

# RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 8.00pm

**Present:** Cllrs. G. Hill (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chair), V. Bender, G. Hussey, D. Lawton, C. Forrest and R. Allen  
L. Bannister (Clerk)  
WSCC & HDC Cllr. Kitchen

It was agreed to bring forward the items Lease of Recreation Ground and Purchase of Land at Gardeners Green.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Gatt, Sheridan and Saunders.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

**4 OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

**5 LEASE OF RECREATION GROUND**

A lease extension of 20 years from the date of the expiry of the lease has been agreed with the landowner, but he wants his solicitor to look over the Deed of Variation that has been proposed.

It was advised that legal advice is sought to check the validity of the Deed of Variation.

Members are happy with the Deed of Variation, and are taking informal legal advice from a local solicitor. If this solicitor recommends that further legal advice is sought, it was agreed that under Delegated Powers Cllrs. Hill and Sallows can make the decision to employ a solicitor at a maximum cost of £1500.

**6 PURCHASE OF LAND AT GARDENERS GREEN**

The grassed area at Gardeners Green is owned by Saxon Weald. They have offered to sell this to the Parish Council for a nominal sum.

It was agreed that the Clerk will look further into the costs of owning this land, for example cutting the grass and the insurance premium. The Clerk will tell Saxon Weald that Rusper PC is interested, but are looking into the costs.

*Cllr. Hill left the meeting and Cllr. Sallows took over Chairing the meeting*

**7 PLANNING**

DC/17/1852 Bonwycks Farm Lodge, Ifield Wood

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

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

DC/17/2016 Sports Horses International Ltd, Stud Farm

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

‘Rusper Parish Council strongly objects to this application. The health risks to occupants would be significant and this is an unsuitable location for residential development – there are no footpaths or public transport. Rusper Parish Council largely agrees with the view given by HDC on the environmental health impact of this development.’

Another application has been received for this property DC/17/2161 for a certificate of lawful development for occupation of four buildings as self contained independent dwellings for more than 4 years. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

EN/15/0454 Land at Ifield Court Hotel

The enforcement notice on this has been removed.

**Applications received since publication of the Agenda**

DC/17/2104 1 Mount Cottages, Ifield Wood

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

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

DC/17/2054 12 East Street, Rusper

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

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

Report on Rusper Road developments

Cllr. Bender reported that the working time conditions for the Bovis Homes development are until 1pm on a Saturday, however they are exceeding this and the noise is horrendous.

*Cllr. Kitchen arrived*

The road cleaners are sweeping the mud from the road onto the pavement. The Clerk will report this to Highways.

The people working on the Bovis Homes development are parking on Rusper Road as there is not space on the site for them. This is dangerous. The Clerk will write to Bovis Homes to ask them to provide parking for their workers so that they do not park on Rusper Road. Also, their lorries are bringing soil out onto the road and speeding around the corner and out of the site. Residents are concerned about safety.

Street lights have now been added to the Martin Grant development. These appear to be different from the plans. Cllr. Bender will clarify this.

Cllr. Bender suggested keeping an eye on the Bovis Homes development as street lights here would add to light pollution in the area. Cllr. Sallows will take a look at street lights on the Martin Grant site.

**8 PLANNING UPDATE**

None.

**9 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES**

Cllr. Kitchen hasn’t heard from Rusper PC about their views on the points raised by CAGNE. Cllr. Allen said he wasn’t aware that Cllr. Kitchen had asked Rusper PC to send these.

Cllr. Kitchen reported that HDC wants to continue controls on night flights and not to extend time limits. They are looking closely at the London Airspace. The feedback is that flights are

starting before 5.30. Cllr. Kitchen will report this to the Noise Management Board. Cllr. Lawton has already sent some feedback, and will copy Cllr. Kitchen in on this.

The Neighbourhood Plan survey result show that the majority of respondents are concerned about the impact of Gatwick on Rusper.

Cllr. Kitchen has a noise monitor in her garden. Cllr. Kitchen believes that results of this were published within the last 18 months.

**10 VACANCY**

There is one vacancy, and three people have registered their interest so far. The Clerk will ask all applicants to provide some information about why they want to become a Councillor.

