



Clerk to Council: Mrs Leanne Bannister
c/o Rusper Village Stores
East street
Rusper
RH12 4PX

07871 340986
clerk@rusper-pc.org.uk
www.rusper-pc.org.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs M. Cooke (Vice Chairman), G. Sallows, M. Fillmore, V. Hanstad-Pilcher and R. Gatt
L. Bannister (Clerk)
HDC Cllr Kitchen

2 representatives of Save West of Ifield Group

2 members of the public

Absent: Cllrs G. Hussey, G. Fleming, V. Saunders, C. Hill and G. Adams

1. Apologies

- a. Apologies were received from Cllr Hussey. HDC Cllr Hogben also apologised for missing the meeting.
- b. **It was RESOLVED** to approve the reasons for absence for Cllr Adams.

2. Declaration of interests

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting and these were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Open Forum

Cllr Cooke read out the following statement:

It has come to my attention that residents have been told that the parish council is applying for double yellow lines outside the village shop. To clarify, this has been recommended to us by the police as one of many solutions that could help make our roads safer. These recommendations have not yet been considered by Rusper PC but will be taken to our Roads and Transport Working Group and then taken to a Council meeting for consideration. We will seek the views of residents before making any decisions. If anyone has further questions or concerns please contact the Clerk.

5. Reports from other Authorities

This item was adjourned until Cllr Kitchen could attend.

6. Climate Emergency

It was acknowledged that there is currently a climate emergency, and all decisions made within the meeting will have consideration to this.

7. Save West of Ifield

- a. Cllr Fillmore, Sallows and Cooke met with the Save West of Ifield Group informally. Cllr Sallows reported that there is an overlap on things that the Group and Rusper PC could do to prevent the development

and wanted to put together a plan of action to achieve this. This would include stressing the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan, lobbying responsible councillors at Horsham District Council, challenging the housing requirement needs at national/district level and also the local needs against what has already been found in the housing needs assessment, working to inform people through media about water neutrality issues/Rusper Neighbourhood Plan/environmental issues, and finding out more information about Homes England's purchase of Ifield Golf Club. Cllr Sallows also suggested that Rusper PC could invite the new Leader of HDC to a Rusper PC meeting and arrange site visits with HDC councillors. Cllr Sallows believed that funding to achieve this should be from Rusper PC on their own behalf instead of the Group and information should be shared on everything that can be achieved. Expert reports should be commissioned through Rusper PC as it will help to inform their own work.

Cllr Kitchen arrived

- b. The Group has requested £25,000 in funding from Rusper PC. This was debated at length and it was agreed that it would be better for Rusper PC to instruct and pay for certain elements directly. These items would be agreed at a full Council meeting in a transparent manner. Rather than grant the funds to the Group, **it was RESOLVED** to:-
 - Allocate £15,000 from the 22/23 budget to cover the costs of professional reports and advice to prevent the development. This will be allocated from the following reserves - £10,000 from general reserves and £5,000 from the roads and transport earmarked reserved.
 - Surplus funds from the end of this financial year could be allocated for this purpose; this will be agreed at the end of the financial year.
 - If the Neighbourhood Plan review does not begin in the 22/23 financial year, this budget heading can also be allocated for this purpose.

The Group will be fundraising and *may* be able to pass along donations to Rusper PC to cover costs. The Group requested that an agreement is put in place between them and Rusper PC so that expectations are clear. The Group will meet with some councillors and put together a proposal.

8. Reports from other Authorities

- Cllr Kitchen had a tour of the new Bohunt School and reported that this looks very impressive. The primary school is almost ready to be used but its opening has been pushed back to 2023 as the house building is so far behind schedule.
- Cllr Kitchen attended the Britaniacrest incinerator liaison group. They will need to put in place a construction plan to manage traffic.

9. Code of Conduct

It was RESOLVED to approve the amendments to the Code of Conduct as recommended by Horsham District Council.

10. Website

It was RESOLVED to approve the payment of £30 per month to Mr Allen for support and maintenance of the website, and the associated scope of works.

11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- a. It was agreed that the event can take place in the playground.
- b. **It was RESOLVED** to apply for the road closure for the event and cover the cost of the traffic management of approximately £350 plus VAT.
- c. **It was RESOLVED** to pay £200 for St Johns Ambulance.

- d. Trees update – the Clerk has investigated the tree grants. The smallest pack available is for 15 trees and this doesn't include cherry trees as requested by the councillors. The Clerk will find out how much these will cost to buy and if the Community Infrastructure Levy fund can be used for this.

12. Water Resources South East's consultation

- a. The report of the webinar attended by Cllr Fillmore was noted.
b. Councillors did not want to respond to the consultation.

13. Training courses

It was RESOLVED to approve:-

- a. The attendance of Cllr Cooke on a basic tree survey and inspection course, at a cost of £154 plus VAT.
b. Moving this amount from the unspent amounts in the internal and external budget headings to fund this as there is not a sufficient amount left in the training budget.

14. Reports from representatives

Councillors reported as follows:-

- Cllr Fillmore drafted a paper on the Courage Dyer Trust to be published and has circulated lots of information about Gatwick Airport.
- The PCSO has been in touch with Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher. The Rural Crime Team will attend the Annual Parish Meeting subject to operational needs.

15. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported as follows:-

- The Tree Officer will only consider putting a Tree Preservation Order on the trees on the Sports Field that we requested and come under the lease from the Diocese as the other trees will be protected by a 15 year lease.
- BT are increasing their prices by 9.3%.
- A young resident wants to litter pick in Rusper as they are working for their Duke of Edinburgh award. HDC were happy for Rusper PC to take the lead in this and so they have been given the go ahead in line with the volunteer policy and litter collection risk assessment. A litter picker has been purchased for them.
- The Rural Crime Team and all District/County Councillors have confirmed they can attend the Annual Parish Meeting. The date of this meeting has changed to Tuesday 19th April and the Planning Committee meeting will be on Thursday 21st April.
- The legionella and fire risk assessment has still not been received from the Sports Club. The Clerk asked how Council would like to approach this bearing in mind the insurance implications of having a building open to use that is not compliant?
- Adding jet washing to each grounds maintenance visit will be too expensive at £216.30 each time. There is moss growing through the surface and Cllr Hussey was going to speak to the playground inspector about this.
- The advert for the councillor vacancy has been posted and one application has been received so far. All applications need to be in by 18th March.
- Cllrs Gatt and Adams were going to put up the last Neighbourhood Watch sign but the pole it was going to go on is no longer there. The Clerk will look into where else this could go.
- There is a HALC meeting on Wednesday 16th March at 7pm, held on Zoom. Cllr Gatt is unable to attend. The Clerk recommended that another councillor attends as there is often useful information about the Horsham Local Plan Review.

16. Financial

It was RESOLVED to approve the report which was verified by Cllr Fillmore. Cllr Fillmore reported that it is likely that there will be a surplus of around £3,000 at the end of the financial year. The delay of the Neighbourhood Plan review and other unspent budget headings means that there should be another £2,600 (approximately) available at the end of this financial year.

17. Schedule of payments

It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:-

Payee	Reason for payment	Amount due
Various	Salaries	To be confirmed, salary information not yet received.
Local Councils Direct	Annual subscription	100.00
Countrymans	Car park clearance	310.80
South East Landbased Training	Tree training course	184.80

Councillors did not want to make a donation to Rusper Parish News without understanding this a little better. This will be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Cllr Fillmore will approve the payments once they have been set up.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm