formulate a response to HALC's initiative regarding a proposed reduction of speed limits on minor roads.**

At the last HALC meeting there was talk of putting together a HALC letter asking for an overall reduction in the speed limit for local B roads and other minor roads. It was agreed that Cllr Fischel would respond to HALC to say that, while Ashurst is sympathetic, it feels that requests for any sort of reduction of this sort would be strongly resisted.

She advised that a representative from the WSCC Highways Department was to be invited to the next HALC meeting which, coincidentally, was to be held at Ashurst on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020. It was felt that this would be a good opportunity to talk about speeding generally and Ashurst's particular concerns regarding traffic speeding through the village and the absence of any Vehicle Activation Signs.

**8. To decide upon a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

It was agreed that Cllr Fischel would contact NEP and the Sussex Wildlife Trust to ask if a representative could attend the Annual Parish Meeting as a speaker. Note – since then Better Connect has agreed to come and talk and the Police are also keen to make an appearance.

**9. To discuss and agree on any Council items to be included in the forthcoming Parish Newsletter.**

It was agreed that the Community Speedwatch initiative would be mentioned in the Newsletter again, together with details of the Annual Parish meeting.

**Date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Ashurst Village Hall at 8pm

Signed (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_