**11 CHARITABLE TRUSTS OF PLAYGROUND & SPORTS FIELD**

Councillors are registered as individual trustees rather than Rusper PC as a whole. The Clerk is researching the implications of this before suggesting any changes.

*Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting*

**12 GRASS CUTTING TENDERS**

The tender information was approved, but the Clerk will add in Gardeners Green. Quotes need to be received before the November meeting so that a decision can be made there.

**13 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN VILLAGE**

Rusper PC has quarterly meetings with Liberty to try to mitigate the impact of the traffic from this site on Rusper. The S106 agreement is being negotiated with HDC. This may provide money for Rusper to improve traffic management.

The Neighbourhood Plan group will set up a focus group to look at traffic, and will hopefully come up with some suggestions.

It was agreed that the Clerk will look into portable Vehicle Activated Signs for the High Street, Rusper Road and Hurst Hill.

**14 LOGO**

Cllr. Sallows is still working on removing the wording from this.

**15 HORSHAM DISTRICT YEAR OF CULTURE 2019**

HDC are offering grants for projects in parishes that contribute to this. It was felt that Rusper already has lots of cultural events, that will be notified to HDC in due course (e.g. the Lucy Broadwood project, comedy evening, art show, bell ringers, morris dancing).

*Cllr. Lawton left the meeting*

**16 CAR PARK/THE PLOUGH**

The Plough is advertising the car park as its own. The Clerk will ask them to stop doing this.

**17 STREET LIGHTS**

Notice has been given to Streetlights, but their contract will run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. They have suggested switching each light to LED, and then they have suggested that a maintenance contract would no longer be needed, and the energy bill would be reduced by around 65%.

Streetlights have quoted £195 plus VAT for 4 of the street lights. For the 4 other street lights, they have quoted the same price, but have said that they couldn't guarantee the work as the lanterns are in such poor condition they don't recommend spending any money on them.

The Clerk will find out which lamps are the ones that could be converted.

## **18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr. Forrest will let the Clerk know if he can attend the WSALC AGM.

Cllr. Sallows attended a meeting, with Cllrs. Hill and Gatt, organised by a resident with HDC and Highways regarding the traffic implications of the North Horsham development. HDC did not feel it was anything to do with Rusper PC, and felt Rusper PC should not be part of the S106 negotiations. Once this has been finalised the information will be shared with Cllr. Kitchen. The Highways representative listened to suggestions and will take these things into consideration whilst the S106 agreement is being drawn up. Cllr. Sallows will send him the speed data that has been collected in Rusper, and will also request that any information collected by them is shared with Rusper PC.

## **19 CLERK'S REPORT**

Regarding Operation Watershed, Bells have incurred £313.84 in expenses and want to pass these on to us. The Clerk will try and make another application for more grant money to pay this, but will also tell Bells that Rusper PC will not incur any other costs and advise them to pull out of the contract if they are no longer interested.

The developers of the Wayside garage site do not like the road name suggestion put forward by Rusper PC. They have suggested The Old Forge. Councillors present did not object to this.

The litter warden would like a new high-vis winter coat. The Clerk will suggest that she buys this and submits the receipt to us. This was approved.

Data protection laws are changing, and the Clerk would like to attend a training course in early 2018. This will cost £24 plus VAT. This was approved.

The Clerk will be on Annual leave from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October.

## **20 PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was agreed to include the following items:-

- Horsham District's Year of Culture 2019
- Call for sites notice (if this is ready)
- Grass cutting information

## **21 FINANCES**

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hussey.

Mandate change – removal of signatory

It was agreed to remove Cllr. Sole from the list of signatories. The mandate change form was signed by Cllrs. Forrest and Sallows.

Internal audits

The auditor has recommended two audits per year, at a cost of £50 per hour. The second audit would focus on governance rather than the accounts. It was agreed to start this from the next financial year.

External audit

This was expected but had not been received by the time of the meeting.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Sussex Land Services for grounds maintenance (September) - £448.57

The payroll information had not been received by the time of the meeting. So as not to delay payment of salaries, it was agreed to pay:-

Salary for Clerk (July) – £469.30

Litter Warden salary & expenses – up to a maximum of £140.

PAYE - up to a maximum of £15

Once payroll information has been received and verified, all of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

**22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next Council meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The meeting closed at 10 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER  
CLERK