

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 31st January 2017 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs. G. Hill (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chair) G. Hussey, R. Allen, V. Bender, A. Sheridan and C. Forrest
L. Bannister (Clerk)
WSCC and HDC Cllr. Kitchen
Mr Martin Pearson

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Sole, Saunders, Gatt, and Lawton.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

4 OPEN FORUM

No items were raised.

Cllr. Forrest arrived

5 PLANNING

Land at Baldhorne Copse, Rusper

Mr Martin Pearson representing Albeck Homes Ltd presented a site at Baldhorn Copse. Mr Pearson wants to work with Rusper PC to decide how the land can be developed. Mr Pearson said that HDC have not allocated enough sites and the threat of development grows. Mr Pearson is aware that Rusper PC has started the Neighbourhood Planning process, and believes this is essential to resist unwanted development. Mr Pearson produced sketches showing how the development would impact the street.

Mr Pearson has recently completed this process for Barns Green, and he urged Members to see the results.

Mr Pearson believes that showing progress with the Neighbourhood Plan may help in the Millfield appeal.

Cllr. Kitchen arrived

Cllr. Hill said that although the Neighbourhood Plan has not progressed much yet, some coverage for Rusper is given by the Horsham District Planning Framework. The site at Baldhorn Copse will be considered alongside all of the other sites in the site selection process.

Cllr. Sallows arrived

6 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen attended the Gatwick Noise Management Board annual meeting, and was impressed with how far they've got.

Mr Pearson left the meeting

Cllr. Allen also attended the meeting, and said that he heard comments from the floor that this was just a marketing exercise.

Cllr. Kitchen believes that if you live in a noise preference route, you should expect noise from aircraft, but if you live outside of this route you should not.

Cllr. Kitchen knows Mr Pearson personally, but has no knowledge of his plans.

Cllr. Kitchen has a meeting on 6th February with the owner of the Wayside garage site. She also has a meeting with Aidan Thatcher (head of Planning) soon. One issue is the amount of houses they want to put on the site. This can be classed as 'backland development', and if this is approved it will make it difficult for HDC to refuse Millfield. Cllr. Sallows pointed out that Millfield is outside of the built up area boundary and so should have a different classification to Wayside. Cllr. Kitchen said that HDC also have issues with the height of the building. Cllr. Sallows said that this is inconsistent with the rules applied to the development behind Wayside. Cllr. Kitchen is aware that Rusper PC is in favour of this application, and will represent these views at the meetings.

The County Local Committee has written to HDC to say that they're not happy with the traffic arrangements for the North Horsham development, and in particular the effects these will have on Rusper.

Cllr. Sallows said that regarding the Britaniacrest incinerator application, he believes the WSCC recycling policies should be reviewed.

7 PLANNING (CONTINUED)

DC/16/2880 Bellwood, Ifield Wood

So as not to miss the comments deadline on this application, the following comment was agreed by email:

'Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.'

DC/16/2966 Prestwood Paddock, Prestwood Lane

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

'Rusper Parish Council objects to this application as it is housing development in a greenfield area, which is in contravention to the HDPF.'

DC/16/1587 Stud Farm New Barn Farmhouse, Capel Road

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

'Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.'

The vote on this was not unanimous.

DC/16/2870 Horse Ghylls Wood Farm, Capel Road

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

'Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application, but has concerns about the over intensification of this area, and the urbanisation of this site.'

DC/17/0111 15 East Street, Rusper

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

'Rusper Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that the tree is perfectly healthy and predates the house, and this tree is within the conservation area. Taking this out (along with

other trees that have recently been removed) will change the appearance of the area.’

DC/17/0090 Normanhurst, East Street

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.’

WSSC/062/16/NH Britaniacrest Incinerator

So as not to miss the comments deadline on this application, the following comment was agreed by email:

‘Rusper Parish Council strongly objects to this application based on the following:-

- Research has shown that incinerators negatively impact on the health of nearby residents. This could be significantly increased due to Rusper also being in an area with high aircraft traffic. No research has been completed about how the incineration fumes could be dispersed once mixed with aircraft pollution.
- From an environmental point of view, we are opposed to incineration, preferring ‘greener’ solutions to waste disposal.
- The waste being disposed in the incinerator is coming from out of the area, thus increasing the amount of HGVs using the local, and sometimes rural, roads. The roads in Rusper are already busy, and are not suitable for HGVs. This traffic would be in addition to the traffic created by the housing developments planned for the area.
- We are opposed to waste from other areas being brought into Rusper – this incinerator would not even cater for local needs.
- We note that there have already been many objections lodged to this application. We support these and urge WSSC to take these into account.

Also, Rusper PC has not been ‘formally’ notified of this application, which we find completely unacceptable based on the proximity of this to our Parish.’

Cllr. Saunders met with representatives from Warnham PC to discuss this application and how the parishes could work together to prevent this. It was agreed to send a joint objection, and invite all surrounding parishes to add their name to this. Leigh, Capel, Colgate Parish Councils and Forest Neighbourhood Council agreed to also add their names to this objection. This has also been sent as a press release.

New applications have been received for:

- The Hut Waterhall Farm, Prestwood Lane – change of use
- Broadbridge Cottage, Lambs Green – new plans for this application have been submitted.

The comments deadline for these applications falls before the next meeting, so a comment may need to be agreed by email. The Clerk will advise if this is the case.

8 PLANNING UPDATES

Appeals

Appeals have been made against the planning decisions for Millfield Farm Buildings and North Gates, The Mount. There is no opportunity to submit further comments on these.

Street naming for land east of Rusper Road

HDC have agreed the names of the new roads to be:-

Charman Gardens
Drughorn Way

Ellis Walk
Hoy Crescent
Laker Close
Rhodes Drive

Langhurst Farm

The Compliance Officer has updated that he was not aware of the prior approval planning application, but in any event doesn't feel there is anything that could have been done to affect the outcome. This does potentially mean that more activity is going to be taking place on the site. The Compliance Officer is hoping to get to the site again soon, and understands that all of the waste should have been removed, and the soil should be spread across the land more evenly.

9 SPEED DATA COLLECTION

This is going ahead from the week starting 6th February. Everyone should be encouraged to drive slowly across the tubes.

10 APPOINTMENT OF SECOND GATCOM REPRESENTATIVE

On occasion, Cllr. Lawton is unable to attend this meeting, and needs a reserve to take his place. It was agreed that Cllr. Sheridan will act as reserve, and Cllr. Forrest will attend if both Cllrs. Lawton and Sheridan can't attend.

Cllrs. Allen and Kitchen left the meeting

11 ID CARDS FOR MEMBERS

The Clerk has found a couple of companies that can supply these for around £6 each. They will need a logo, a picture of each Member and a signature. Cllr. Sallows will try to put together a logo.

12 NOTICE BOARDS

The notice board on Rusper Road is in disrepair and needs to be removed. Cllrs. Hill and Forrest will do this.

Cllrs. Bender and Sallows will clean up the other notice boards.

The developers working on Rusper Road (Martin Grant Homes) want to put a quarterly update on the notice board. This was agreed.

There have been complaints about mud on the road by the Martin Grant Homes development. The Clerk will send a complaint to Highways and the developers about this.

13 SPORTS FIELD

There is only two years left on the lease. It is understood that Mr Hurst is not willing to extend this. It was agreed that if Mr Hurst is not willing to extend the lease, Rusper PC would be willing to buy it. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mr Hurst to try and find out his position and if he would want to either lease or sell the land.

14 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

HDC are running a Great British Spring Clean event from 3-5 march.

Rusper PC will run their own clean up day in June.

15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Neighbourhood Planning Conference

This was attended by Cllr. Hill and the Clerk. It was felt that there still doesn't seem to be clear guidance for parishes to follow.

Other

Advice following a recent HALC meeting is to lobby MPs with concerns about the Neighbourhood Planning process.

There was a discussion about how Rusper PC will proceed with the NP. It was agreed to still go ahead with this, and a meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st February to progress this.

Professional advice

The Clerk has a couple of recommendations. It was agreed to meet these and see what they have to say.

Meeting with Neighbourhood Planning Officer

This has been arranged for Tuesday 7th February at 5.30 in the Village Hall. The Steering Group will be invited to this.

16 OPERATION WATERSHED

Applications for the following areas have now been submitted to WSCC:-

Prestwood Lane
The Mount
Lambs Green
Baldhorns Park

The only outstanding application is for Wimland Road, where a landowner will not consent to the work being carried out.

These applications will be decided at the start of February.

Bell and Sons is the chosen contractor for all of these applications, but this is dependent on them providing health and safety information to WSCC before next week.

Cllr. Bender left the meeting

17 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Sheridan has put together some rules to add to the financial regulations to safeguard online payments. These will mean that payments can only be made when:-

- Authorised by two account signatories after examination of the invoices;
- Agreed at a PC meeting; and
- Payment is authorised by a bank signatory online

Cllr. Sheridan will soon be set up for access to the online accounts, and will then look into how to put this process into practice.

18 PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed to include details of the road names as shown at item 8 above.

19 STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW

These were reviewed and no changes were made. Once the online payment process has been agreed, this will be added to the financial regulations.

20 CLERK'S REPORT

The CAGNE PC Forum is on 7th March at 7.30pm. Rusper PC need to arrange teas/coffees and biscuits.

When out on Prestwood Lane a landowner showed the Clerk a bridge that had fallen under a PRow. This was reported to the footpath ranger, and he inspected it the same day. He said that it was the landowner's responsibility, and he didn't see the need to shut the path. Cllr. Hussey reported that the bridleway committee are now dealing with this.

The Village Hall Committee is going to try and raise funds to put an accessible toilet in the Village Hall. They have asked if Rusper PC would be willing to make a donation. They have a quote of £25,000, and only need to raise another £10,000. The Clerk will look into whether or not it's possible to use S106 money for this.

BT are putting their prices up by 6% from 1st March. It was agreed to look into an alternative.

Age UK have asked for a donation of £100.

The Clerk has booked annual leave on 20th February, and 22nd to 24th February.

21 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Sheridan.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (November) – £469.30

Litter Warden salary & expenses – £95.80 & £23.48 & £1.50 (total £120.78)

HMRC – Litter warden's tax for the month £14

Rusper Village Hall - £280

Sussex Land Services - £436.56

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

22 OTHER BUSINESS

The phone box on Lambs Green has got a notice on it that it is going to be taken down. As it was agreed to adopt this, the Clerk will look into this urgently.

Cllr. Sheridan has looked into refurbishment of the phone booth on the High Street. Cllr. Sheridan will bring a design for this to the next meeting.

23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on 28th February 2017. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st February 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK