

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 at New Ash Green
Village Association Meeting Room, Centre Road, DA3 8HH commencing at
7:45pm

Present:

Cllr M Brown
Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr Mrs Clark
Cllr Mrs Clucas
Cllr Mrs Connell
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr S Glover (arrived at 7.47pm)
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr M Manley
Cllr V Ngwenya

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Cllr Perry Cole – Sevenoaks District Council

8545/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Hobbs (family commitment), Cllr P Nightingale (work) and Cllr Miss Sapiets (family commitment) Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED. District Councillor Mrs Penny Cole also sent her apologies.

8546/23 Declarations of Interest

- a. Declarations of Interest – none.
- b. No changes to the Register of Interests. Members were reminded that any alteration or new interests must be registered with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

8547/23 Dispensations

None received.

8547/23 Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2022 be approved and signed with the addition of Cllr I MacLeod in the apologies. PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Clucas SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED.

8548/23 Parish Council Meetings

- a. It was AGREED that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting is set for 5 April 2023.
- b. Cllr Mrs Clark PROPOSED that the next meeting scheduled to take place in the Youth & Community Centre, 20 April 2023 starts at 8pm, to allow the singing group time to get their equipment out of storage. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED.

8549/23 Outside Representation

- a. The resignation of Cllr Mrs Connell as a Parish Council Representative on the Lances Almshouse Charity Committee was RECEIVED. Cllr Mrs Brammer

PROPOSED a vote of thanks to Cllr Mrs Connell for her work on this committee. As no Parish Councillors were able to take up this position, a volunteer from outside the Parish Council will be considered.

8550/23 Coronation

- a. Following a discussion, it was AGREED that this item will be brought back to the February meeting.

8551/23 Planning

- a. Applications
SE/22/03486: The Haybarn, Haven Hill, Hodsoll Street, TN15 7EY -
Demolition of existing building and erection of a new dwelling, together with landscaping, parking and access. Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not object to this application as long as it does not conflict with local planning policy. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/01/23 were RECEIVED and NOTED. The Clerk will write to Sevenoaks District Council regarding the decision for 2 New Street Cottages.
- c. Appeals
None at time of Agenda.
- d. Enforcements
None at time of Agenda.
- e. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee of 05 January 2023 were NOTED.

8552/23 Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya reported that General Reserves remain healthy at just under 6 times monthly running costs but this will fall as the financial year continues. Income is above budget with a Community Chest Grant of £2,500 received from South East Water. Human Resources expertise was required to carry out the redundancy process at the Sports Centre at a cost of £797.50. Sports Centre General Reserves have fallen below 1 times monthly running costs. The redundancy and new shifts will not have an impact until February wages, paid in March 2023, so the staff costs will be above budget at year end.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr V Ngwenya SECONDED: Cllr F Cottee and AGREED.
- c. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on 21 February 2023.
- d. It was NOTED that South East Water has paid the Parish Council £2,500 to compensate for the loss of water to residents during the summer months, and that it was to be spent for the community.
- e. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the amount of £450.00 is awarded to HiKent. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED. Enquires will be made regarding additional services to all hearing aid users.

8553/23 Sports Centre

- a. It was NOTED that the date of the next Sports Centre Management Committee has to be confirmed. Cllr M Manley reported that as expected, Centre use has increased in January. The Classes timetable has been reviewed and some classes stopped. The Fitmas calendar for December was a success with many members taking part. The trial well-being classes for staff of Milestone Academy were not well attended. Due to on-going financial difficulties, one of the instructor

- positions was made redundant before Christmas. Reception shifts have been reduced and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk will work some of the afternoon shifts.
- b. Sports Centre Working Party – The notes of the meetings of 05 and 19 December 2022 were NOTED.

8554/23 Barnfield Park

- a. No report.

8555/23 Northfield

- a. It was NOTED that the date for the next meeting of the Northfield Management Committee has not been set.

8556/23 Burial Ground

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Burial Ground Committee held on 12 January 2023 were NOTED.

8557/23 Youth

- a. Detached Youth Work continues and the Primary School is being used to hold the senior youth club at the moment. A meeting will be arranged with the Trustees of the Youth & Community Centre.

8558/23 Climate Change

- a. The notes of the meeting of the Climate Change Working Party held on 12 January 2023 were NOTED.
- b. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the Climate Change Policy is adopted.
SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

8559/23 New Ash Green Village Association

- a. No report.

8560/23 Highways

- a. No report.

The meeting was suspended at 8.53pm to receive reports from the District Councillor

The reports from the District Councillors are attached to these minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 9.00pm

8561/23 Health

- a. No report

8562/23 Footpaths

- a. No report.

8563/23 Transport

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parish Councils will be held on 07 March 2023.
- b. The letter sent to Mr S Khan, Mayor of London and the response received from Laura Trott MP were RECEIVED and NOTED

The meeting was suspended at 9.04pm to allow Sevenoaks District Councillor Perry Cole to update the Parish Council on the following topic.

- c. Community Transport – Cllr P Cole advised that with Arriva curtailing services through the villages of Hartley and New Ash Green, there was an opportunity to

put in a bid for funding for a Community Bus Service to Kent County Council. The fund of £450,000 is open to applicants from Kent. A questionnaire will be set up to establish the demand, route preferences and times. The biggest challenge will be attracting volunteers. The deadline for submissions is 15 February. The 474/475 service is stopping, but a similar route will be provided through Dartford Borough Council.

The meeting reconvened at 9.13pm

8564/232 New Ash Green Focus Group and Police

- a. It was NOTED that the minutes of the meeting of the Focus Group held on 09 January 2023 will be distributed with the February 2023 Agenda.

8565/23 Ash, Hodsoll Street and Ridley

- a. Ash – The January film will be the second Fisherman's Friends film. The February film is Mrs Harris goes to Paris.
- b. Hodsoll Street – a Bingo session is being held on Friday. The Big Breakfast continues on the first Saturday of the month at 9am.
- c. Ridley – no report.

8566/23 The Bulletin and Parish Website

- a. The Bulletin – the next edition will be published for delivery during half-term.
- b. Website – no report.

8567/23 Thursday Lunch Provision

- a. The lunch provision needs another volunteer to assist the Cook and a volunteer driver is also needed. An article will be placed in the next edition of the Bulletin.

8568/23 KALC

- a. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the KALC Community Awards Scheme 2023 is adopted. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.
- b. Nominations must be submitted by 28 February 2023.

8569/23 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/01/23 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: