

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 29th November 2016 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs. G. Hill (Chairman), G. Sallows (vice Chair), G. Hussey, R. Allen, V. Bender, V. Sole and A. Sheridan

L. Bannister (Clerk)

WSCC & HDC Cllr. L. Kitchen

Member of the public – Mr Mildred

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gatt and Forrest.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

4 OPEN FORUM

Mr Mildred lives at Long Meadow, Faygate Lane and has a planning application for replacing his building with a bungalow. The existing property needs a lot of work doing, and Mr Mildred feels it would be more cost effective to build something new. The proposal is for a single storey, timber clad building with quite a lot of glass as it would be south facing. It would be slightly smaller than the existing building, and lower. There will be a wild flower roof, and Mr Mildred doesn't think members of the public will be able to see this. The plan is for the building to be eco, and the applicant is getting rid of oil fired heating. Mr Mildred currently has permission from 2 years ago to replace his property with a different style property.

Cllr. Sallows arrived

Mr Mildred will live on site in a caravan during construction.

Cllr. Sallows asked about the footprint of the house. Mr Mildred said this hasn't been decided yet, but would be agreed at the building regulation stage. However, the plan is to build the property with great insulation.

Cllr. Kitchen arrived

5 PLANNING

DC/16/2650 Long Meadow, Faygate Lane

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council is in support of this application.’

Mr Mildred left the meeting

DC/16/2322 Culross Lodge, Wimland Lane

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this application due to concerns about the scale of the garage and access. The style and height of the garage appears as if it could be an additional residence, and the size of the access is in excess of anything needed. If this application is approved contrary to this comment, Rusper PC would request that a condition is attached that the garage is

never used as a residence.’

DC/16/2612 1 Cooks Mead, Rusper

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council does not have any objections to this application.’

DC/16/2603 Durrants Village, Faygate Lane

Rusper PC had been sent details of this application, but has not been ‘officially’ consulted. It was agreed to comment on this application as follows.

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that this new addition spoils the view of the existing development.’

6 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen reported as follows:-

Regarding the planning application for the garage site in Rusper High Street, Cllr. Kitchen said that HDC were going to deal with this under delegated powers. However, Cllr. Kitchen has requested that this is not done until she knows the views of Rusper PC. Cllr. Kitchen thinks parking will be an issue for this development.

Cllr. Kitchen sits on the WSCC planning board, so cannot comment her views on the Britaniacrest application for an incinerator. Cllr. Hussey asked what materials would be incinerated. Cllr. Kitchen said this is for building waste.

Cllr. Hill confirmed that Rusper PC had viewed the plans for the garage site, and found it to be acceptable. Some Councillors had arranged to view the site with the developer and the case officer, and invited Cllr. Kitchen to attend.

7 PLANNING UPDATES

Langhurst Farm

HDC have updated as follows:-

- They are investigating this matter in regards to the importing of waste, and have also requested an investigation on behalf of the Environment Agency as well. The Environment Agency powers are usually much swifter and preventive in his experience.
- HDC will continue to progress the matter as a non-essential agricultural use of the land.
- They have again requested that the last lorry trailer is removed.
- The enforcement case on the barn will remain open until they confirm it is just used for agricultural purposes only. The shell of the building is complete but the interior is not finished.
- The bund appears to be made up of excavated soil brought from off site, so it has not been classed as an enclosure in the normal sense and HDC have requested its removal along with all other material. Should the owner wish to retain the bund, then HDC would say this was an engineering operation requiring planning permission.

Cllr. Allen said that vehicles to and from this site has significantly increased traffic along the lane. Also, when he met a drainage engineer to discuss drainage in the Parish, it was shown that development by Langhurst Lane has caused water to drain down Rusper Road causing the drainage issues by Stumbleholme. It was felt that the bund around Langhurst Farm would stop water draining into the field, causing more water to flow down Rusper Road.

Cllr. Hussey reported that the view of the back of the barn appears to be a house with doors and windows. The windows were supposed to be filled in. The Clerk will report this to the officer.

8 SPEED LIMITS IN RUSPER VILLAGE

Meeting with Highways Department

Cllrs. Hill, Sallows and Allen met with Chris Stark from the Highways Department to discuss the speed limit application and speed data collection. Mr Stark also suggested gateways into the village as this is known to reduce speeds.

Cllr. Kitchen suggested that as much restriction as possible is imposed on the village before the development at North Horsham is built to discourage people from using Rusper as a 'rat run'.

Also discussed was residents parking on pavements and how this reduces the visibility of drivers pulling out onto the road. Cllr. Hill suggested putting bollards on the verge to prevent this, and Mr Stark said it was likely that Highways would approve this.

Speed data collection

It was agreed to go ahead with this. The Clerk has collected 8 quotes which range from £650-£1300 plus VAT. The Clerk will find out which company is recommended by WSCC, and this decision will be made by email.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

9 ID CARDS FOR MEMBERS

Cllr. Hussey has suggested these so that Members can prove their identity when they are out and about in the Parish. The Clerk will find out if any other parishes use these, and if there are any restrictions on them.

10 GATWICK DIAMOND WEST SUSSEX & SURREY LOW CARBON PROJECT

It was discussed whether or not Rusper PC should ask to either be consulted on this, or be a part of the plan. Cllr. Hill will send information on this around to all Members to consider.

11 BRITANIACREST INCINERATOR

Warnham Parish Council has set up a sub group of councillors to try and fight this incinerator. They have invited Rusper PC to have a meeting and discuss steps going forward. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Cllr. Saunders' advice on this.

12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Sallows reported that a meeting was held two weeks ago with fairly low turnout. At this meeting it was agreed to get the questionnaire started before Christmas. However, Cllr. Sallows has not had the time to put into this to get it started.

Cllr. Allen suggested employing a professional consultant to help out with this, especially in light of the issues that Neighbourhood Plans have had recently. Cllr. Sallows had concerns about the cost of getting professional help, and the issue of Neighbourhood Plans being contested was the lack of public consultation – which would not be solved by employing private consultants.

Cllr. Sheridan agreed that momentum is needed, and said that as the process continues and threats become apparent, more people will get involved.

Cllr. Hill said that there is a need to have a project plan in place to guide the process, and suggested employing a consultant to help with this.

It was agreed that the Clerk will look into grants available, and also find out some firms suitable for this.

Cllr. Sallows will be out of the country for most of January.

13 OPERATION WATERSHED

Cllr. Hussey has met with a couple of firms to provide quotes for all of the work proposed. Only a few quotes have been received so far. Cllr. Hussey said that the biggest issue appears to be around Stumbleholme on Rusper Road, as the solution looks as if it will be a very big job. The quotes received so far are as follows:-

Lambs Green - £3350

The Mount - £5025

Prestwood Lane - £6250/£14,230

Rusper Road - £1200

It was agreed to make applications for all of these based on these quotes. The Clerk will also ask a firm recommended by WSCC to provide some quotes as guidance.

14 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Sheridan reported that he has spoken to the person responsible for keeping several cars in the car park and these have now been moved.

Cllr. Sole reported that there are quite a few styles that need repair. She will contact the landowners directly about these.

Cllr. Allen attended a 'Prevent' training session about spotting people in society who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism.

Cllr. Allen also reported that he has submitted 66 lines to community broadband partnership. Of those, 35 will have superfast fibre by next year. This doesn't cover everyone yet, but there is so much fibre infrastructure planned in the next year that this could change. Cllr. Allen will keep pushing for this.

Cllr. Bender thanked the Clerk for asking Bovis Homes to put in a secure entrance at their development. This has now been done.

Cllr. Hussey is still pushing for fingerposts.

Cllr. Sallows reminded Members that there was a plan that a book exchange would be put in the telephone kiosk in the High Street. Cllr. Sheridan will look into this.

15 PARISH MAGAZINE

Something needs to be sent by 14th January for the February issue. Items to be included in the next issue are:-

- Broadband update
- Book exchange for the telephone kiosk
- Fingerposts
- Neighbourhood Plan

16 CLERK'S REPORT

The \$106 money for the swing in the playground has been paid to Rusper PC. This is for just under £7,000.

The Clerk looked into the licensing terms for The Plough. There are no items regarding car parking. However, business rates are changing next year, and the online calculator shows that there won't be any charge for the car park from April 2017.

The next meeting with Liberty will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 9am. A venue needs to be confirmed.

Sussex Police have a consultation going as they are increasing their precept by around £5 per household.

17 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Sheridan.

Budget

The draft budget was examined, and subject to a few small amendments appears to be satisfactory. The Clerk will prepare a further draft for the next meeting.

Online Banking

This has now been set up. It was agreed that all further payments may be made by transfer. The Clerk will set this up so that payments need to be authorised by an account signatory, and Cllr. Sheridan offered to help with this.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (November) – £469.30

Litter Warden salary & expenses – £82.80 & £23.48 (total £106.28)

HMRC – Litter warden's tax for the month is £10.80

Sussex Land Services - £436.56 x 2 (one invoice not itemised so not paid)

M. Forrest reimbursement for poppy wreath - £35

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer, except the payment to M. Forrest will be sent by cheque.

Other

Cllr. Sallows reported that a local estate agency has agreed to donate £400 to renovate the telephone kiosk.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on 20th December 2016 for planning and finance matters only. There will be a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2017.

The meeting closed at 22.10 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK