

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2022 at Hodsoil Street & Ridley Village Hall, Hodsoil Street, TN15 7LE, commencing at 7:45pm

Present:

Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr Mrs Clark
Cllr Mrs Connell
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr Mrs Hobbs
Cllr Mrs Howie (arrived 7.50pm)
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr M Manley
Cllr P Nightingale
Cllr V Ngwenya
Cllr Miss Sapiets

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Cllr Mrs Cole – Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr P Cole – Sevenoaks District Council

8330/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Brown and Cllr Mrs Clucas (ill)
Cllr P Nightingale PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley AGREED.

8331/22 Declarations of Interest

- a. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Mrs Connell declared an interest in item 7b as a payment was made to a family member. Cllr Mrs Hobbs declared an interest in item 9d as she looks after children who would receive a coin. Cllr Mrs Howie declared an interest in item 6a SE/22/00483 as the resident is known to her. Cllrs Mrs Clark and F Cottee declared an interest in item 7d. As Treasurer to Ash Village.
- 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.

8332/22 Dispensations

None received.

8333/22 Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022 be approved. PROPOSED Cllr M Manley SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

8334/22 Annual Parish Meeting

- a. It was NOTED that Laura Trott MP and, Gareth Johnson MP, are unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

8335/22 Planning

- a. Applications

SE/22/00483: Land South of Pettings Court, Hodsoil Street, TN15 7LH –

Erection of Agricultural building and associated works.

Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that as this application is for an agricultural building, the Parish Council has no comment on this particular application. However, we do wish to comment on the number of developments on this site in the past two years. The following applications have been approved since 2020:

20/00337 Two storey 'Granny Annexe', one storey of which is a basement. This replaces the original stable block and provides two double bedrooms.

21/00199 Enlargement of the main house to provide a new wing and basement with associated ground works around the house.

21/00844 Large equestrian sand school with associated ground works.

21/01796 Quadruple garage and workshop.

The cumulative effect of these buildings has a significant effect on the openness of the Green Belt in which the property is situated, which by definition causes harm to the Green Belt.

In addition, the significant groundworks associated with these developments has caused an increase in flooding during heavy rainfall, the effect of which is so great that the embankment on the road has been breached. This in turn means that there is frequent flooding of the road and deposition of silt in the nearest drainage pond, as well as flings being washed into the road which are damaging residents' tyres. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden FOR: 11 AGAINST: 0 NO VOTE: 1.

Applications for Information Only – The application set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/03/22 was RECEIVED and NOTED:

SE/22/00410: Greengates, Rosemary Lane, Hodsoil Street. TN15 7JX

- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/03/22 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- c. Appeals

The appeal, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/03/22 was RECEIVED and NOTED.

- d. Enforcements

None at time of Agenda.

- e. It was NOTED that the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 03 February 2022 was cancelled as there were no applications for consideration.

8336/22 Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya reported that the Parish Council general reserves remain healthy at 4 times the monthly running costs. He took members through the Income and Expenditure noting that the 2021/22 salary increase of 1.75% has been awarded by the Government and will be backdated to 01 April 2021. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk would like to thank the Council for their increases. Room hire is below budget as the majority of the payments are made in March. A third edition of the Bulletin is being produced this financial year. It was NOTED that there are usually four editions in a financial year. Payments other than usual expenditure were highlighted. The general reserves for Ash Green Sports Centre are at just over 2 times monthly running costs. Income and Expenditure items and payments outside regular remittances were noted. Cllr F Cottee enquired if provision for the significant increase in utilities had been budgeted for. We are tied into the school for utilities and had allowed for an increase, but this would be revised at the next Sports Centre Management Committee meeting.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr F Cottee SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.

- c. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 5 February 2022 were NOTED.
- d. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the membership to Action with Communities in Rural Kent, for the Parish Council, £115 and Ash Village Hall, Hodsoll Street Village Hall and the Youth & Community Centre in the amount of £65 each, total £310.00 is RENEWED. SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
- e. Cllr V Ngwenya PROPOSED that the membership to the Campaign to Protect Rural England in the amount of £36.00 is RENEWED. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Hobbs and AGREED.
- f. Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that a grant in the amount of £300.00 under **Section 137 of the LGA 1972** is awarded to the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance charity. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Hobbs and AGREED.

8337/22 New Ash Green Village Association

- a. Cllr M Manley reported that every 4th meeting of the Council of Management, interested parties and Residents Societies are invited to attend.
 - 1. Minutes of the meeting are distributed with the next Agenda.
 - 2. Issues raised on behalf of the Parish Council and Residents Societies at the last meeting included.
 - Greenlands – tree maintenance of both Residents Society and Village Association trees.
 - Hardlands – paths; noting that the infrastructure is getting old e.g., soakaways.
 - Electric vehicle charging points – Over Minnis have re-surfaced the road without provision for cable for vehicle charging points
 - Sense of frustration on how open the Village Association is and that there is not adequate response from the Village Association from enquiries.

Approximately one third of Residents Societies attended the last meeting and this may have been because it was held on a Friday night. Residents Society rules can be changed to allow non-shareholders to join the Residents Societies.

It was NOTED that responses are being received from the Village Association with regard to planning applications.

It was confirmed that the New Ash Green Social Committee will not be hosting any events for the Queen's Jubilee.

- b. Welcome Back Fund – four benches were received and two have been installed at the rugby grounds, one near the War Memorial in Ash and one at Ridley along from the Grade II Granary.

8338/22 The Queen's Jubilee

- a. It was NOTED the licence to cultivate the verge in front of 7 Park View has been granted.
- b. It was NOTED that the application to Thatcher's for 6 apple trees was not successful.
- c. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the purchase and planting of a Cherry Tree in Hodsoll Street and one in Ridley should be delayed until the autumn. SECONDED: Cllr F Cottee and AGREED.
- d. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the quotation from insignia to supply 1,000 enamelled Platinum Jubilee Coins in the amount of £1310.00. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Howie and AGREED.

8339/22 Sports Centre

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee will be held on 31 March 2022.
- b. Cllr M Manley reported that the Centre is busy with continued demand for badminton and an increase in demand for Squash. A 12-week class trial schedule started on 21 February 2022 and flyers have been delivered to New Ash Green, Hartley and Longfield. This has attracted 10 new classes members and 30 people have taken out class block bookings. The Centre is fully staffed, but due to staff with COVID and a fractured leg, we have had difficulties covering all the shifts. We are very grateful to Val and Rita covering classes and shifts and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk covering the afternoon and evening shifts. Unfortunately, Sevenoaks District Council have advised that our Grant application had been unsuccessful as the Sports Centre is run by the Parish Council.

8340/22 Barnfield Park

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Barnfield Park Liaison Group will be held on 28 March 2022.

8341/22/21 Northfield

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 21 February 2022 were NOTED.

8342/21 Burial Ground

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Burial Ground Committee will be held on 07 April 2022.

The meeting was suspended at 8.40pm to receive report from the District Councillor.

The report from the District Councillor is attached to these minutes

The meeting reconvened at 8.47pm

8343/21 Climate Change

- a. The first meeting of the Climate Change Working Party was held on 16 March 2022. First steps will be to engage other groups and to start working on the KALC carbon footprint calculator.

8344/21 Youth

- a. It was NOTED that the meeting of the Youth Committee will be held on 06 April 2022.
- b. The Trustees of the Youth Centre have asked for the pool table and foosball to be removed from the Youth Centre. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the pool table and foosball table are donated to the Kent County Council Youth Hub at Swanley. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

8345/21 Highways

- a. No report

8346/21 Footpaths

- a. No report.

8347/21 Transport

- a. The notes of the meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parishes held on 08 March 2022 were NOTED. Cllr Mrs Connell reported that this meeting is better attended using Zoom. The usual representative from Arriva could not attend due to COVID. Arriva will no longer be producing paper timetables, but timetables on all bus top flag poles.

8348/21 Health

- a. Jubilee Medical Practice – this item has been deferred to the April meeting and members are asked to bring specific questions. It was NOTED that although the improved telephone system is welcomed, it seems an absurd situation that the practice closes for lunch. 16% of doctor's surgeries close for lunch in Kent.

8349/21 New Ash Green Focus Group and Police

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Focus Group will be held on 11 April 2022.

8350/21 Ash, Hodsoll Street & Ridley

- a. Ash – There will be a Folk Night on 13 April 2022. The previous event raised £860 for the Village Hall. The Film Evenings will return in the autumn.
- b. Hodsoll Street – progress is slow with the Green Man and the exclusive offer to Stonegate will expire on 28 April 2022 and Sevenoaks District Council have done all that is necessary in this regard. The lease states that the pub should be rebuilt if it is burnt down. The Green Man group are trying to establish a meeting with Stonegate. The dinner to be held on Saturday 19 March 2022 was cancelled due to insufficient interest. The Big Breakfast continues to be popular and is held on the first Saturday of the month at 9am.
- c. Ridley – the new toilet building at Ridley Church is almost complete
- d. New Ash Green Village Day – Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not attend Village Day. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED.

8351/21 Bulletin and Website

- a. Bulletin – The next edition will be printed in the next two weeks.
- b. Website – No report.

8352/21 Thursday Lunch Provision

- a. No report.

8353/21 KALC

- a. No report.

8354/21 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/03/22 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: