

Rusper Parish Council



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Minutes of the combined Planning and Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 6.30pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

Present: M Cooke (Chair), Cllrs G Hussey (Vice Chair), V Hanstad-Pilcher, M Fenton, F Maitland-Smith, S White, M Fillmore, R Gatt, G Sallows, Cllrs T Hogben (HDC), E Kitchen (HDC) K Nagle (WSCC).

Absent: G Fleming, G Adams.

There were 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

None.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Members were reminded to make any declarations of a personal and/or pecuniary interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

3. **Climate Crisis**

To **acknowledge** that there is currently a climate crisis, and to ensure that all decisions made within meeting have consideration to this.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the previous combined Council meeting held on 27th June 2023. The Chair signed the minutes.

5. **Open Forum**

2 members of the public were present.

6. **Reports from other Authorities**

District Councillor Tony Hogben – HDC budget has not been approved so there are no massive changes as yet. 34 acres near Steyning have been purchased to create a wildlife corridor. HDC are supporting the rehousing of Ukrainian refugees. Local water mitigation strategy is due to be finalised. Kiln wood Vale phase three has gone forward for planning. Café at Holmbush Farm licence application had 457 comments most are positive. Moto GP café Langhurstwood Industrial Estate also applied for a late-night licence. Questions regarding the water neutrality issue mentioned in relation to a full planning application granted back in 2021 when no water supply statement was needed, but now HDC require a water neutrality statement even if planning permission had been granted.

County Councillor Katie Nagel – A new fire station has been opened on 10th July 'Platinum House' and this is a central training station. Air traffic Gatwick group - if anyone wants to join please let the County Councillor know. Drainage and rural roads

- where damage has been caused by heavy traffic these areas are being repaired by WSCC. Noted that any roads in Rusper need to be flagged now to the County Councillor. Noted that in Rusper some drains are higher than the road surface so water runs down the lane. This was discussed further under Agenda item 9. District Councillor Liz Kitchen – there will be a briefing for councillors at the end of the month on the Local Plan. After the announcement by Michael Gove MP today on housing, some Councils have paused their Local Plan process. Water Neutrality is still being discussed and boreholes are still being considered. There is a HALC meeting tomorrow where the Local Plan is on the Agenda.

7. **Active Planning Applications**

DC/23/1245 Two Acres Langhurst Wood Road Horsham West Sussex RH12 4QD

Demolition of existing greenhouses and siting of a mobile home (Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed).

It was RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application. Comments to be issued by Cllr Cooke to Clerk.

DC/23/1264 The Mount Farm The Mount Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LF Application to confirm the continuous use of the site for equestrian use and livery yard purposes for a period in excess of ten years (Lawful Development Certificate - Existing)

It was RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application.

DC/23/1290 Chowles Farm Lambs Green Rusper West Sussex RH12 4RG

Prior Notification for the demolition of 2No. existing agricultural barns.

It was RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application.

DC/23/1285 Chowles Farm Lambs Green Rusper West Sussex RH12 4RG

Prior notification for the erection of a new agricultural storage barn and field gate access.

It was RESOLVED that there are objections to this application. Issue raised with the field gate access to East Street and the reason behind the construction of a new barn.

DC/23/1296 Chowles Farm Lambs Green Rusper West Sussex RH12 4RG

Prior approval for demolition of existing Class B1(c) workshop building and construction of 8 x 1 bed new dwelling houses.

It was RESOLVED that there are objections to this application. A full comment to this application to be received after the meeting as there was a previous objection to access to East Street. Cllr G Sallows to provide comments to Clerk after the meeting which would include all recent applications submitted for Chowles Farm.

DC/23/1275 Bella Vista Ashmore Lane Rusper West Sussex RH12 4PS

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application.

DC/23/1191 Former Longfield House East Street Rusper West Sussex RH12 4RB

Variation of condition 2 of previously approved application DC/23/0069 (Variation of condition A to previously approved application DC/14/0413 (Erection of two detached dwellings and garages (to the rear of the site) and revisions to approved dwelling (permitted under DC/12/0353 dated 16/04/2012) together with a new access road)) to allow for amendments include changes to the internal layout of the dwellings, resulting in Plot 2 becoming a 5-bed (previously 4-bed) property, with associated fenestration changes and the increase in size of the permitted garages serving both Plots 2 and 3 to include first floor home office space.)

Variation sought to finished floor levels for Plot 2 and Plot 3.

RESOLVED that the previous objection RPC made still stands. Clerk to copy previous objection.

DC/23/1080 9 Stud Farm Capel Road Rusper RH12 4PZ

Change of use of land to the front and rear of Plot 9 to create residential curtilage and amenity including a parking area with two parking bays and an enclosed rear garden with patio.

It was RESOLVED to comment on this application as follows: Rusper Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application based upon the previous objection.

DC/23/1351 21 Steeres Hill Rusper West Sussex RH12 4PT

Fell 2x Oak and Surgery to 1x Oak.

RESOLVED that there are no objections to this application but defer to arboriculture officer.

8. **Agree responses to planning applications received since publication of the agenda.**

DC/23/1422 Ifield Park Kennels, Bonnetts Lane, Ifield, West Sussex RH11 0NY

Conversion of existing buildings to create 7no. dwellings, with associated demolition works, car parking, and landscaping.

Carried to the next meeting.

9. **Operation Watershed**

Update from Cllr Hussey. First stage of ditches completed at The Mount, second stage has not been done, funding for it has been in place for 2 years ago now. Clerk to chase it up to get it started.

Flooding on The Mount is unmanageable and needs some intervention. It was **agreed** that Cllr Hussey will write a letter for the Clerk to send on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action Clerk to chase up Operation Watershed. Cllr Hussey to write a letter for the Clerk to send.

10. **Parking Outside Rusper Stores**

Update from the Chair following a complaint by a member of the public of an access road between Normans Cottages and Rusper Stores. Photographic evidence given by the member of the public. Noted there are no signs and that the cones provided by Rusper Stores are no longer working. Suggested that the Parish Council will contact WSCC Highways to enquire if an H line marking should be painted on that portion of the road to show the access point. The parking outside the Rusper Stores has been an issue in the past, including delivery vans causing passing traffic to drive into the centre of the road. Noted that a mini roundabout was discussed in the past, double yellow lines were also discussed but the Parish Council can only refer these issues to Highways and the Police for their consideration as the Parish Council have no powers to intervene. The Community Transport Plan group will also look into this. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council will highlight the issue of access to the road beside Rusper Stores to the relevant authorities for their consideration. **Action** Clerk to issue a letter to WSCC Highways. Clerk to email resident with the actions.

11. **Removal of hedge West of Ifield**

The Council have been approached by a member of the public about the removal of a hedge. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council would report the removal of the hedge to the Countryside warden as it is believed to have been an ancient hedgerow. The date of its removal is unclear but the Parish Council wish to make the principal of the ancient hedge removal is unacceptable. **Action** Cllr Fillmore to provide detailed report so the Clerk can send it to Enforcement.

12. **Reports from Representatives**

Cllr M Fenton - is not receiving emails Clerk to let Roland Allen know.

Cllr M Fillmore – website needs updating so that subscribers are informed about new posts. This is to be an Agenda item. Gatwick meetings have been attended and a report will follow to be published to Councillors and the Parish Council website.

Courage Dyer Trust have increased funding for the Pavilion which the Parish Council are thankful for.

Cllr Viv Hanstad-Pilcher – Police meeting – following a police review, there are 2 new Sergeants 2 regular Constables and 6 PCSO's. Noted that Steve is still our PCSO – there is a bigger Police staffing in the area which has already been noticed. Feedback from a County-wide survey about safety is throwing up a few issues. Speed of traffic, noise, heavy goods vehicles are being addressed. Brett Holden is the Sergeant in charge of Operation Downs Way which is involved in the speed trails and Operation Cruise which targets individuals involved. A Community Traffic Plan will be supported by our Police. Noted that the copper piping stolen at Ghyll Manor has been reported.

Cllr G Hussey – wood required for the shed in the playground has been purchased.

The Clerk was passed the bill for direct payment.

Cllr M Cooke – there will be a new Village Agent for Age UK as the agent has now left. Parish Council will send an email to her to thank her for her good work.

Cllr F Maitland-Smith – attending HALC on 26th July 2023. HALC members should have the opportunity to vote on the Local Plan when it is published – noted RPC supports this. Parish Council do not have to hold Annual Meetings – noted RPC supports this motion. There is also a Local Plan update from John Milne and Barbara Childs with a Q and A sessions so any questions please email Cllr Maitland-Smith.

Cllr S White – Hedgehog have started the works on the Pavilion and it should take 3 weeks in total.

Cllr G Sallows – grass cutting schedule Countrymans for the sports field Clerk to copy dropbox link to Cllr Sallows and Cllr Viv H-P.

13. **Clerks Report**

The report was read out to the group by the Clerk. Clerk to issue a new ENF to Simons Field following alleged breaches made since the last report.

14. **Recreational Ground**

Item covered within the Clerk's report.

15. **Rusper Stores Recycling Bin**

The bins currently are not fixed and an area for the new bin has been identified as suitable and it was noted that the new bin should not be fixed down either. It was **proposed** to order the bin at a cost of £499 unanimous. Cllr Sallows to do an assessment on the current bins in the Parish. **Action** Clerk to order bin. Clerk to check in the box for a spare key.

16. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Update by Cllr Maitland-Smith. Next meeting is 31st July 2023 at The Plough. D Blair drafted a letter to HDC which is available on the website. The NPSG are designing a

questionnaire for residents, and starting to look at Policies that will need to be reviewed after Local Plan is released.

17. **Transport Survey**

Update provided from Cllr Maitland-Smith. Feedback provided to Alan Bailes and a site visit was completed and a redraft of the report will be in 2 weeks. Questions to the Council were raised - are we happy to share the report to NPSG? This was **agreed**. The Report is an analysis for the West of Ifield proposals and the draft Local Plan will change when it is republished. Noted that once the Local Plan is issued the page numbers and paragraph references will be incorrect. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council will make the minor changes themselves and the contractor will approve them but if there is an extra charge this will be agreed in advance of any further work. Noted that the surveyor will remove the restrictions on publication once it is finalised.

18. **Broadband Issues**

Reported that Broadband issues around the junction with Rusper Road and surrounding area. Works at the top of Langhurst Hill due to damage from squirrels chewing through the wires. Cllr Cooke wrote to CEO and Head of Works to ask what improvements are to be made in communicating issues to local residents and will chase up a response.

19. **Financial**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial report, this was signed by the Chair. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity bank authority form to include 2 new signatories.

20. **Schedule of Payments and Grant Application**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments, this was signed by the Chair. Clerk to issue payment to the sawmill for payment of the wood as previously agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** to decline the grant application based upon the lack of information but RPC continue to support the work CAGNE. Clerk to ask CAGNE for more information on how the money will be spent. **Action** Cllr Fillmore to draft a response to be sent by the Clerk.

21. **Future of Council and Planning Meeting**

It was **proposed** that meetings should last 2 hours. The Council took a vote and there were 2 votes for 2 meetings and 5 votes for one meeting starting at 6.30pm. It was **carried** to hold the meeting in August and for it to be a combined meeting, commencing at 6.30pm.

The date of next combined meeting is 29th August 2023.

Meeting ends 2108 hrs.