

**ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2023 at Ash Village Hall,**  
**The Street, Ash, TN15 7HB commencing at 7:45pm**

Present:

Cllr Mrs Brammer  
Cllr Mrs Clark  
Cllr Mrs Clucas  
Cllr Mrs Connell  
Cllr F Cottee  
Cllr S Fishenden  
Cllr Mrs Hobbs  
Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr M Manley  
Cllr V Ngwenya  
Cllr J Scott

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk  
Cllr David Brazier – Kent County Council  
Cllr Claire Nelson – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr George Pender – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr Perry Cole – Sevenoaks District Council  
Miss Sharon Brine – New Ash Green Village Association.

**8570/23      Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Brown (ill), Cllr P Nightingale (work) and Cllr Miss Sapiets (family commitment) Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED. District Councillor Alan Pett also sent his apologies.

**8571/23      Declarations of Interest**

- a. Declarations of Interest – Cllrs Mrs Brammer, Mrs Clark and M Manley declared an interest in item 7a SE/22/03369 as the applicant is known to them.
- 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.

**8572/23      Dispensations**

None received.

**8573/23      Minutes**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2023 be approved and signed. PROPOSED Cllr Mrs Clucas SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

**8574/23      Outside Representation**

- a. Almshouses - The vacancy on the committee is yet to be filled .

**8575/23      Coronation**

- a. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that commemorative coins in acrylic boxes are purchased for children attending Milestone Academy, New Ash Green Primary School and the pre-schools in the Parish in the amount of £1,984.50 plus VAT.

The windfall payment from South East Water will be used to purchase the coins.  
SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.

## **8576/23      Planning**

- a. Applications  
**SE/22/03369: Threeways, The Street, Ash, TN15 7HA -**  
Demolition of existing double garage, bike shed, workshop, stable and bomb shelter and erection of a single wooden frame building with pitched roof and solar panels. 2 car parking bays and a single garden office room. Cllr Mrs Clucas 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/02/23 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
- 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 02 February 2023 were NOTED.
- f. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that Cllr S Fishenden will assist with planning applications, provide a written report, but not serve on the Planning Committee. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8.04pm to allow Cllr D Brazier to update the  
Council on the Community Service Consultation  
The meeting reconvened at 8.10pm**

- g. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Parish Council responds as follows to the consultation. This Council is appalled at the suggestion that new mothers in New Ash Green and Hartley will be expected to travel over 8 miles to attend a baby Clinic at a hub in a deprived area, instead of going to a clinic here in NAG in a purpose built building. There is no suitable public transport and even with a car it will take over half an hour each way, by the time one gets baby and perhaps a toddler in and out of a car twice let alone the parking, plus adding to cars on the road and pollution. How are those without access to a car supposed to manage? These could be some of the mothers who need help most. Are we being penalised for not being a defined area of deprivation? Even though lack of public transport is one of the criteria.  
If it is necessary to close the building here it is absolutely essential that all the services currently there are provided in community and public buildings in the village and all existing facilities elsewhere in the village continued. This is when new parents get to know each other, the babies learn to mix with others and vital personal support groups are set up. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley.

## **8577/23      New Ash Green Shopping Centre**

- a. The Parish Council met with the Village Association. The NAG Shopping Centre Preservation Group had submitted an application to list the shopping centre as an Asset of Community Value, however, it did not meet the requirements for this listing. The Village Association have submitted an application to list the shopping centre as an Asset of Community Value. However, the shopping centre was sold prior to going to auction. Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED: To authorise the Parish

Clerk to work with the VA, SDC and Town Team to compile a joint letter to the new owners of the Shopping Centre and to convene a all-party meeting with them to establish their vision for the centre and to set out that all four organisations are keen to have a good working relationship with them. **SECONDED:** Cllr Mrs Brammer and **AGREED**.

#### **8578/23 Finance**

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were **NOTED**. Cllr V Ngwenya reported that General Reserves remain healthy at 5.5 monthly running costs but this will fall as the financial year continues. BT have provided the costs of installing a direct line. More quotations have been sought and these will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. Photocopying is above budget due to a counter error. The Sports Centre fund will be above budget, with the redundancy payment being met by the Parish Council. The Sports Centre general reserves have remained at less than 1 months running costs. Income continues to be below budget, but there has been an increase during January and the beginning of February.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. **PROPOSED:** Cllr S Fishenden **SECONDED:** Cllr V Ngwenya and **AGREED**.
- c. It was **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on 21 February 2023.

#### **8579/23 Sports Centre**

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee held on 31 January 2023 were **NOTED**. Cllr M Manley reported that there has been positive support from the community. The useage in January has been the best since pre-COVID. We have had 16 new gym members since the January meeting. Rackets remain popular with 4 new members and squash bookings increasing. The revised classes schedule is working well, with some classes having waiting lists. Paul, a previous gym instructor at the Centre has volunteered to run one of the circuit classes at no cost. The new shift pattern started on 01 February and will be monitored. The price increase effect on 01 April 2023 along with the new software will.

#### **8580/23 Barnfield Park**

- a. No report.

#### **8581/23 Northfield**

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

#### **8582/23 Burial Ground**

- a. It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting of the Burial Ground Committee will be held on 18 April 2023.

#### **8583/23 Youth**

- a. It was **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting with the Trustees of the Youth & Community Centre will be distributed with the March 2023 Agenda.

#### **8584/23 Climate Change**

- a. It was **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Climate Change Working Party will be held on 27 February 2023.

**8585/23 New Ash Green Village Association**

- a. No report.

**8586/23 Highways**

- a. No report.

**The meeting was suspended at 8.34pm to receive reports from the District Councillor**

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

**The meeting reconvened at 8.54pm**

**8587/23 Health**

- a. It was reported that the doctors surgery is now open at lunchtime, with the opening hours from 8.30am – 6.00pm and e-consult available until 1.00pm.
- b. A Health and Wellbeing day has been arranged for Saturday 18 March 2023 in the Village Hall from 2pm to 5pm. Our fitness instructor will be providing chair based exercise taster sessions and vouchers will be available to try a class at the Sports Centre.

**8588/23 Footpaths**

- a. No report.

**8589/23 Transport**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parish Councils will be held on 14 March 2023. This meeting will be held via Zoom and will be the last meeting.

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

- b. 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**

**8590/23 New Ash Green Focus Group and Police**

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Focus Group held on 09 January 2023 were NOTED.

**8591/23 Ash, Hodsoll Street and Ridley**

- a. Ash – The February film is Mrs Harris goes to Paris.
- b. Hodsoll Street – The Big Breakfast will be held on 04 March 2023. The Green Man – Stonegate have no intention of re-building the pub and will not communicate with the Green Man Recovery Group (GMRG). The GMRG submitted a bid for the property in September 2022. A developer has put in an offer double the bid. Stonegate are selling approximately 1,000 of their pubs. A meeting is being arranged with a resident who may want to purchase some of the land and may be willing to work with the GMRG.

- c. Ridley – The request to place a memorial plaque on the bench at Ridley was discussed and members would like the proposed wording before making a decision.

**8592/23      The Bulletin and Parish Website**

- a. The Bulletin – the current edition is out for delivery.
- b. Website – no report.

**8593/23      Thursday Lunch Provision**

- a. Adverts have been placed in the Bulletin for another volunteer to assist the Cook and a volunteer driver.

**8594/23      KALC**

- a. No report.

**8595/23      Reports, Circulars and Correspondence**

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/02/23 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 9.24pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....