

Minutes of Ashurst Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 20th April 2017 AT 8PM at Ashurst Village Hall

Present: 21 members of the public, 7 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 2nd April 2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 7th April 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3. Presentation from Dave Erasmus

Dave Erasmus has lived within Ashurst Parish for 6 months, on Spiphandle Lane. Dave lives in a wooden hut which he bought on eBay. Dave reported that he had spent ten years building internet companies, and at age 21 sold his first company and bought a house. He then built a log cabin and travelled the world.

Living in the log cabin on Spiphandle Lane, Dave has learnt from the natural world – he has learnt to chop trees and grow his own fruit and vegetables. He has online followers from 150 countries worldwide who watch his videos.

Dave invited residents to his open hut day on 12th August. He can be contacted on the email address: dave@corcova.do

4. Councillor Nick Hedley, Vice Chairman to the Council, presented on his 40 years of service to West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

As residents know, Cllr Nick Hedley is Vice Chairman to Ashurst Parish Council and a local Farmer. Nick gave an excellent presentation to the audience about his career. He started in the Fire and Rescue Service in 1976, aged just 21. A friend suggested he join, so he headed to Partridge Green Fire Station to see the Station Manager. Nick passed all the interviews and tests and his first day was 17th January 1977. After six years as a Fireman and couple of years as Leading Fireman, Nick was Station Manager at Partridge Green for 22 years.

Of interest to the audience were five of Nick's helmets that he has had over the years. He used each one to talk us through the stages of his career.

In his 40 years of service, Nick estimates that he has been to 4,500 incidents. At one fire, there were 35 engines from three counties, and Nick was in charge of managing the scene. He was also awarded the Chief Officers Commendation for his work at the Shoreham Air Show disaster in 2015.

Other incidents which were lighter hearted included a hedgehog falling down a drain, incidents in the bath and dogs tangled in wrought iron gates.

Nick told the audience that he could not have done the job without the support and understanding of the community, who have completely understood the need to leave work immediately as his bleeper went off.

5. Break for tea and coffee

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

Joint Parishes Youth Committee

Cllrs Chas Hammond and Ali Russell updated on the youth service that Ashurst Parish Council contributes to, in partnership with three other parishes.

Partridge Green Football Club

The following report from Richard Moules, Chairman of PGFC was read out to the audience:

The 2016/17 season has just been completed. The 1st XI finishing a very creditable 4th in the 'Championship' and 2nd XI 5th in Div 4 North. As previously reported, with the oldest youth team (U16's) 'coming of age'; both the 1st XI and 2nd XI have had a very youthful appearance. This can only bode well for the future of the football club. The Winter was very kind weather-wise, with the U15's continuing to use the park (PG) throughout. Both adult teams still moved down to the Rec in the middle of November, enjoying the surface with some notable wins. This was the 1st year of the 3 year hire agreement, which has worked well, full marks to Liz for the administration. Apologies again I can't be at the meeting.

Ashurst Cricket Club

The following report from David Fischel, Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club was read out to the audience:

2016 Season

- *We played 9 games in 2016, a reduction from the 11 we played in 2015, winning 5 and losing 4. Victories were over Wivelsfield (twice), Ditchling, Headliners and Abinger. Losses were to Henfield, Upper Beeding, Wineham and Twineham, and in our annual charity match against a Duffett XI.*
- *We suffered from a few last minute cancellations by opponents who had failed to raise a team. Our team composition of youth (16 and under) and age (mostly over 40) is mirrored by many of our opponents with the age group in between finding it increasingly difficult to commit.*

General

- *The cricket Pavilion was made available for the School on a number of occasions, and for the Dog Show.*
- *We are extremely grateful to Ashurst Parish Council and its councillors who repaired the Pavilion roof so that it is now watertight and redecorated the ceiling; also for the works they undertook on the John Eaton hut.*
- *We would like to express our thanks to the trustees of the Ashurst Recreation Ground 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 further years of enjoyable cricket at Ashurst with spectators always welcome.*

2017 Season

- *We are due to start earlier than usual this year on 30 April, and have a full fixture list lined up.*
- *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 582 843)*

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 uses the ground every day when weather permits. It is used for sports day, games, athletics and cricket. It is also used for parents to get together. The children write about the recreation ground in their school work. Ashurst Primary School is very grateful for the continuing use of the recreation ground".

St James' Church

Cllr Susie Fischel reported to the audience that St James' Church urgently needs around £80,000 of work in repairs to the roof. A grant has been secured to fund half of this, and £10,000 has been raised in private donations. However, approximately £30,000 is still needed in donations and Cllr Fischel informed the Parish that any donations would be greatly appreciated. She told the audience that the Church is "a special place and one of Ashurst's jewels".

Cllr Fischel also thanked Ali and Rob Russell who have offered to carry out the timber work on the Church free of charge, and reported that a new Vicar starts on 12th May.

Village Hall

Cllr Chris Jesse reported on events which have raised money for the Village Hall, including the Queen's 90th birthday, Ashurst Dog Show, the Harvest Supper, Fashion Show and 60's evening.

Flix in the Stix

Bob Harari told residents that you can "just turn up" to Flix in the Stix. He informed that they have set up committee and have joined Film Hub South East. In addition, they are fundraising for a projector, blue-ray player and sound system. Bob also informed the audience that any profits made go straight to the Village Hall fund.

Christmas Pantomime

Cllr Hammond informed residents that the Christmas Pantomime would be the first weekend of December and would have a James Bond theme.

Other items

Cllr Hammond thanked the District and County Councillors, especially Cllr Barling (West Sussex County Councillor) for organising the road repairs.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm