

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2022 at New Ash
Green Village Association Meeting Room, Centre Road, DA3 8HH
commencing at 7:45pm

Present:

Cllr M Brown
Cllr Mrs Clark
Cllr Mrs Clucas
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr Mrs Hobbs
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr M Manley
Cllr V Ngwenya
Cllr P Nightingale

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Cllr D Brazier – Kent County Council
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council
Miss S Brine – New Ash Green Village Association

A minute's silence was held to honour Her Majesty the Queen who passed away on 8th September 2022.

8451/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Brammer, S Glover, Miss Sapiets (work), Mrs Connell (holiday), Miss Howie 9 (meeting) and Cllr J Scott (family commitment). Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
Cllrs A Pett and Perry Cole - Sevenoaks District Council also sent their apologies.

8452/22 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.

8453/22 Dispensations

None received.

8454/22 Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2022 be approved and signed. PROPOSED Cllr F Cottee SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.

8455/22 Planning

- a. Applications
None at time of Agenda
- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/09/22 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- c. Appeals
None at time of Agenda.
- d. Enforcements
None at time of Agenda.
- e. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 August 2022 were NOTED.

8456/22 Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya advised that general reserves currently sit just over three times monthly running costs, but will increase on receipt of the remaining precept on 01 October 2022. The telephone contract comes to an end in November and BT are coming to do a survey in October to see if we can possibly have an independent line. If we can, this will increase our telephone and email budget to above £4,000. The summer scheme cost £4,135 after a £500 donation NAG Village Association and £150 from the Co-op and was a huge success. The Queens Death did not incur any large expenditure, however, we will look at possibly doing something for the King's coronation next year and this will be included in the budget. Works have now been completed on converting the building to LED lights with a final invoice of £2,482 plus VAT expected in the next week. General reserves for the Sports Centre are just over one times monthly running costs. Income budgets are all coming in lower than expected except for tennis. Expenditure budgets are also below expectations except for Staff costs.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr P Nightingale SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.
- c. The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26 July 2022 were NOTED.
- a. External Auditor - Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the Parish Council opts in
- b. to the external auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) for the next five year period 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2027. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED
- c. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Fixed Wire Testing (EICR) for the Sports Centre in the amount of £185.00 plus VAT is authorised. SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
- d. Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the Parish Council funds the cost of two basketball sessions one for years 5 and 6 and the second for years 7 and up and two teen gym sessions per week. The weekly cost of £150.00 to come from the Youth Provision budget. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

8457/22 Civility and Respect Project

- a. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the Parish Council signs up to the civility and respect pledge agreeing to the following statements:
 - Our council has agreed that it will continue to treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
 - Our council has committed to training councillors and staff.
 - Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors
 - Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
 - Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.

- Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when it happens.
- Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme
- Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and AGREED.

8458/22 Act of Remembrance

- a. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Parish Council arranges a Service of Remembrance at Ash War Memorial commencing at 10.45am, followed by tea, coffee and cake in the village hall with donations to the Poppy Appeal.

SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Hobbs and AGREED

- b. Cllr P Nightingale PROPOSED that the Parish Council purchase a wreath from the Royal British Legion under **Section 137 of the LGA 1972** with a donation of £100.00. SECONDED: Mrs Hobbs and AGREED

8459/22 Sports Centre

- a. The minutes of the meeting of Sports Centre Management Committee held on 01 August 2022 were NOTED.
- b. Cllr M Manley advised that Mrs Rita Milroy has completed 30 years of service at the Sports Centre on 14 September 2022 and the Parish Council thanked her for her loyalty. The Summer Scheme brought more people through the Centre in August. Gym numbers in September continued to be good but there has been a fall in the racket usage. We have had 13 new gym members and 1 racket members since the July meeting. The Classes schedule was reduced in August to give our instructors/members a break. A new classes timetable started on 5th September for an 8 week trial. We are using outside instructors for some of the classes. Meopham Leisure Centre did not close and were rescued by Swale Community Leisure. Following a meeting with one of the old trustees of Meopham we had a meeting with David Harcourt from Swale Community Leisure who is looking to see if there are any ways of helping us. This is a vital resource for our Parish. Financially the sports Centre continues to struggle and the Sports Centre Committee will be having a meeting in October to discuss this.
- c. The Parish Council Youth Summer Scheme involved a lot of work but was a huge success (separate report). Due to the success of the scheme we are running some Teen Gym and Basketball sessions for the youth supported by the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED a vote of thanks to all the staff at the Sports Centre for undertaking the Summer Scheme and ensuring that it ran smoothly. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

8460/22 Barnfield Park

- a. The report was RECEIVED and NOTED. Enquiries will be made as to why two vacant pitches have got into such a state of disrepair.

8461/22 Northfield

- a. It was NOTED that the minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 28 September 2022 will be circulated with the October 2022, Agenda.

8462/22 Burial Ground

- a. The minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 11 August 2022 were NOTED.
- b. It was NOTED that the Quantitative Tree Risk Assessment for the Burial Ground and War Memorial took place on 21 September 2022.

8463/22 Youth

- a. The report on the Summer Sports Scheme, sent under separate cover was RECEIVED and NOTED. A reduced scheme is being arranged for the October half term at a proposed cost of £1,000.00. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that this expenditure comes from the Youth budget. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- b. Cllr Mrs Hobbs PROPOSED that the hire of the Youth Centre on Wednesday evenings is continued to secure the facility for the senior youth club. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya.

8464/22 Climate Change

- a. The notes of the meeting of the Climate Change Working Party held on 15 June 2022 were NOTED.

8465/22 New Ash Green Village Association

- a. The notes of the Council of Management RS meeting on 01 August 2022 were NOTED.

8466/22 Highways

- a. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that a request is made to Kent Highways to install a pedestrian crossing on North Ash Road at the crossing from Punch Croft to Over Minnis. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.
- b. Cllr F Cottey PROPOSED that the Parish Council investigates the possibility of installing an additional post for the Speed Indicator Device on North Ash Road. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED.

The meeting was suspended at 8.25pm to receive reports from the District Councillors'.

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

The meeting reconvened at 8.47pm

8467/22 Health

No report

8468/22 Footpaths

- a. No report.

8469/22 Transport

- a. It was NOTED that the meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parishes will be held on the 11 October 2022.

8470/22 New Ash Green Focus Group and Police

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Focus Group will be held on 10 October 2022.

8471/22 Ash, Hodsoll Street and Ridley

- a. Ash – the film Downton Abbey was well received and The Duke will be shown on 26 October 2022 .
- b. Hodsoll Street – the Big Breakfast is held on the first Saturday of the month and costs £5.00. A lighter option is available.
- c. Ridley – no report.

8472/22 The Bulletin and Parish Website

- a. The Bulletin – the next edition will be produced for the October half term.
- b. Website – no report.

8473/22 Thursday Lunch Provision

- a. Parking is a problem. The two nursery schools have a pick up at 11.45am. Consideration to starting later will be discussed.

8474/22 KALC

- a. No report.

8475/22 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/09/22 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: