

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2016 AT 8.00PM

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Hedley (Chairman)

Cllrs Jesse, Fischel, Knight, Nicholson and Russell

Also present Councillor Willett (District) & Barling (County)

There were no members of the public present

In attendance the Clerk.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were apologies Cllr Hammond and Cllr Lloyd (District)

2. Declaration of Members Interest.

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors

3. Approve the Minutes of the Meeting 7th January 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 7th January were circulated to all Councillors and taken as read. It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be approved as a true record of the Meeting and they were signed by the Chairman

4. Outstanding Actions.

The agreed comment for the Diversion of Part of Footpath 2519 at Eatons Farm was sent to WSCC: *Councillors have **No Objection** to the diversion providing there is a condition applied that no hedges, fencing or bunding of any sort will be allowed for as long as the footpath exists.*

WSCC responded that although fencing of the route cannot legally be barred, there will be a minimum 2 metre width for the path which will be legally protected. The owners have also reassured WSCC that is no intention to fence the footpath.

5. Recreation Ground Matters.

The bank balance at HSBC as at 20th February 2015 was £4,651.25

Incomes received

None for this meeting

The following Expenditures were Authorised

H Roxby	£ 45.57	Salary
Southern Water	£54.30	Water at John Eaton Hut

A request has been received from Upper Beeding Football Club to use Ashurst recreation ground for Saturday or Sunday mornings from September. It was agreed the Clerk arrange a meeting with the representative of the club to discuss the proposal.

The work to John Eaton Hut and The Pavilion will continue once the better weather arrives.

5. Planning Matters.

None for this meeting.

HDC have informed that paperless planning will start on 1st April 2016. There will be no grants given towards any equipment that will be required for parishes to be able to view plans at meetings. The Village Hall has now got broadband which means that as long as there is a laptop available on the evening plans can be viewed on line if necessary.

WSCC have informed of enforcements works that have taken place on Footpath 2502 on land at Sopers Farm. The legal line of the footpath has now been reinstated. The cost of the work will be reclaimed from the land owner.

6. Late planning applications

None for this meeting

7. Planning Decisions from HDC

Permitted

DC/15/2479 - Peppers Farm, Peppers Lane - Construction of tennis court with 2.75m high weldmesh fence

Refused

DC/15/2437 – Peppers Farm, Peppers Lane – Conversion of ancillary domestic outbuilding to studio annex.

9 Financial Matters.

The bank balance at Lloyds TSB as at 20th February 2016 was £3,706.45

Incomes received

None

A reclaim of £3,053.51 VAT has been sent off to HMRC.

The following Expenditures were Authorised

Hazel Roxby	£ 499.73	Salary
Hazel Roxby	£ 30.00	Office allowance
HMRC	£ 125.00	Tax
Bramber Parish Council	£ 252.00	Agree sum to help cover original shortfall
PWLB	£1,579.13	Loan for Village Hall Grant

Mark Mulberry, Internal Auditor, has sent a letter of engagement, forwarded to all Councillors . He will be doing the internal Audit on 27th April 2016.

Information on the Future of External Audit for Smaller Authorities has been received. Councils with an income and expenditure of under £25k will not be required to undergo a limited assurance audit review. Instead they will need to complete and publish an annual return and an annual exemption form which will be submitted to the External Auditor. There will be no fee.

Steyning Area Mini Bus Association have written requesting consideration for a grant. £100 was budgeted for the 2016-2017 financial year. It was Agreed to give a grant of £100 as budgeted.

10. Update on Youth Provision.

The latest minutes from SAYS Trustees meeting was forwarded to all councilors.

It has been agreed to use the SAYS Charity to pay Horsham Matters for this year's contract and Parishes will be invoiced for any shortfall. A meeting will need to be held in due course to discuss how the project will go forward in future years.

Emma has reported that there has still only been 1 attendee from Ashurst in the 3 years that the project has been running.

11. Neighbourhood Plan –

i) The two Public Consultation Drop-in Events, held on Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd January, were well attended with over 350 people present at each event. 34 Ashurst residents attended. It was decided that an Ashurst Drop-in event was not necessary.

All information displayed at the events can now be found on the SWAB website.

For Ashurst, the proposed site for 4 small (2/3 bedroom) affordable houses is Ashurst Village Nurseries.

There is one proposed Green Space (in the A category) which is the Recreation Ground. Bines Green Common and Horsebridge Common are in the B category- since as common land, they are considered to have enough existing protection.

ii) There has been one Steering group meeting since then to discuss feedback from the Drop-in events – relating to the proposed housing sites and the Green Spaces.

ii) Housing numbers

No decision on housing numbers has yet been made. Further work is being done on this by the Housing Focus Group, before the Steering Group can consider its recommendations.

iv) Once the numbers have been agreed, SWAB will be in a position to submit its pre Submission Plan - after which there will be a 6 week consultation period.

v) There has been no update regarding the possible withdrawal of future Neighbourhood Plan funding by Central Government.

vi) As requested, we have made our interim ‘payment on account’ of £250 to Bramber Parish Council – the SWAB ‘banker’.

12. Correspondence.

A report from the planning Compliance Team Leader, Madeline Hartley, has been received via West Grinstead Parish Council, concerning Traffic management and works being carried out on the 2 solar farms in the area. The report was forwarded to all councillors.

WSSC have informed of a proposal to re run Operation Watershed.

Adur internal drainage board rates and special levies information was sent to all councillors.

Community safety and wellbeing survey was sent to all councillors.

13 Reports from Outside Bodies.

Cllr Jesse reported that the Village Hall is still in need of money and the committee are trying to think of fund raising ideas.

There will be work carried out soon to put a drain into the car park area.

The next film night will be held at the end of March.

Cllr Fischel informed that the Church Roof is in desperate need of repairs to the roof which will cost thousands of pounds. Fund raising and grant applications will need to be carried out for this.

14. Reports from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Barling informed that the WSSC budget has been set at a 3.85% increase, this will be the first increase in 5 years. The County Council still need to make savings of 23 million pounds over the next year or so. The Government are giving funding of 6 million pounds this year and 6 Million next year and it is planned that the money will be spent on Adult Care and road repairs.

The road north of Partridge Green is on the list to have the pot holes repaired.

Cllr Willett informed that Horshams budget has been set at a 1.2% increase.

A decision has been made to charge on Sundays for car parks that already charge for parking during the week and on Saturday. At present there will be no charges in the rural area car parks.

The planning application for Calcot Farm has been agreed.

The appeal for the proposed solar farm at Huddlestone Farm has been dismissed.

15. Questions from the floor

None for this meeting.

16. Information Items.

It was noted that Honeybridge Lane near Old Barn has been repaired.

17. Date of the next Meeting.

Thursday 5th May 2016 at 8.00pm

At Ashurst Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Annual Parish Meeting 7th April 2016 8pm at Ashurst Village Hall