

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at 8.00pm

Present: Cllrs. G. Hill (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chair), V. Bender, G. Hussey, R. Allen, V. Saunders, C. Forrest, A. Sheridan, R. Gatt and N. Vance-Webb
L. Bannister (Clerk)
WSCC & HDC Cllr. Kitchen
1 member of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lawton. These were accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

4 OPEN FORUM

Tony Elder attended the meeting to talk about the potential closure of Faygate train station. He is running a campaign to try to keep it open.

5 PLANNING

DC/17/2428 Curtis Farm, Green Lane

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

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

- This is an unsustainable area
- This is a sensitive rural area close to neighbours, more activity would mean more noise and light pollution
- The farm is already over-intensified
- Rusper PC is concerned that approval of this application would set a precedent for this area being used in a commercial way

Rusper Parish Council requests that the decision for this application is made at Committee.’

DC/17/2462 & 2461 Chowles Barn, East Street

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

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

DC/17/2501 Highams, Capel Road

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

‘Rusper Parish Council is in support of this application as it provides better accessibility for residents with disabilities.’

Applications received since publication of the Agenda

DC/17/2164 Thatched Barn Cottage, Normans

New plans have been submitted on this application. It was agreed that Rusper PC still stands by its original comments – the building is too high and the footprint is too big.

Report on Rusper Road developments

Cllr. Bender reported that there have been no changes or improvements since the last meeting.

There was a road traffic accident close to the sites which resulted in a car turned over in the ditch.

There is still mud on the pavements and the road, and the lorries are blocking the traffic.

Quite a lot of street lighting has been added.

The Martin Grant development should be completed in another year.

6 PREVENTION OF CRIME IN RUSPER

There have been quite a few incidents reported in Rusper recently. It was agreed to ask Sussex Police how Rusper PC could get involved, and to ask them what they are doing.

There is a chance to get a community warden, but this would cost around £140,000 each year.

Cllr. Allen will invite the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator to the January meeting.

The Clerk will find out if Farm Watch is still running in Rusper.

7 POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF FAYGATE TRAIN STATION

Mr Elder explained that as there isn't a regular bus service, without the train station residents without cars would be isolated. It is not feasible to walk to the bus stop on the A264. The station isn't used that much because there aren't that many trains. The group has met with the local MP who has given some good advice, and they have written to WSCC. Colgate PC is in support of this, and they are keeping Liz Kitchen involved too. They have a petition open for signatures, and are hoping for 1000 (they already have 400).

Cllr. Allen will arrange for this to be advertised on Facebook and in the parish magazine.

Cllr. Kitchen arrived

8 LOCATIONS FOR VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS

The Clerk will send around a map of Rusper and councillors can put forward their location suggestions.

9 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen reported as follows:

The County Local Committee has some money available for projects within the parish, and this needs to be spent by the end of the financial year.

The northbound route on the M23 will be closed for three weekends in the new year.

Cllr Kitchen still needs to follow up enforcement about Lower Langhurst Farm.

The Clerk updated Cllr. Kitchen on the lease for the recreation ground.

There is still no change with the S106 agreement for the North Horsham development.

Cllr. Bender reported that HDC are refusing to clear the pavements on Rusper Road as they say this isn't in Horsham. Cllr. Kitchen will follow up on this.

Cllr. Saunders reported that North Horsham PC has said that they expect to take the North Horsham development into their control, which would change the boundary of Rusper.

10 STREET LIGHTS – CONVERSION TO LED

Members need to decide whether or not to upgrade four of the lights to LED. This will cost approximately £195 per light, and produce an energy saving of 65%.

Cllr. Vance-Webb will take this on and do some research.

11 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

There have been two quotes submitted. The Clerk needs to ask Sussex Land Services to explain the difference between their quote and their fees for this year, and then this will be decided at the next meeting.

12 PURCHASE OF LAND AT GARDENERS GREEN

Saxon Weald has offered the land to Rusper PC for a nominal sum. It was agreed to pursue this.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

13 MAINTENANCE WORK AT PLAYGROUND

Cllr. Hussey needs an ‘odd job’ man to do some work on the playground and estimates this will cost around £400 plus materials up to £50. This was approved.

14 WSCC’S PURPLE BUS

This is a service provided by WSCC for youths. They are going to ask The Star if they can use their car park.

15 DOG BINS IN RUSPER

It was agreed to put up signs asking for people to take dog mess home with them, and to look into getting two more dog bins.

16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Sallows is still analysing the results of the survey. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee is now looking for people to join focus groups for housing and highways, and possibly education.

The school is setting up an action group for discussion about the future of the school, and has approached the Neighbourhood Plan Committee to bear the school in mind whilst putting together the plan.

17 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Allen went on a tour of Gatwick Airport and highly recommended this to other members.

Cllr. Saunders attended a meeting with North Horsham PC and Liberty. Liberty are still working on the S106 agreement, and looking to get planning permission by the end of the year. They want to get the infrastructure in place within a year. The school should be up and running by 2020. North Horsham PC wants to take control of the entire development.

18 FOOTPATHS & BRIDLEWAYS REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr. Vance-Webb will become the footpaths and bridleways representative.

19 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES (CONT)

Cllr. Sallows attended the Highways Liaison meeting last week. Slides from this will be circulated soon. Highways will repair potholes that are at least 40mm by 150mm.

Cllr. Sheridan has different sizes available for the hi vis jackets.

20 CLERK'S REPORT

Britaniacrest are holding their liaison group on 8th January to discuss their new application. This will not be open to the general public, but a representative from Rusper PC will attend.

Bell and Sons need to collect names and addresses of people who support the Operation Watershed applications for their road closure applications.

21 DATE OF DECEMBER MEETING

This will be on 19th December at 8pm following the Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

22 PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed to include a message saying Happy New Year from Rusper PC.

23 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Sheridan.

Draft budgeting for next financial year

On the whole, this was agreed. There are a few blank columns (e.g. finger posts) that need to be completed. This will be presented again at the December meeting.

There were queries about the amount paid to 1&1 for email and website hosting. Cllr. Allen will put together some more prices for alternative providers.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (July) – 759.86

Litter Warden salary & expenses – £88.40 & £23.48 (£111.88)

PAYE - £31.34

Grant to Village Store under S137 expenditure- £500

An invoice has been received from SSALC for training for Cllrs. Hussey and Allen that they did not attend as the course was advertised incorrectly. The Clerk will try and transfer this onto another course.

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 19th December 2017. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK