

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE ASHURST VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2016 AT 8.00PM

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Hedley (Chairman),
Cllrs Fischel, Jesse, Knight, Nicholson and Russell
In attendance - Elizabeth Leggo (Clerk)

Questions or statements from the public, made at the Chairman's discretion

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Hammond, Cllr Barling (West Sussex County Council) and from Cllrs Lloyd and Willett (both Horsham District Council).

2. Declaration of Members Interest.

None for this meeting.

3. Approve the Minutes of the Meetings of 1st September 2016 and extraordinary meeting of 6th October 2016.

The minutes of the meeting of 1st September 2016 and extraordinary meeting of 6th October 2016 were circulated to all cllrs and taken as read. It was **RESOLVED** that both sets of minutes be approved and adopted as a true record of the meetings and they were signed by the Chairman.

Outstanding Actions.

- The Winter Maintenance Plan has been submitted to Horsham District Council and published on the website for the parish council.
- The Council now receive email updates from Sussex Neighbourhood Alert
- The Clerk has, for a second time, reported the potholes on both sides of the Ashurst to Partridge Green Rd between the village hall and Golden Lane, as well as potholes on the B2315 on the North bound side, at the bottom of Hills Farm and between the junction of Honeybridge Lane and Church Lane - these were repaired but are now breaking up.
- Cllr Lloyd's email update on Priors Byne Solar Farm was read out – the agreement was in fact with Highways at WSCC for the developer to make good the roads.
- The bund at Soper's Farm – Chairman to speak to Cllr Willett directly.

ACTIONS

1. Clerk to report the 1m² pothole on the B2315, just north of Hills Farm to West Sussex County Council;
2. Clerk to ask West Sussex County Council to look at the before and after photographs / footage of the roads around Prior's Byne Solar Farm, to see if the developer was responsible for damage to the highways;
3. Clerk to ask Cllr Willett to find out if there is anything on file at Horsham District Council regarding the bund at Soper's Farm. Find out if Cllr Willett can attend the next meeting of Ashurst Parish Council;
4. Cllr Hedley to ask Alan Griffiths to attend next meeting of Ashurst Parish Council.

4. Recreation Ground Matters.

The bank balance at HSBC as at 20th October 2016 was **£5560.70**

Incomes received

Cricket Club	£650	Use of recreation ground
Partridge Green Football Club	£250	Use of recreation ground

Expenditures authorized

Sussex Land Services	£306	Grass cutting (August)
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The contract with Partridge Green Football Club was signed by Cllr Hedley.

Partridge Green Football Club have started using the recreation ground for the winter season.

The Clerk has ordered the annual playground inspection from Wickstead.

It was **RESOLVED** that the salary that the clerk receives for her work as Clerk to Ashurst Recreation Ground Trust be paid by Ashurst Parish Council rather than the Recreation Ground Trust.

It was **AGREED** that the Annual Recreation Ground Meeting be held on the first Thursday of September from 2017, on the same night as a Parish Council meeting as this annual meeting takes less than half an hour.

5. Planning Matters.

5.1 **DC/16/2140** – Proposed glass house at Gratwicks House Church Lane Ashurst, BN44 3AR.

No objection.

5.2 **DC/16/2164** - Proposed replacement of a sand-school with a tennis court and cricket practice strip within garden area at Gratwicks House Church Lane Ashurst, BN44 3AR.

Objection: The Council expressed a strong objection due to the proposed flood lighting at 10m tall, being out of keeping in rural area and causing light pollution. In addition, they were concerned over the proximity of the area to the school and asked Horsham District Council planning to consider asking for the work to be carried out in the school holidays to avoid distraction of the pupils and, more importantly, for the safety of the children on the road.

5.3 **DC/16/2225** - Single storey side extension. Replacement of all existing tile hanging with cladding/weather boarding at Spithandle, Spithandle Lane, Wiston, Steyning, BN44 3DY.

No objection.

6. Late planning applications.

None for this meeting.

7. Planning Decisions from HDC

Refused: DC/16/1347 - Erection of detached dwelling and detached garage | Towne House The Village Ashurst Steyning West Sussex BN44 3AP

- 8. Financial Matters.** Receive the report on the Councils income and approve expenditure.
The bank balance at Lloyds TSB as at 30th September 2016 was **£11,693.72**

Incomes received

Horsham District Council	£5,500	Half precept
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Expenditures authorized

E. Leggo	£13.50	Mileage
E. Leggo	£48.97	Printing and copying
PWLB	£1,568	Public works loan for village hall
Bank charge	£7.50	Safe custody

9. Budget and Precept for 2017/18

A draft precept was circulated to all Cllrs and was reviewed during the meeting. The Clerk was asked to make some amendments to keep the precept for the next financial year the same as for 2016/17 at £11,100. The precept will be reviewed again by Cllrs at the meeting on 12th January 2017 before submission to Horsham District Council.

