

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs. G. Hill (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chair), G. Hussey, R. Allen, and R. Gatt
L. Bannister (Clerk)
WSCC & HDC Cllr. Kitchen
2 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Vance-Webb, Saunders, Sheridan, and Bender.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Hussey declared an interest in application DC/17/2772 as a neighbour to the site.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

An amendment was made to the amount of dog bins agreed – this was two and not one.

4 OPEN FORUM

Two members of the public moved to Rusper in the summer and want to be involved in the parish.

5 PLANNING

DC/17/2633 Garage Block, Cooks Mead

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

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

DC/17/2736 Parkholme, Rusper Road

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

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

Cllr. Kitchen arrived

DC/17/2714 Sports Horses International, Stud Farm

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

‘Rusper Parish Council strongly objects to this application for the following reasons:-

- It is not safe for people to be living on a mixed residential/equestrian site
- This would be over intensification of the site
- The site is not sustainable and there is no access to public transport’

Applications received since publication of the Agenda

DC/17/2772 The Mount Farm, The Mount

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

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this application as it is an unsuitable and unsustainable area for a new dwelling.’

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

‘Rusper Parish Council strongly objects to this application as the need for it is unjustified, and the parish council objects to development on greenfield land.’

Report on Rusper Road developments

Cllr. Bender sent an email to report that the situation is largely unchanged, but that HDC has had the roads and pavements swept. However, Bovis Homes has put up large spotlights that shine into residents’ bedrooms. The Clerk will write to them and request that they are repositioned.

6 PLANNING UPDATES

None.

7 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen reported as follows:

A stop notice has been served on Ifield Court Hotel.

Cllr. Kitchen spoke to enforcement about their lack of help with the Rusper Road developments. They have now sent a road sweeper to Rusper Road and spoken to the developers.

8 GYPSY, TRAVELLER & TRAVELLING SHOW PEOPLE DRAFT SITE ALLOCATION

It was agreed to comment on this consultation as follows:

If the site in Northside Farm, Burnthouse Lane, Rusper is agreed, Rusper Parish Council requests that the site is restricted to the current amount of mobile homes, and would like to see the site tidied.

9 LICENCE FOR BOLLARDS ON EAST STREET

It was agreed that the Clerk can sign this.

The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the contractor and Cllrs. Hill, Sallows and Forrest before work goes ahead.

10 QUESTIONS FOR SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Clerk updated Council that the police had given the Clerk details of thefts in Rusper and this shows a decrease since summer. The Clerk will ask for details of thefts from vehicles, and let them know that we have documented evidence of a speed issue in the village.

It was agreed to submit the following question:-

Rusper Parish Council would like to request a more visible presence in rural areas, and a review of the neighbourhood policing policy so that each area is represented by a specific officer (as it was in the past).

11 TRUSTEES OF CHARITABLE TRUSTS OF RECREATION GROUND & PLAYGROUND

The current trustees are individual members of the council. It was agreed that the Clerk will try to change this so that the Parish Council is the sole trustee.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

12 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

New regulations will come into effect in May next year. Advice from SSALC is that the clerk cannot be the data protection officer and this will most likely need to be outsourced. SSALC are speaking with some firms to put some packages together. The Clerk is to attend training on this

in January so will have more information then.

13 LOCATIONS FOR VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

This will be decided in January. Members need to consider where they want these.

14 OPERATION WATERSHED FUNDING

The works completed in 2015 are being audited.

The road closure application for the current works has been completed.

The extra amount to pay of £376.61 can't be covered by another grant from WSCC. It was agreed to pay this.

15 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Two quotes have been received. It was agreed to go ahead with Sussex Land Services with an annual cost of around £3100.

16 SEE SAW FOR PLAYGROUND

The wood on the see saw in the playground has split and needs to be replaced. It was discussed whether to just replace the wood or buy a new see saw. The cost of a new see saw would be just under £3000 including installation.

Members will have a look at the see saw so that this can be decided at the next meeting.

17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Sallows updated that two sites have been put forward so far, with possibly one more to follow.

The budget was agreed, and allowance was made for the Clerk to provide administrative support for 20 hours per month.

18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Hussey reported that the finger post at the junction of Wimland Lane and Faygate Lane has nearly been finished. One finger post has been destroyed by a car which skidded on ice. The Clerk will try to claim for this damage on the car's insurance.

Two members of the public left the meeting

19 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk would like to look into buying an accounts package. It was agreed that this can be pursued. Cllr. Allen offered his support with this. Initial enquiries show an annual cost of £260.

The date of the next meeting with North Horsham PC and Liberty is Wednesday 28th February at 10am.

The Britaniacrest meeting has changed to Monday 15th January.

Cllr. Gatt will attend a training course with SSALC next year.

If there are any issues with footpaths/bridleways Members should let the Clerk know. The Clerk will find out about the footpath that is due to be closed from the sports club to the royal oak.

20 HEALTH & WELLBEING SURVEY

The general feeling from Members was that Rusper already has a strong community providing health and wellbeing services so at the moment there is no need for the PC to get involved. The Clerk will complete the survey based on this.

21 DATES FOR 2018 MEETINGS

These were agreed. The Annual Parish Meeting will be in April, and the Annual General Meeting in May.

22 PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed to include the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

23 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Gatt.

Finalising budget for next financial year

The budget was agreed. This allows for around £11,000 to be spent from current reserves as they are above the required limit. The recommended precept would be just over £25,000 which would be an increase of just over 7%. The precept will be set at the January meeting.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

JK Engineering for finger post renovation - £1500

Bell & Sons for Operation Watershed - £376.61

Sussex Land Services for grounds maintenance – £448.57

Payroll information has not yet been received, but when it is it was agreed that the following payments can be made:

Salary for Clerk (December) – £494.43

Litter Warden salary & expenses – up to £120

PAYE – up to £15

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer.

24 OTHER BUSINESS

None.

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on 30th January 2018. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK