

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 8.00pm

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sheridan and Sole.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Hussey declared an interest in the planning application DC/16/2039 as he is a neighbour to this property. Cllr. Gatt declared an interest in planning application DC/16/2017 for the same reason.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Hill.

Cllrs. Forrest and Sallows arrived and confirmed that they had no interests to declare

Cllr. Bender said that there is a green box providing broadband by her house.

4 OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

5 PLANNING

DC/16/1614 The Old Stables, Bonwycks Place

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council has no objection to this application.’

Cllrs. Lawton and Kitchen arrived

DC/16/1696 New Barn Farmhouse, Capel Road

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

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

- This will cause an increase of traffic through the Parish which already has insufficient infrastructure to cope with the current levels of traffic.
- This could cause mud from the field to build up on Capel Road which could be a potential danger.
- This is changing the site from agricultural status in an area that is predominantly agricultural, therefore it is not suitable to the area.
- The Parish Council objects to the use of lighting in this area of dark skies.
- This development can be seen from the footpath.’

This item was adjourned to hear the report from Cllr. Kitchen.

6 REPORTS FROM OTHER AUTHORITIES

Cllr. Kitchen reported that a stop notice has been served on New Barn Farmhouse.

WSSC are getting concerned that the Government are trying to move the control for the Fire and Rescue Service to the Police Commissioner. WSSC don't want to do this, as much of what the Fire Service do has nothing to do with the Police. They are looking for support and have started a petition. Details of this are on the website.

Cllr. Kitchen noted that with the amount of time enforcement takes, it gives developments like Ifield Court Hotel time to make money.

The Tough Mudder event seemed to be very well run. There were complaints from neighbours, and lots of traffic, but it seemed to be well managed by the company.

There aren't any updates on North Horsham at the moment. Cllr. Sallows told Cllr. Kitchen that a meeting was held between Liberty and Rusper PC to explain Rusper PC's position on this. But, Cllr. Sallows was unsure how much of this was fed back to HDC and WSSC. It would be good to have access to Highways to discuss this.

Cllr. Kitchen said that there is a big problem with S106 at the moment, and companies seem to be trying to reduce low cost housing. Cllr. Kitchen will argue against this.

Cllr. Sallows mentioned that there are lots of overgrown hedges and trees around the village which is narrowing the width of the pavements. Cllr. Allen has had a complaint from a resident that a pushchair was clipped by a vehicle recently because of this overgrowth. This was reported to Highways, but they have said that the overgrowth is not bad enough for them to treat yet. Cllr. Kitchen suggested a letter to Highways about this, and she will also pick this up.

Cllr. Bender asked about the committee meeting on Tuesday to discuss the amendment of the S106 agreement at the development on Rusper Road. She would like to attend as her and her neighbours are in agreement with this as it will reduce the density of the houses. However, after discussion it was agreed that the view of Rusper PC is that it is against reducing affordable housing requirements. Therefore, Cllr. Bender will attend the committee not as a representative of the Council, but as a resident.

7 PLANNING (CONTINUED)

DC/16/2032 Stammerham Farm, Capel Road

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

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

DC/16/2039 North Gates, The Mount

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

‘Rusper Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that the structure is too large, specifically in height, and it is located too close to the edge of the road, on a junction, and will affect the view along the road.’

DC/16/2017 1 Bensons Farm Cottages, Wimland Road

It was agreed to comment on this application as follows:

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

Cllr. Sallows noted that if the hedge being removed is ancient, he would object to this application.

A new application has been received, DC/16/2123 Horse Ghylls Wood Farm, Capel Road to vary condition A.

8 PLANNING UPDATES

Ifield Court Hotel

There was a complaint that trees have been felled at the site. The Compliance Officer and Arboriculturist Officer have confirmed that there was no Tree Protection Order on these trees, and so they were cut down lawfully.

Also, a start letter from the Inspector of the appeal has not yet been received.

New Barn Farm

The Compliance Officer has confirmed that all of the cars for airport parking have now been removed. There were approximately in the region of 1500-2000 cars parked on the site. They could park lawfully for 28 days under permitted development, but after this time the use became unlawful. Due to the significant number of cars, HDC served a Stop Notice to cease the use as a matter of urgency, and an Enforcement Notice. They will let us know if this is appealed.

Parkholme, Bonnetts Lane

The appeal decision was sent around to all Members and was interesting because it showed that new homes would not be allowed in the area for various reasons, one of which was lack of public transport.

Mid Winter Farm

The response from HDC said that the plans were drawn to scale, but the block plan incorrectly noted the building as being 25m from the road when in fact it is 15m. It was agreed to send an email back to them as Rusper PC would have had no way of knowing what was and wasn't correct about the drawing.

Bovis Homes have been in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss the Rusper Road development. This will be attended by Cllrs. Bender, Sallows and Hussey. A date will be arranged by the Clerk.

9 SPEED LIMITS IN RUSPER VILLAGE

Quotes for the speed data collection have been received. WSCC have advised that 5 collection points are required. The quotes range from £650 and £1,300 plus VAT.

It was agreed to ask someone from Highways to come and speak to the Council about this.

10 GATWICK DIAMOND WEST SUSSEX & SURREY LOW CARBON PROJECT

Cllr. Saunders was interested in this item. So, it will be deferred to the next meeting when he can attend.

Cllr. Kitchen left the meeting

11 STREETLIGHTS - MAINTENANCE

Cllrs. Sallows and Hill still need to check whether the street light in Cooks Meadow should be repaired.

12 TREE/HEDGE CUTTING

This was discussed earlier in the meeting. See item 6 above.

Two residents have been contacted to ask them to cut back their hedges.

13 BAGS OF HELP GRANT

This is a grant that is available to update outdoor spaces. It is suitable for the playground. If Cllr. Hussey wants to update any equipment, he needs to supply three quotes, and the Clerk will

make the application. This is a rolling process so there is no deadline.

14 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – MEETING WITH HDC

Cllr. Hill and the Clerk attended a meeting with HDC. They explained that on some of the developments surrounding Rusper, the CIL rating has been set at 0%. This is because they have already signed a S106 agreement.

15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At the meeting last week it was agreed to form a subcommittee to start work on the questionnaire, and also to work on a project plan. This was only attended by two members of the public. The Neighbourhood Planning Officer from HDC will be invited to speak at the next meeting.

16 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Hussey reported that work on the finger posts should be completed next week.

There have been some reports about lead poisoning from paint used in playgrounds.

The tenders for the grass cutting contract will be done early next year. It was noted that Sussex Land Services are doing a very good job at the moment. They have agreed to treat the sap deposits in the playground to deal with the slippery surfaces.

Cllr. Allen reported that flyers have been printed to be delivered to houses in areas in significant need of superfast broadband.

Cllr. Lawton reported that the decision on the additional runway is expected to be made either on the 11th or 18th October.

Cllr. Sallows attended the first CAGNE Parish Council Forum. They will hold rotating meetings to be hosted by each Parish Council, so Rusper PC would host about once a year and fund the cost of the hall and supply coffee. The meeting was interesting as all Parish Councils had differing views about what was good and bad about the airport.

A meeting is still trying to be arranged with The Plough.

17 PARISH MAGAZINE

An article will be written updating about the Neighbourhood Plan and the issues with the overgrowth in the area.

18 CLERK'S REPORT

The Public Rights of Way are due to be maintained in November and December. If Members are aware of any issues they should let the Clerk know as soon as possible. The Clerk will keep updated about the issues on the Sussex Border Path.

As suggested by Cllr. Lawton, it was agreed to send a letter to Theresa May to voice objection to the second runway at Gatwick.

Most of the scopes for Operation Watershed have been received, the Clerk is just waiting for the scope for Waterhall Hotel to be approved. Once all scopes have been received, the Clerk will get quotes for all of the work.

The online banking application is being processed. They are sending another form that needs to be signed.

The invoice for the car park has been received. This is for £180 and will be passed on to Alpha. Cllr. Forrest will get a VAT invoice for this.

The electoral boundary review is now open for consultation. This will be added to the next Agenda.

The SALC AGM is Monday 17 October 2016 at 1000 at The Lodge Hill Centre, Watersfield, Pulborough. Cllr. Hussey will attend.

The AirS AGM is on 12th October in Lewes. Cllr. Sallows was interested in attending this.

The Clerk will take annual leave from 24th to 28th October, excluding the date of the meeting – Tuesday 25th October.

19 FINANCES

Reconciled accounts & bank statements

These were agreed and duly signed by Cllr. Lawton.

External audit

This has been received without any notes from the auditor. The notice of conclusion of audit has been published.

S106 Funds

The allocation of funds has been received. This shows that just under £7,000 was allocated for a disability swing for the playground. This swing has already been installed. The Clerk will find out if 106 funding for this was ever received.

Invoices to pay

It was agreed to pay the following:

Salary for Clerk (April) – £469.30

Litter Warden salary & expenses – £86.40 & £23.48 (total £109.88)

HMRC – Litter warden's tax for the month is £9.40

Sussex Land Services - £436.56

PKF Littlejohn LLP - £240

SSALC Ltd for Chair's networking day- £78

Cllr. Lawton for broadband leaflet printing- £34.99

Cheques were written for all of these payments and duly signed.

20 OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Hill attended a Chair's Networking Meeting.

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on 25th October 2016. There will be a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on Tuesday 11th October 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm

LEANNE BANNISTER
CLERK