

Minutes of the Ashurst Parish Meeting held on 2nd April 2015 at Ashurst Village Hall at 8pm.

Present: 23 Members of the public, 4 Parish Councillors, 1 District Councillor and 1 County Councillor.

1.0 Introduction by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the new Village Hall. Cllr Griffiths introduced himself and the other Parish Councillors. In September Mrs Linda Thornton stood down as councillor, she was thanked for her hard work whilst on the council and Mrs Susie Fischel, who unfortunately was not able to attend this evening was welcomed as a new parish councillor. Cllr Griffiths explained that as Chairman of the Parish Council it is his job to host the Parish Meeting. The Meeting is held each year and is designed for the residents of Ashurst to learn of developments, projects and activities within the parish and to ask questions and pass comments on any matters concerning Ashurst.

2.0 Minutes of 4th April 2013

The Minutes were Agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3.0 Presentation by Emma Edwards Community Youth Worker for Steyning, Ashurst, Bramber and Upper Beeding

Emma gave an excellent presentation informing the meeting of all the regular activities set up for the Youth, There are 3 youths clubs per week, Emma does mentoring within the school, there is the South Horsham Youth Voice, Emma gives lessons to year 11's on Alcohol and Legal Highs and she also runs a Mocktail Apprentice Project

During the summer there were many activities and trips for the youngsters such as BBQ's, mobile skate ramps, the Big Picnic, a DJ workshop, face painting, camp fire evenings and a Café Quiz night. Emma and some volunteers took the youths Go Karting to Brooklands, to laser quest and bowling, swimming, a residential camp, a football tournament, Thorpe Park and lambing.

Emma has undertaken many training courses over the last few years the list of which is:

Alcohol awareness

Community safety

Working with Gypsy and Traveler communities

Dealing with Hate Crime

Funding Bid writing

Safeguarding

First Aid

Eating disorders

Management course

Self-harm

Anger Management

Parental Substance misuse

Family early help plans

Child online sexual exploitation awareness

Arts award Bronze and Silver

Romance academy – sexual health and positive relationships

Emma informed that there are now 2 other members of staff to help her and 11 adult volunteers and the

bongo van is now in use. She is hopeful for mobile skate ramps to be purchased soon for use at the Memorial Playing Field in Steyning and recreation ground in Upper Beeding.

Emma was thanked for her brilliant presentation, everyone was very pleased and pleasantly surprised at how the youth service has developed and credit and praise was given to Emma.

4.0 Coffee Break

5.0 Chairman's Annual Report and Reports from Other Village Groups

- 5.1. At the last Annual Parish Meeting it was proposed that a spring clean be carried out on Sunday 13th April, the Chairman thanked all those that took part informed that a number of sacks of rubbish had been collected. The next village clean will be on Sunday 12th April at 10am at the Village Hall.
- 5.2. The Ashurst Recreation Ground is owned by the Charity Commission and managed by the Parish Council as the sole trustee. Maintenance to the John Eaton Hut is badly needed, the football club are unsure of being able to do a joint project at present.
Wicksteed are due to carry out the annual inspection during May.
The Grass Cutting contract went out to tender for a 3 year contract last year and was awarded to Sussex Land Services.
- 5.3. The annual precept for 2015/16 has been set at £9,850 which is a £750.00 increase on last year's precept. A typical band D property will be paying £66.41 Parish Tax Base.
Grants given during the year were to the Ashurst Recreation Ground, Steyning PC towards the Swimming pool costs, Steyning Area Mini Bus and Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance.
The total income for the year 2014/15 was £11,102 and the expenditure was £11,176. A summary of receipts and payments for the year ending 31st March 2015 can be view once the Internal Audit has been carried out in May .
- 5.4. The Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst and Bramber Neighbourhod Plan. A residents questionnaire was sent out and the results are being discussed by the 6 focus groups, made up of almost 100 volunteers from the 4 villages.
There were 844 questionnaires returned, which is an overall response rate of 25%.
A website has been created at www.swabneighbourhoodplan.org and it has explanation of the plans aims, the future stages and the progress so far. A youth questionnaire is planned for the near future. A call for sites advert has recently been published. For more information or if you would like to become involved email swabneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com or contact the Clerks for Steyning or Ashurst.
Funding has been received from Locality, Horsham District Council and any shortfall is having to be met by the 4 parishes involved.
- 5.5. The Youth Service that Emma has just presented has another year to run as it was a 3 year Project. The 4 parish councils will be discussing the way forward during the summer period to ensure that budgeting can be planned in October.
- 5.6. The Parish Council receive copies of all planning applications for Ashurst and are able to give their comments to Horsham District Council. However Horsham District Council does have the final decision. Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and have their say on any planning applications. It is now possible to view applications and also leave comments on line at www.horsham.gov.uk .
- 5.7. A web site is has been agreed to comply with the New Transparency Code for smaller Parish Councils. It is hoped that the website will be in place for 1st July when the new regulations start.
- 5.8. Operation Watershed has been applied for to repair a culvert in Church Lane. David Barling was thanked for his help with the application for the funding.

5.9. The Chairman thanked George Cockman and Sue Rogers our District Councillors, who are both sadly standing down this year, for their hard work and support over the last 4 years, (George for many more years) especially for trying so hard recently to resolve the planning issues in the community. Cllr George Cockman said he was sorry to be standing down after so many years but unfortunately ill health has left him with no choice. He said he has enjoyed his years helping the parish councils and praised fellow district councillor Sue Rodgers for her hard work, he also praised Vivian Lyth whom he worked with for many years on the District Council.

5.10 David Barling, County Councillor, was thanked for his help and support in many Ashurst issues and especially for helping to get grants awarded towards the village hall.

5.11 The Parish Councillors were thanked for their support over the year and the Chairman epically thanked Linda Thornton for the work she put in over the years that she was on the parish council. Details of all Parish Councillors and the Clerk will be attached to the Chairman's report and will also permanently be posted on the Parish Council Notice Board. It is Parish elections this year on 7th May, the polling station will be in Steyning at the Steyning Centre.

5.12 Mrs Janet Williams has sent a report "we would like to say to the Parish Council is a HUGE THANK YOU for the use of the Recreation Ground once again. What a difference it makes having the space and opportunity to run, play and explore. The field provides hours of enjoyment (e.g Sports Day, Picnics and Leavers' Rounders Match) and numerous opportunities for learning new things (such as how to ascertain the age of a tree) for ALL associated with the school".

5.13. Village Hall

Cllr Stevens informed that the village hall is almost complete. He said that everyone in the village had contributed in some way or another and thanked everyone for their help. The committee were thanked for the enormous amount of work that has been put into the hall and the fund raising. The opening ceremony is hoped to be during April.

5.14. The WI

It was noted that the WI is flourishing. They are hoping to move back to the village hall now that it is completely finished. The WI meet on the 2nd Monday of every month and new members are always welcome. The next meeting will be a talk about bee keeping.

5.15 The Flower Club is on 18th July.

5.16 The Dog show will be on 6th September at the recreation ground.

6. Questions from the Floor and Information Items.

Q: It was queried if there is any update on the Solar Farms?

A: It was noted that Priors Bine has been agreed and work has already started. There is a new application being submitted in the near future in Spithandle Lane.

Q: Is there an update on the road surfacing in Ashurst.

A: The road is being inspected by WSCC and some potholes have already been filled it is hoped that other potholes will be filled in the near future. Pot holes can be reported on the Love West Sussex website.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th April 2016

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm