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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30 pm

Present: G. Hussey (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chairman) R. Allen, M. Cooke, V. Saunders and R. Gatt
L. Bannister (Clerk)
HDC & WSCC Cllr. Kitchen

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Vance-Webb, Fleming, Fillmore, Sheridan and Forrest.

HDC Cllr. Hogben also gave his apologies.

2 Declaration of Interests

None.

3 Approval of Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were agreed by Council and duly signed by Cllr. Hussey.

4 Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to speak.

No members of the public were present.

The meeting was resumed.

5 Planning

DC/20/0224 Southcroft, Rusper Road

It was RESOLVED to comment on this application as follows:-

Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.

Applications received since publication of the Agenda
None.

Approval of Planning Committee Terms of Reference

It was RESOLVED to approve these. The meeting time was set at 7.30 pm.

6 Reports from other authorities

This item was adjourned until later in the meeting when Cllr. Kitchen arrived.

7 HDC's Local Plan Review Consultation

It was RESOLVED that comments on this will be circulated between Members by email. A decision on a comment will be deferred to be made at the Planning Committee meeting.

8 Mole Valley District Council Local Plan Consultation

It was RESOLVED that comments on this will be circulated between Members by email. A decision on a comment will be deferred to be made at the Planning Committee meeting.

9 Approval of Hillybarn drainage work

It was RESOLVED to approve this work and apply for more funding to resolve the issues.

10 Repair of notice boards and location of new notice boards

It was RESOLVED to:-

- Add a notice board on the High Street to outside the playground. The Clerk will get some quotes for aluminium boards.
- The current notice board on the High Street will remain until it falls into disrepair.
- Apply for the S106 funds available (around £350) to fund this.

11 Approval of Communication Strategy

It was RESOLVED to approve this.

12 Repair of posts on High Street

It was RESOLVED to get quotes to repair these.

13 Amendment to street lights at Cooks Mead

UKPN are undergrounding their electricity supply to two street lights on Cooks Mead. This will mean that the lights may need to move as they are currently located on two of their electricity poles.

The Clerk will ask UKPN if they are willing to keep the poles in the current location and transfer the ownership to us.

14 Soft Sand Review of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan

No comment will be made on this. Members may comment as individuals if they wish.

15 Litter collection day

This will be held on Sunday 15th March. Cllr. Hussey will ask Mr Hill if he is willing to collect the rubbish as usual.

Cllr. Allen will advertise this.

Cllr. Saunders will collect the equipment from HDC on Thursday at 10am and will return it the following Monday.

16 Reports from other Authorities

Cllr. Kitchen reported that HDC has managed to get their MPs to challenge the housing figures for their Local Plan.

Cllr. Hussey asked what can be done about the diversions caused by the Thames Water works. Cllr. Kitchen is attending a meeting with Thames Water in the morning and can speak to Highways about this afterwards.

17 Annual Parish Meeting

This will be on 21st April. A representative from Sussex Police will come along to speak. The Clerk will try to book other speakers. Suggestions were:

- A Highways representative
- Someone from HDC to discuss the Local Plan

An update will be given at the meeting on the incinerator appeal, Land West of Ifield, Land North of Horsham and what Rusper PC is doing about traffic.

18 Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr. Sallows reported that the Regulation 16 consultation has started. HDC has delegated this to the South Downs National Park Authority. A representative met with Members of the Steering Group last week. They were optimistic about the plan and its likelihood of success.

When the Plan goes to referendum, Rusper Parish Council cannot canvas for people to vote 'yes' to the Plan but are able to encourage people to vote.

19 Rusper Recreation Ground lease

The solicitors have chased the landowners, and so has the Clerk but no response has been agreed yet.

Cllr. Kitchen reported that the Courage Dyer trust needs a Rusper representative. They may have funding available.

It was RESOLVED:-

- To make an application to court if the Hursts do not respond with an offer.
- Cllrs. Saunders and Sallows will have authority to make urgent decisions that may be needed before the next full Council meeting. This could include agreeing the terms of the lease.
- A maximum cost of £2000 has been agreed.

20 Report from Representatives

Cllrs. Saunders and Gatt attended the liaison meeting at Land North of Horsham. The work on the roundabout won't start until later in the year. Speed limits and traffic calming measures were discussed. Highways will not consider a speed limit reduction until the development is underway and this will be difficult to achieve due to funding and regulations. Legal and General has agreed to look into the possibility of having a bridge. No houses will be built until spring next year.

Cllr. Sallows attended the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign Annual General Meeting.

Cllrs. Sallows and Hussey attended the North Horsham Parish Council Planning Committee meeting to give Rusper PC's views on Land West of Ifield. North Horsham Parish Council took this on board, will support Rusper PC's objection and will raise their own issues relating to additional traffic to that created by Land North of Horsham.

Cllr. Allen reported that he and Cllr. Vance-Webb did a survey of the trees in the recreation ground and playground. They believe these to be in a suitable state and do not require professional evaluation.

Cllr. Cooke attended compliance training at HDC. This was about conduct and behaviour of councillors including how to make decisions and how to make social media posts.

Cllr. Cooke also attended a workshop about the Horsham Local Plan.

Cllr. Cooke is meeting with a councillor from Warnham Parish Council to find out what they have done about re-wilding.

Cllr. Hussey reported that the playground inspection has been done and he will bring forward any necessary work at the next meeting.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

21 Clerk's report

Community Speedwatch training went well and the first session is ready to be booked in. Cllrs. Sallows and Cooke have been upgraded to co-ordinators as well as the Clerk.

The Clerk and Cllr. Fleming met with an officer from HDC to discuss relocating the dog bin. This will not be possible anywhere near the playground or near the entrance to houses, and cannot go on private land. HDC will put up more signs so that it is clear that dog waste is allowed to be put in the other public rubbish bins – there are three of these in the High Street.

The Clerk reminded Members that she will be on annual leave from Friday 28th February, returning on Monday 7th March. Cllr. Hussey will be an emergency contact in this time.

The Clerk and Cllrs. Hussey and Cooke are meeting with Thames Water on Wednesday 26th February to discuss the work being done and the impact of this on residents.

Following the request to HDC that Rusper's Conservation Area is reviewed, HDC has recommended that Rusper PC speaks to its District Councillors to present a case for Rusper to be the next group to be reviewed. HDC are undertaking reviews of all Conservation Areas in the district and are focusing on those requiring change first. Members felt that they did not need to request this yet.

The Clerk regularly chases Highways for a decision on the poles for the Speed Indicator Device. While waiting, the Clerk will ask for permission to put these on existing Highways poles.

Cllr. Sheridan has been unable to apply for a credit card. Cllr. Sallows will take this on.

22 Review of pay for Litter Warden

It was RESOLVED to close the meeting to members of the public to discuss sensitive/confidential information.

It was RESOLVED to increase the litter warden's hourly rate from 1st April 2020.

23 Parish News

Cllr. Allen will provide a summary of the Minutes while the Clerk is on annual leave.

24 Finances

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

It was RESOLVED to agree these and they were duly signed by Cllr. Gatt.

Amendments to budget for 2020-21

Following comments at the last meeting that the expenditure for the year does not match the Precept, the Clerk has amended the budget to ensure that it is clearer where the money will be spent. This includes an additional amount to pay for the Litter Warden, to improve the website accessibility and to move £8000 to earmarked reserves for the Recreation Ground.

It was RESOLVED to agree this.

Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was RESOLVED to appoint Mulberry & Co at a maximum cost of £200.

Invoices to pay

It was RESOLVED to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (February) – £572.48

Litter warden salary (£83.83) and expenses (23.48) – £107.31

PAYE - £21

CAGNE funding for barrister - £1000

Donation to Rusper Parish News - £200

Reimbursement of Member expenses - £3.30

Parish Online subscription - £30

Scribe invoice - £338.60

SSE electricity invoice - £37.47
Surrey Hills Solicitors - £90

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

25 Other business

Cllr. Allen informed Members that a group of residents are planning to hold a VE day commemoration on 9th May.

26 Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on 31st March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK