



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 of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30 pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs G. Hussey (Chairman), M. Cooke (Vice Chairman), G. Sallows, M. Fillmore, V. Hanstad-Pilcher, G. Fleming and F. Maitland-Smith  
L. Bannister (Clerk)  
HDC Cllr Kitchen  
1 representative of Save West of Ifield Group  
**Absent:** Cllrs R. Gatt, G. Adams, V. Saunders and C. Hill

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gatt, Adams and Saunders.

### 2. Declaration of interests

Cllr Maitland-Smith declared an interest in item 7 as the chairman of the Save West of Ifield Group. Cllr Hussey declared an interest in item 9 as the ditch in question runs alongside his land.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

**It was RESOLVED** to approve:-

- a. The Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- b. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### 4. Open Forum

No comments made/questions raised.

### 5. Reports from other Authorities

This item was adjourned until the District Councillor arrived.

### 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.

*Cllr Kitchen arrived*

### 7. Save West of Ifield

**It was RESOLVED** to book a site visit and workshop with Cerda at a cost of £1,350 plus VAT, plus mileage expenses.

### 8. Reports from other Authorities (cont'd)

Cllr Kitchen is disappointed that HDC are not taking the time to revisit the sites included in the Local Plan while it is on hold due to the water neutrality issue.

## **9. Operation Watershed**

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the quote to clear and reinstate the ditch on The Mount to increase capacity at a cost of £3,928.50 plus VAT. This would be paid from grant funding already received.

## **10. Grant funding/donations**

- a. **It was RESOLVED** to grant £100 to the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex.
- b. **It was RESOLVED** to pay £110 towards the costs of publishing the minutes. The £200 donation will not be made this year.

## **11. Asset Register**

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the register of assets and insurance coverage for 2022-23. It was noted that the insurance company has increased the coverage of assets by the inflation rate since this document was circulated.

## **12. Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

**It was RESOLVED** to:-

- a. Approve the risk assessment for the beacon lighting.
- b. Grant £200 to the group organising the street party for children's entertainment or decorations. This will be paid from the £200 granted to Rusper PC from HDC.

*Cllr Kitchen left the meeting*

## **13. Scheme of Delegation**

**It was RESOLVED** to:-

- a. Rescind the Business Continuity Plan.
- b. Approve the Scheme of Delegation, with the addition of the proviso that any powers delegated to the Clerk/RFO cannot be acted upon within a new employee's probationary period.

## **14. Recreation Ground**

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the fire risk assessment for the Sports Pavilion.

## **15. Defibrillators**

- a. **It was RESOLVED** to purchase two new defibrillators for the Pavilion and The Lamb Inn (subject to the landowner's agreement).
- b. It was considered whether or not to publish the access code on the front of the defibrillator. The number is held by the shop, the local pubs and the church so a sign will be added to the front of the cabinet about where the code can be found.

## **16. Roads and Transport Working Group**

- a. The notes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were considered.
- b. **It was RESOLVED** to start the process of creating a Road Safety Plan.

## **17. Correspondence/Consultations/Reports**

- a. The notes of the Horsham District Older People's Forum attended by Cllr Cooke were reviewed.
- b. The most recent S106 report was noted.
- c. The responses to questions from the Water Resources South East meeting attended by Cllr Fillmore, and Cllr Fillmore's notes on this were reviewed.

## **18. Reports from representatives**

Cllrs reported as follows:-

- Rusper Sports Club had its AGM and the new committee has been appointed. The new chairman is Tom Scott.
- Cllr Cooke attended the Age UK coffee morning. They will be doing a seated exercise class soon and all are welcome. The shelter in the hedge on Faygate Lane was discussed and this has now been reported.
- Cllr Fillmore reported that the number of flights per day from Gatwick has increased to around 600 per day. Night flying has also significantly increased.
- The Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign AGM is on 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- The runway at Gatwick is being resurfaced during the night.
- Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher will be attending a road safety event and a meeting with Katy Bourne.
- There was good feedback from the Rural Crime Team presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The Village Hall Committee is pushing forward with the roof project.