10. Update on Youth Provision.

Cllr Russell updated. Following the agreement of Ashurst Parish Council at the extraordinary meeting of 6th October to remain in the youth agreement, Horsham Matters have been informed. Ashurst will contribute 3.12% of the cost. A new management committee is being set up.

ACTIONS

1. Cllr Russell to ask Cllr Hammond to represent Ashurst at youth provision meetings, so Ashurst have representation if Cllr Russell cannot attend.
2. Cllr Russell to email the memorandum of understanding between parishes to all Cllrs.

11. Neighbourhood Plan. To receive any update on progress.

Cllr Fischel informed that there are no updates since that last meeting of Ashurst Parish Council, as the last SWAB meeting was not quorate.

12. Reducing paper wastage in council meetings

12.1 – To test the projector and discuss costs

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a projector for use in council meetings

12.2 – To discuss use of iPads or tablets in meetings

Several Cllrs are going to bring iPads or laptops to meetings and access relevant documents via a drop box set up by the Clerk, to save paper. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk bring three copies of the agenda to future meetings.

13. Correspondence.

- Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust
- Find it out Volunteer Recruitment
- Home Start – Support and friendship for families
- Glasdon – litter bins and benches for local councils

- Action in Rural Sussex 2016 Annual Review
- Clerks and Councils Direct
- Wickstead playground equipment
- Local Government Boundary Commission – Warding Arrangements for Horsham

ACTION

- Clerk to upload the article from the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust to the website

14. Reports from Outside Bodies.

Cllr Jesse reported that the Harvest Supper was a successful evening and raised £1,300 for the village hall. He also informed Council that 'Flicks in the Sticks' is going well.

15. Reports from District and County Councillors.

None for this meeting.

16. Information Items.

Report from tree warden.

A report from Pernille Harari, the Tree Warden was reviewed, and is attached in appendix 1.

Cycle races

Cllrs expressed their concern over the frequency of cycle races on racing bikes on the country roads in the Parish, in particular on School Lane.

Hedge on Pepper's Lane

The hedge where Soper's Farm meets Pepper's Lane has become very overgrown and forces traffic to the other side of the road.

ACTIONS

- Clerk to report the concerns over the cyclists to the appropriate body;
- Clerk to report the overgrown hedge to Highways.

17. Clerk's contract

Due to the confidential nature of the business discussed the press and public were requested to leave the meeting.

The updated contract was **AGREED** by Cllrs and signed by the Clerk and Cllr Hedley. The changes agreed reflected the Recreation Ground salary being paid directly by Ashurst Parish Council, an agreement on overtime payments and that the Clerk would receive a pay rise of one SCP on completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

ACTION

- The Clerk was asked to add an item to the agenda for January's meeting to review her contracted hours.

18. Date of next meeting. Thursday 5th January 2017 at 8pm, at Ashurst Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Signed Chairman

Dated

Appendix 1 – Report from Tree Warden

I have not been asked to write a report this year for the Recreation Ground, but have decided to write a more general report covering various points.

1) Apologies to Councillors for not making them aware of safety issues resulting in the removal of a large clump of suckered Poplar on the verge of Church Lane, alongside Gratwicks.

This was identified as a hazardous after one of the trunks cracked off and fell through the boundary hedge onto the meadow behind. After much effort, UK Power Networks eventually put pressure on HDC to authorise and finance the total removal of the remaining suckers. This necessitated closure of Church Lane in May for a short time.

I will endeavour to keep the Parish Council better informed about any such issues I am involved with or hear about in future. However we should all remain vigilant and concerned as and when we see major tree work being carried out in the Parish.

2) RE the Recreation Ground, recommended works were carried out effectively last year. This year more good remedial work was carried out which did not involve me.

With reference to the tree I failed to identify last year, I can confirm it is a Wild Service Tree which has been planted as a standard and is doing well.

I can only add that there are still a few dead branches overhanging the mowing line to the South and East borders. However they appear to be low risk and will most likely come down during a storm.

3) Ash trees along Church Lane are now affected by Ash Die-back (Chalara virus) which is now so widespread it does not need to be reported to the Forestry Commission. In so far as these trees are overhanging the road they should be monitored. One is in the churchyard and several others are in the hedge line of Glebe Meadows.

4) Either side of the entrances to Glebe Meadows and Glebe Woods there are very large oaks in die-back and it looks like remedial work will be needed soon to branches overhanging the road. Given the wildlife value of standing dead wood it is hoped they can be carefully lopped rather than removed.

END

P.J. Harari