

## ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 December 2017 at Ash Village Hall The Street, Ash, TN15 7HB, commencing at 7.45pm**

Present:

Cllr M Brown  
Cllr Mrs Clark  
Cllr Mrs Clucas  
Cllr Mrs Connell  
Cllr F Cottee  
Cllr S Glover  
Cllr Mrs Howie  
Cllr J Kelly  
Cllr M Manley  
Cllr I Mann  
Cllr V Ngwenya  
Cllr P Nightingale

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk  
Cllr D Brazier – Kent County Council  
Cllr C Clark – Sevenoaks District Council  
4 members of the public

7258/17 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Brammer (ill) and Cllr J Scott (family commitment). The apologies and reason for absence was accepted.

**The meeting was suspended at 7.46pm to carry out the Co-option to fill the Casual Vacancy**

**The meeting reconvened at 7.12pm**

7259/17 Casual Vacancy Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that in accordance with Standing Order 1p, that a paper ballot is taken for the Co-option process. SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.  
Cllr Mr Mark Manley was Co-opted to represent the North West Ward of New Ash Green

7260/17 Declarations Of Interest

a. Cllr Mrs Howie declared an interest in item 7e - SE/17/03495 as the applicant is a friend. Cllr Mrs Connell declared an interest in item 11 as the contractor is a family member and Cllr J Kelly declared an interest in item 8k as he is a Trustee of the Village Trust.

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.

7261/17 Dispensations No requests received

7262/17 Minutes It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 November 2017 be approved and signed as a true record with the correction of Cllr Mrs Connell's name in item 7249/17 Highways. PROPOSED: Cllr I Mann SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Connell and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

- 7263/17  
Calendar of  
Dates  
2018/19
- a. The Calendar of Dates for the year 2018/19 was NOTED.
  - b. It was NOTED that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 10 May 2018 at Hodsoll Street Village Hall. A representative from Public Rights of Way, the Members of Parliament representing Ash and New Ash Green and Hartley and Hodsoll Street and Cllr D Brazier will be invited as guest speakers.
- 7264/17  
Planning
- a. Applications  
The following application – FOR INFORMATION ONLY was NOTED.  
**SE/17/03853: 8 The Row, New Ash Green, DA3 8JB** – Prior notification for a change of use from A1 Retail to D2 Assembly and Leisure.
  - b. Decisions  
The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/12/17 were RECEIVED AND NOTED.
  - c. Appeals – the appeal as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/12/17 was NOTED
  - d. Enforcements - None at time of Agenda. NOTED. It was NOTED that Bovis Homes had reduced the number of lights along the footpath to the front of the building but that this decision had been taken by the Planning Officer without any consultation with the Parish Council or neighbouring residents and it was felt that the lights were still too tall, too bright and too many.
  - e. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 07 December 2017 were NOTED
  - f. The property address for the development on the Forge Cottage site to be 1 to 5 Forge Row, Ash Road, Ash, TN15 7HW was NOTED.
  - g. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr C Clark's report is included under the County and District Councillor's reports.
- 7265/17  
Finance
- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya advised members that although we were aiming at a balanced budget, there have been a couple of expenses that were not taken into account. Firstly, there will be cost implications to the implementation of the new General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018, including revision of systems, training and appointment of a Data Protection Officer. Secondly, Council employees have been offered a 'long overdue' two-year pay increase, starting next year. Employees whose salaries start at £19,430 per annum will receive an uplift of 2% as of next April, with a further 2% the following year. The budget had allowed for a 1% increase. Cllr V Ngwenya PROPOSED that the shortfall in the budget is vired from the Ground Maintenance Reserve as our current contractor has advised that he will continue for another two years. SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
  - b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr p Nightingale SECONDED: Cllr J Kelly.
  - c. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on 20 February 2018.
  - d. General Data Protection Regulation – the information on the Agenda was NOTED.
  - e. SLCC training – Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the amount of £30 plus VAT for the Clerk to take part in a data protection webinar is AUTHORISED. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
  - f. Cllr Mrs Connell PROPOSED that renewal of the Clerk's membership to

- 7265/17  
Finance
- the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2018 in the amount of £233.00 is AUTHORISED. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- g. Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that the attendance of the Clerk to Governance, Procedures and Transparency Conference training provided by KALC on 8 February 2018 in the amount of £60 plus VAT is AUTHORISED. SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED
  - h. Cllr M Brown advised that based on advice from KALC, the Parish Council would not be able offer financial support for Cllr Nightingale to undertake the CiLCA training.
  - i. Cllr P Nightingale PROPOSED that the renewal of the Campaign to Protect Rural England membership in the amount of £36.00 is AUTHORISED. SECONDED: Cllr I Mann and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED
  - j. Cllr Mrs Connell PROPOSED that £25 is awarded to the Tree Wardens and £25 awarded to the Pond Wardens. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED.
  - k. Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that a grant in the amount of £2,000 is awarded to the Village Trust for the Youth & Community Centre SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas FOR: 11 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1
- 7266/17  
Sports Centre
- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee will be held on 29 January 2018.
- 7267/17  
Barnfield  
Park
- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Liaison Group held on 04 December 2017 were NOTED.
- 7268/17  
Northfield
- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 13 December 2017 were NOTED.
- 7269/17  
Burial Ground
- a. It was NOTED that the minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 18 December 2017 will be distributed with the January 2018 Agenda.
- 7270/17  
Youth
- a. 8 – 12's –no report.
  - b. Youth – It was NOTED that a meeting of the Youth Committee will be held on 23 January 2018.
- 7271/17  
Social  
Committee
- a. Following a discussion, it was agreed that events would be looked into and brought back to the next meeting.
- 7272/17  
Highways
- It was NOTED that the battery in the Speed Indicator Device is not lasting as long as expected. The device will be recalibrated in January and will be monitored.

**The meeting was suspended at 8.57pm to receive reports from the County and District Councillors.**

The report from the District Councillor is attached to these minutes.

**The meeting reconvened at 9.16pm**

- 7273/17  
Footpaths
- No report
- 7274/17  
Transport
- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of Arriva and the Parishes will be held on 13 March 2018.

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| 7275/17<br>Ash, Hodsoil<br>Street, Ash &<br>New Ash<br>Green | a. Ash – no report<br>b. Hodsoil Street – Cllr F Cottee advised that the Carols on the Green will be held on 22 December.<br>c. Ridley – Cllr Mrs Howie reported that there had been a spate of burglaries. The Christmas Carols at Ridley Church was well attended. |
| 7276/17<br>Bulletin and<br>Website                           | a. Bulletin – The deadline for the next edition has been set for 18 January 2018.<br>b. Website – no report  |
| 7277/17<br>Focus Group<br>and Police                         | a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Focus Group will be held on 08 January 2018.  |
| 7278/17<br>Lunch<br>Provision                                | a. Today was the last lunch for the year and will reopen on 11 January 2018.   |
| 7279/17<br>KALC  | a. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that Mr Shaun Fishenden is nominated to receive a KALC Community Award for 2018. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Connell and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.  |
| 7280/17<br>Reports,<br>Circulars and<br>Correspond.          | The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/12/17 were NOTED.  |

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....