

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2020,
commencing at 19:45

Present: Cllr M Brown
Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr Mrs Clark
Cllr Mrs Clucas
Cllr Mrs Connell
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr S Fishenden (joined at 20.17)
Cllr Mrs Hobbs
Cllr Mrs Howie
Cllr J Kelly
Cllr M Manley
Cllr P Nightingale
Cllr V Ngwenya

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Cllr D Brazier – Kent County Councillor
2 Members of the public

7930/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Scott, technical difficulties, Cllr S Glover (work). These apologies and the reasons for absence were accepted. Cllr N Lejot gave his apologies by email, without a reason for absence. The reason for absence will be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to accept. District Councillor A Pett sent his apologies.

The meeting was suspended at 19:49 to allow for the Co-option process to be completed.

Mr Shaun Fishenden is Co-opted to the Parish Council and will sign his declaration of acceptance of office as soon as practicable.

The meeting reconvened at 20:17

7931/20 Declarations of Interest

- a. Declarations of Interest –
- 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.

7932/20 Dispensations

None received

7933/20 Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 July 2020 be approved. PROPOSED: Cllr J Kelly SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

7934/20 COVID-19

- a. The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions)(No2) (England) (Amendment) (No4) Regulations 2020 states that from 14 September 2020 ‘people may not

participate in social gatherings, in any place, in groups of more than six, unless they are members of the same household, exemptions apply. NALC's view is that although the Principal Regulations continue to permit local councils to hold meetings in COVID-19 secure premises, the NALC position remains that they recommend that councils continue to meet remotely.

- b. Little Leaves have returned to the Youth & Community Centre. Ash Village Hall is COVID-19 complaint and available for hire within the COVID-19 restrictions, as is the Hodsoll Street and Ridley Village Hall which has had fitness groups attending. Some users are reluctant to return. Action with Communities in Rural Kent provide good guidance. Cllr Mrs Hobbs reported that the primary school has implemented good procedures for drop off and collection of pupils. Milestone Academy has all students back and has also introduced a good system to ensure social distancing for drop off and collection of students.

7935/20 Planning

- a. Applications

SE/20/02437: 94 Knights Croft, New Ash Green, DA3 8JS – First floor rear extension.

Cllr Mrs Connell PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not object to this application as long as it does not conflict with local planning policy.

SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED.

SE/20/02341: 71 Millfield, New Ash Green, DA3 8HN – Proposed 4m single storey rear extension.

Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the Parish Council objects to this application due to the over intensification of the site and loss of amenity to 70 Millfield. The brick is out of character with the Span architecture of wooden cladding.

SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/09/20 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
 - a. Appeals
None at time of Agenda.
 - b. Enforcements
None at time of Agenda.
 - c. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 06 August and 03 September 2020 were not included with the Agenda and will be emailed to members.
 - d. It was reported that an 80m sequoia has been felled at Pettings Court. The Clerk will make enquiries about making an application to have Tree Preservation Orders issued on remaining specimen trees. It was noted that the Tree Survey for the planning application on this site was carried out after this tree had been felled.

7936/20 Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya advised that the overspend in the Burial Ground budget will be met from the Burial Ground Reserves. COVID-19 has not impacted on the finances of the Parish Council, noting that spending on the youth club and the scaling down of the lunch provision have reduced expenditure. The government's job retention scheme, Furlough, stops at the end of October 2020 and a £11,000 loss is projected for the Sports Centre this financial year.

- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr J Kelly SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.
- c. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on 20 October 2020.
- d. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Parish Council awards a grant in the amount of £2,000 under **Section 137 of the LGA 1972** for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging points at the New Ash Green Village Hall and at the Pavilion. SECONDED: Cllr J Kelly and AGREED.
- e. Cllr Mrs Connell PROPOSED that the annual subscription to the Kent Playing Fields Association in the amount of £20.00 is AUTHORISED. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Howie and AGREED.
- f. Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that a grant in the amount of £250.00 is awarded to the New Ash Green Junior Football Club. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

7937/20 Service of Remembrance

- a. The Parish Council will acknowledge Remembrance Day on Wednesday 11 November 2020, at the minimum, laying a wreath and inviting New Ash Green Primary School and Milestone Academy to do the same, and if possible to have a service without refreshments.
- b. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the purchase, under **SECTION 137 of the LGA 1972** of a wreath from the Royal British Legion to lay at Ash War Memorial is authorised with a donation of £100.00. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED.

7938/20 Sports Centre

- a. The minutes of the Sports Centre Management Committee meetings held on 14 July , 04 August and 02 September 2020 were NOTED. The Chairman congratulated the Clerk and Assistance Clerk for the work done in getting the Sports Centre open again, much of which has been complex and done extremely well. A vote of thanks to all the staff in the Centre.

7939/20 Northfield

- a. The minutes of the Northfield Management Committee meeting held on 11 June 2020 were NOTED.

7940/20 Burial Ground

- a. The minutes of the meetings of the Burial Ground Committee held on 15 July 2020, 06 August 2020 and 02 September 2020 were NOTED.

The meeting was suspended at 20:10 to receive a report from the County Councillor

The report from the County Councillor is attached to these minutes

The meeting reconvened at 21:22

7941/20 Youth

- a. It was NOTED that the 8 – 12's Club restated on 10 September 2020.
- b. It was NOTED that the senior youth club has not restarted, but KCC are doing detached youth work and are visiting New Ash Green once a week.

7942/20 Highways

- a. No report.

7943/20 Footpaths

- a. The Clerk will look into a warden scheme for footpaths following an article in The Clerk.

7944/20 Transport

- a. Problems experienced with the 423 service had been received from a resident and these concerns will be raised with Arriva direct. Problems were also reported with the service to North Kent College and buses on Saturday not arriving and passengers having to phone taxis.

7945/20 Health

- a. Difficulties are still having difficulties contacting the doctor's surgery, having to redial for 20 minutes or longer.
- b. It was NOTED that flu jab appointments can be made at the Village Pharmacy

7946/20 Ash, Hodsoll Street & Ridley

- a. Ash – no report.
- b. Hodsoll Street – a Christmas tree will be erected on the Green.
- c. Ridley – no report

7947/20 Bulletin and Website

- a. Bulletin – Deliveries of the Bulletin were discussed at some Councillors received their issues weeks after publication. Following discussion, it was AGREED to continue with employing a delivery service, but with time restricts for the delivery to be completed in.
- b. Website –

7948/20 Lunch Provision

- a. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk were thanked for cooking the meal today, as the Cook was on annual leave.

7949/20 KALC

- a. No report

7950/20 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/09/20 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 21:39

Signed: Date:
Chairman