

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bender 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 PLANNING

DC/17/0459 Dundonald, Bonnetts Lane

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

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

DC/16/1843 Rusper Garage, High Street

This application has now been approved since the amendments to the plans.

DC/16/2776 Greenfield Farm House, Charlwood Road

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

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

Cllr. Kitchen arrived

DC/17/0538 Little Park Farm, Charlwood Road

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

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this application as the development has been ongoing behind a bund that should have been removed (see application DC/09/1545). Had the bund been removed, this development would have been in open view for members of the public to be aware of the parking. This location is unsuitable for a parking facility as it is a rural area and cannot sustain the extra traffic created by off airport parking.’

APPEAL DC/16/1678 The Barn, Capel Road

It was agreed to object to this application for the following reasons:-

- Greenfield site
- Outside of the built up area boundary

The Clerk will put together a comment and circulate to Members for agreement before submitting.

APPEAL DC/16/1567 Westacre, Rusper Road

It was agreed not to submit a comment on this.

6 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen reported that Aidan Thatcher is resigning from the Planning Department.

Cllr. Kitchen has visited Outreach in Ifield Hall, Charlwood Road. They have problems with transport for their disabled clients as they have to cross a very busy road to catch their bus, the road doesn't have a pavement and the kerbs outside Ifield Hall aren't dropped which is difficult for those clients in wheelchairs. Cllr. Kitchen has agreed to help them solve this problem. In time, they may ask Rusper PC to release some S106 money.

Cllr. Sole asked if the bus company would be willing to put a stop closer to the property. Cllr. Kitchen understands that this wouldn't be possible.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

7 PLANNING UPDATES

HDC have logged the complaint about Martin Grant Homes, although they have said that they don't think there's much they can do about them starting work 10 minutes before the time they are allowed, although they will try and speak to the developer about the other items.

There will be a meeting with Liberty on Wednesday 12th April at 10am. Cllr. Hill will book a room at The Star.

Cllr. Sallows said that the North Horsham planning application has made a change to the housing distribution. Liberty are renegotiating on their affordable housing agreement. It was agreed to ask whether or not this is true at the meeting. The main issue is to find out what they will be doing to try and stop Rusper becoming more of a rat run.

8 TRAFFIC IN RUSPER

The speed data has not yet been analysed by WSCC, but the data collected seems to show that a speed reduction will not be approved. It was suggested that Rusper PC buy its own Vehicle Activated Sign. This will be decided at the next meeting.

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

There was a meeting of the Steering Group last week. A questionnaire was agreed upon. Cllr. Sallows is going to format this before the next meeting.

10 WINTER MANAGEMENT – ADDITIONAL SALT BIN

It was agreed to buy a 160 litre green salt bin, at a cost of £148.19.

Cllr. Hill will ask local residents where they would want the bin located. The Clerk will then ask for permission from Highways.

Cllr. Lawton arrived

11 OPERATION WATERSHED

The following applications have now been approved by WSCC:-

The Mount
Prestwood Lane
Lambs Green
Rusper Road
Baldhorns Park

The paperwork has not yet been received for these so this cannot be confirmed. Once the paperwork has arrived the Clerk will arrange for the work to take place.

There are still some landowner consent forms to be signed.

12 INSURANCE REVIEW

It was agreed the Clerk will get some quotes for a broker to advise on the Rusper PC's assets.

13 ANNUAL MEETING

Rusper PC will hold an Annual Parish Meeting on 27th June at 7pm. The Clerk will try to arrange for some speakers to attend. This will be advertised in the parish news and at Mayday.

14 PROPOSED CHANGE TO ELECTORAL BOUNDARY

It was agreed to comment on this as follows:-

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this proposal because Rusper is a rural community, and being moved into an urban area would not represent the views of our electorate. It would be preferable to Rusper Parish Council for the gap between Horsham and Crawley to be maintained, and remaining as part of the Horsham District is more suited to the rural nature of Rusper as Horsham District represents several similar parishes. Also, this proposal doesn't make elections more democratic, as this disenfranchises all of the electorate in rural areas.’

15 BROADBAND

The Clerk has looked further into alternative broadband suppliers for the Village Hall, but there are not any providers that are cheaper than BT.

Cllr. Hussey reported that fibre is being laid in The Mount.

Cllr. Allen is going to suggest that people start putting in their orders for superfast broadband from June if they are able.

16 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Forrest

There is a still lot of activity at Langhurst Farm. The barn structure still has windows and doors if looking from the back. The Clerk will ensure that the Compliance Officer is aware of this.

Cllr. Sole

A couple were seen cleaning litter from Ifield Wood. The Clerk advertised Rusper PC's thanks for this on the website and social media. Thanks were offered to the Clerk for arranging adoption of the payphone in Lambs Green. The payphone has a few glass panes missing.

Cllr. Sheridan

Stickers will be put on any cars in the car park that are not leaving over night.

Shelves will be put up in the payphone in the High Street for a book exchange.

Cllr. Sheridan will arrange a stand for Mayday to advertise the Annual Parish Meeting, Neighbourhood Plan, and what the Parish Council does, and set up an area for comments.

Lloyds have still not set up online banking for Cllr. Sheridan. The Clerk will chase this.

Cllr. Sallows

The notice board on the high street needs some maintenance including: maintaining the support posts, changing the door hinges, and cleaning the board. This will cost around £20-£30. The landowner is happy for this work to be done.

Two trees have died behind the hedge in the playground. A resident has asked if they can plant a tree in memory of someone who died. This was agreed.

At the development on Rusper Road, some trees have been cut down. Cllr. Sallows asked if the Parish Council will apply for TPOs on the other trees at the site to avoid more being removed. This was agreed.

Cllr. Sallows asked if it would be possible to put up polite notices asking people not to park on verges. This will be added to the next Agenda, and Cllr. Sallows will get some quotes.

Cllr. Lawton

Rusper PC hosted the CAGNE Forum in March. Cllr. Lawton thanked Cllr. Hill for chairing this, and Cllr. Sallows for attending.

Cllr. Hussey

The fingerposts agreed for the 2016-17 financial year have all been put up. The next one to be done is the metal one at the Faygate junction.

ID cards need to be sorted, Cllr. Sallows still needs to sort the logo.

Cllr. Sole left the meeting

All Members need to send pictures to the Clerk.

Cllr. Hussey requested that hi-vis jackets are bought. Cllr. Sheridan will get quotes for these.

There are two more finger posts to complete. Cllr. Hussey has spent £750 over budget on the ones completed. This was approved. Cllr. Sheridan will ask the Mayday committee to fund one of these.

There was chaos caused by a road closure which diverted traffic through The Mount. Cllr. Hussey will contact the Highways Department to let them know that this route is not suitable for diversion, and especially HGVs.

17 PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed to include:-

- Thank you to the couple clearing the litter at Ifield Wood
- Details about broadband
- Date of the Annual Parish Meeting
- Neighbourhood Plan details

Cllr. Allen left the meeting

18 PENSION

Cllr. Sheridan declared an interest in this item, as owner of the company Sheridan Brooks.

It was agreed that Rusper PC will instruct Sheridan Brooks to take over administration of the pension scheme. The costs involved will be:-

Contributions:

From 2017 – September 2018: Employee 3%, employer 2%

From October 2018: employee 5%, employer 3%

There will be a £250 setup fee

The ongoing administration cost will be £5 per employee, per month.

The employees will have the option to 'opt out' of the scheme.

19 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & ONLINE BANKING

This cannot be setup until online banking is arranged for Cllr. Sheridan.

20 CLERK'S REPORT

A resident has been in touch to ask Rusper PC to apply for a musical Blue Plaque for David Penfold singing The Turtle Dove. Cllr. Sallows had another suggestion for a Blue Plaque. It was agreed that if Members want to pursue this, they will let the Clerk know.

The Clerk would like to do a SALC training course on meetings. This was agreed. The cost of this will be £80, but Rusper PC will share the cost of this with Woodmancote Parish Council.

The rates bill for the car park has been received, and there is a liability of £1211.60 for the year 2017-18. There was a discussion about how to proceed with the licence and The Plough. Cllr. Forrest will talk to Cllr. Saunders to find out if there has been a signed agreement at all with The Plough.

The Clerk will be on annual leave from 11th to 13th April.

21 LITTER WARDEN – SALARY & EQUIPMENT

The minimum wage is increasing to £7.50 from 1st April 2017. It was agreed to increase the litter warden's hourly rate to £8 per hour from 1st April.

The Clerk will ask that the bus stop is also cleared of litter.

Rusper PC will supply the Litter Warden with a hi-vis jacket, and she can buy some gloves which Rusper PC will reimburse if she wants.

The Clerk will supply the Litter Warden with a risk assessment.

22 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Sheridan.

S137 donations

No donations were agreed.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (March) – £469.30

Litter Warden salary & expenses – £77 & £23.48 (total £100.48)

HMRC – Litter warden's tax for the month. The amount will be agreed by email before payment is made

J K Engineering for finger posts - £1120.80 & £1500 (this one to be paid 1st April)

Advanced Transport Research for speed data collection - £990

HDC road closure fee for Mayday (this will be reimbursed by the Mayday committee - £100)

BT fee for payphone adoption - £1

West Sussex ALC for subscriptions - £457.75

All of these payments will be sent via bank transfer, except BT and J K Engineering.

22 OTHER BUSINESS

None.

23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on 25th April 2017. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK