

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 5th March 2015 AT 8.00 PM.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Griffiths (Chairman),
Cllrs Jesse, Powel, Hammond, Fischel, Stevens and Hedley
Councillor Rogers District
There were 8 Members of the public present
3 persons re SunEdison
In attendance the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the new village hall.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Members Interest

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors

3 Approve the Minutes of the Meeting 8th January 2015

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

A meeting was held on site in Church Lane with Mark Stokes of Belfour Beatty on 19th January.

A report has been received and some contractors have been contacted. One quote has been received so far for £10,210. 2 quotes are awaited.

The Chairman had a meeting with Mr Lean from Ford Farm concerning the ditches on Church Lane. Mr Lean does not wish his ditches to be cleared out.

A reply was sent to the Rates Office concerning Ashurst recreation ground. No reply has yet been received.

5 Recreation Ground Matters

The bank balance at HSBC as at 20th February 2015 was £5,319.82

Incomes received

Cricket Club	£650.00	2 nd instalment of rent
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The following Expenditures were Authorised

Southern Water	£50.11	John Eaton Hut Water Rates
H Roxby	£45.75	Salary

The bottom hinge of the gate post has been damaged. Councillor Griffiths to inspect and repair if possible.

A tree audit is to be carried out on the recreation ground trees asap.

Awaiting a reply from the football club concerning a joint project for the John Eaton Hut. The Clerk to follow up

by email.

HDC play inspection has highlighted loose eye bolts, plastic caps missing and rough bottoms on posts.

6 Planning Matters.

DC/15/0165 - Gratwicks House Church Lane- Retrospective approval required to revise layout to steps to staff area, removal of non-original window to kitchen, revised layout to new section of building forming master bedroom suite, revised corridor layout to landing 4 and installation of wardrobes to bedroom 4 (Listed Building Consent).

No Objection

DC/15/0405-Blakes Farm, Steyning Road- Construction of an open fronted barn (Listed Building Consent)
Plan not yet received,

It was noted that a planning application had been submitted for Dial Post by Verralls.. Councillor Barling said he would ask for the planning application to be sent to the Clerk.

Post Meeting The planning application was received and the following comment was sent to WSCC.

WSCC/008/15/WG - Proposed extension to existing haulage and plant maintenance depot to enable an inert waste transfer and recycling facility at Thistleworth Farm Cottage, Grinders Lane, Dial Post,
OBJECTION

Ashurst Parish Council strongly object to this application. The site is unsuitable for inert waste recycling being a rural environment with a neighbouring caravan park and garden centre. The effects of noise and dust on surrounding properties and businesses will be detrimental and unacceptable.

7 Late planning applications

None for this meeting

8 Planning Decisions from HDC

Withdrawn Application

DC/14/2596- Gratwicks House, Church Lane - Proposed single storey extension to form new shower room and rear access to modern section of property (Full Application)

DC/14/2597 - Gratwicks House Church Lane, - Proposed single storey extension to form new shower room and rear access to modern section of property (Listed Building Consent)

Update on Sopers Farm

No further update since January. Liz Dalrymple-White is looking into what has been occurring recently will inform the Clerk as soon as possible. Helen Low is no longer looking after the case. The last correspondence on the website is from HDC to Mrs Harrison in October 2014 asking for more information with a 14 day deadline . Councillor Rodgers said she would write to Chris Lyons .

Information on Solar Farm Proposed for Spithandle Lane from SunEdison.

It was noted that a public meeting was held at Wiston Village Hall. The owners of Wiston Estate are keen to engage into low energy. It is their intention to use a brown field site if possible however many of the areas in the estate are not suitable for a solar farm. Spithandle lane has been identified as a good area for a 14 to 15 megawatt development. It is their plan to use the worst quality agricultural land and the best way to make the lowest impact on the local area. SunEdison are working on making a sight sensitive area with the least noise so it will not be heard from the edge of the site.

Q. What is the size at this stage. We are looking at 17 to 18 acres.

- Q. How many panels. It would be about 10,000 panels
- Q. What is the maximum that can be exported into the grid. It will be 2.5 megawatts.
- Q. What is the total value cost. 2.5 million pounds.
- Q. Where are you going to be making the access. The access would need to be through Ashurst, turning off at Gate house cottage.
- Q. Will it be lit. No there will be no lighting. There will be a deer fence around the area for security.
- Q. The access is not good. We will be creating passing places on Spithandle lane and there will be banksman in Place
- Q. What is time scale. Approximately 3 months for building.
- Q. There could be 4 to 5 vehicles per day. Construction will only be operating in daylight hours.
- Q. What is the benefit for Ashurst. We would be giving something back to the community.
It is likely a planning application will be submitted in next 4 weeks.

9 Financial Matters.

The bank balance at Lloyds TSB as at 20th February 2015 was £6,715.58

Incomes received

None

Direct Debit

PWLB

£1601.38

Loan repayment

The following Expenditures were Authorised

H Roxby	£485.63	Salary
H Roxby	£ 30.00	Office Allowance
Inland Revenue	£121.40	Tax
SAYS	£386.00	Youth provision
Steyning Parish Council	£ 18.10	Photocopiers and disbursements
Steyning Parish Council	£ 55.20	2 x Newsletter

Steyning Mini Bus Association had sent their annual news and have requested a grant. It was agreed £100.00 to be granted.

10. Monthly Film Night In Ashurst.

The possibility of running a monthly film night in Ashurst suggested by Bob Harari. Bob informed that funding can be applied for to hold a film night. It was suggested that Bob look into it as a revenue stream and report back to next meeting

11.Update on Youth Provision.

The minutes of the Trustees Meeting held on 16th February have been received with the adopted Policy on Financial Reserves, the financial report and Emma Edwards report. The Chairman read out the policy on the financial reserves. It was considered that there is a possibility that the Cuthman Centre could become unavailable and therefore wish to have money in reserves to either wholly fund or part fund a another venue. The Trustees agreed that there should be a reserve fund of up to £50,000 in case a new venue is required, it was also agreed that any property acquired will remain in the ownership of the participating parishes. The policy was Agreed.

12 Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group has met once since our last meeting. Ashurst has now filled its quota on the Steering Group as Nicola Gobat has agreed to be our 4th representative.

The Steering Group has been dealing with

- i) Preparing and sending out letters to Stakeholders.
 - ii) Planning a Youth Survey.
 - iii) Discussing the need for a Strategic Environment Assessment
- A call for sites is about to be undertaken

Public Survey

The Steering group was pleased with the overall response rate to the Public Survey which ended up at 24.2% overall, with Ashurst achieving a 32% response. The AirS report, which will analyse the answers to the Survey, is eagerly awaited. It is due out this week.

Focus Groups

The Six Focus groups have been meeting up and looking at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOTs) for the particular aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan that they are responsible for. Once the Public Survey is published they will be able to start more detailed enquiries.

13. Correspondence

Charity Commission Newsletter circulated to all Councillors on 25/1/15

Prevention & Well Being Grants Programme was circulated to all Councillors. The programme is open until 24th April.

Information concerning Riparian Ditches was received from Glen Westmore, circulated to all Councillors.

Information on rural crimes workshops for 9th – 16th February was circulated to all councillors.

Information on electronic agendas, Parish Polls and Local Government Financial Settlement Consultation has been forwarded to all councillors.

An invitation to a consultation event on 17th February for a proposed solar farm at Spithandle Lane was circulated to all councillors.

WSSC Public Rights Of Way information on routine inspections by the Access Ranger. The new ranger for Ashurst is Mary Ann Edwards. Are there any top priorities or problems at present?

Fire service cuts and new petition news was circulated to all councillors.

The first edition of County News from WSSC was circulated to all councillors.

A new grit bin has been received, will be placed at School Lane, Peppers Lane Junction

SALC Newsletter was circulated to all councillors.

HDC has sent a draft Local Enforcement Plan which has been circulated to all councillors.

14. Reports from Other Committee

The Chairman attended a meeting with HALC on HDC plan in which they had stated 600 houses per year would be required, the government have said that the figure needs to be 750 houses per year. The houses will be mainly built in Horsham, Southwater and Billingshurst.

The next meeting of HALC is on 10th March.

It was noted that if a 2nd runway is built at Gatwick it will alter the plan as many more houses will be required across Sussex.

Councillor Jesse reported the Village Hall is 99% finished now. The kitchen units were donated. The official opening is planned for about 4 to 5 weeks' time. The hand rail outside needs to be covered with plastic as does the door handle. The Chairman congratulated the committee on a fantastic job.

15 Reports from District and County Councillors

Councillor Barling was congratulated on his new appointment to the Cabinet of Residents Services.

Councillor Barling commented that the fire safety petition is very misleading, WSSC is a very safe, 8 persons died last year due to fire which is down from the figure of 15 persons in 2000. The service is now called Fire and Rescue service as they deal with road traffic accidents etc. There has been a 40% drop in fires in the last few years and 20% drop road accidents. There is more fire prevention carried out now. It was queried why the fire service is being cut if the new approach of fire prevention is so good. Councillor Barling disputed that the fire service has been cut, the reason for less firefighters is due to the fact that they are leaving the service. This was

refuted. It was agreed that the discussion would continue outside of the meeting.

Cllr Rodgers informed that HDC have agreed the budget for this year and it has a nil% increase.

She informed that she is standing down as a district councillor this year but will be delving hard into the Sopers farm planning application before leaving. Councillor Rogers was thanked for her hard work and continued support during her 4 years as district council.

16 Questions from the floor.

Has there been any update on the solar Farms- No updates at present .

17 Information Items

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 2nd April at 8pm at Ashurst Village Hall. Emma Edwards will be doing a presentation on her work with the youth.

Elections are being held on 7th May for District and Parish Councils. Forms are available from the Clerk or from Horsham District Council. The forms must be returned to Horsham District Council in person between the dates of 23rd March and 9th April at 12 midday.

The Chairman informed he will be standing down at this election. He was thanked for all his hard work over during the his years of being a councillor and Chairman.

18. Date of the next Meeting

Thursday 14TH May 2015 at 8.00pm

At Ashurst Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.