## 19. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that the draft lease has been received from the landlord's solicitors.

## 20. Financial

- It was RESOLVED** to approve the report for March 2022.
- It was RESOLVED** to approve the annual accounts for 2021-2022.
- It was RESOLVED** to reallocate the surplus of £4,522 to the general reserve.
- It was RESOLVED** to transfer £20,000 from the current account (Unity Bank Trust) to the savings account (Nationwide).
- It was RESOLVED** to approve the risk assessment for 2022-23. The self managed risks will be increased to 'medium' to be reviewed once the new Clerk has passed their probationary period.

## 21. Schedule of payments

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:-

Payee	Reason for payment	Amount due
Various	Salaries	1,328.36
Rusper Village Hall	Defibrillator donation	300.00
Countrymans	Grounds maintenance	689.14
Sheridan Brooks	Payroll administration	702.00
G Hussey	Expenses for meeting	14.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,034.00</b>

Cllr Fillmore will authorise these payments.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm**

This meeting was held in Rusper Village Hall.

**Present:** G. Hussey (Chairman), G. Sallows (Vice Chairman) M. Cooke, M. Fillmore, R. Gatt, G. Adams, G. Fleming, V. Saunders, Viv Hanstad-Pilcher and C. Hill  
L. Bannister (Clerk)  
HDC Cllr Kitchen  
HDC Cllr Hogben  
Inspector Fisher from the Rural Crime Team  
2 x representatives from the Save West of Ifield Group  
15+ members of the public

### **22. Chairman's report**

Cllr Hussey welcomed everyone and explained that this meeting is an opportunity for the community to ask questions, make suggestions, give compliments or even make complaints. Cllr Hussey thanked all councillors, staff and volunteers throughout the parish that help the community. Special thanks were given to Mr John Oickle who volunteered many hours to collect litter throughout the entire parish. Mr Oickle sadly died this year which is a real loss to the parish.

All councillors are volunteers, the only paid employees are the Clerk and Litter Warden.

Cllr Hussey updated as follows:-

- 61 planning applications were considered last year, and out of those HDC made decisions against RPC's recommendations on 6 occasions with 11 applications still to be determined.
- RPC has two committees – planning and roads and transport.
- Councillors attend many meetings and give up a lot of time to ensure they are kept up to date with issues that effect Rusper.
- The precept was an increase of just over £8,000 from £33,751 to £41,788. This is a rise of around 21% on a Band D equivalent property, which is £7.84 per year, and 65p per month.
- The lease renewal for the Recreation Ground has been agreed for 15 years running from 2019. Due to legal issues, there has been a hold up with signing the actual lease. Once the lease has been completed the Sports Club can apply for grants for renovations. In the 21-22 financial year RPC spent £1350 on legal fees and in 20-21 spent £6677 on legal and surveyor fees.
- Parish Council meetings are open to the public to attend and ask questions/make suggestions etc.

### **23. Update from and questions for the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team**

Inspector Fisher updated as follows:-

- The Rural Crime Team was formed around 2 years ago. They have 21 staff in 2 locations – Heathfield and Midhurst. This is the second biggest department of its kind in the country and was incredibly difficult to set up after 10 years of cut backs.
- The remit of the team is agricultural crimes (which includes farming, equine, game shooting, etc), wildlife crime, fly tipping and heritage crime (which includes crime committed against any heritage assets such as churches and National Trust land).
- Fly tipping is often the responsibility of the District Council and Environment Agency, but the Rural Crime Team supports them. Operation Angola is a national campaign set up to fight against fly tipping. They have found that criminals will scout a piece of land that they know will be deserted and then will be advertised as a dumping ground at reduced cost. This is not a victimless crime as whoever owns the land is responsible for clearing the rubbish away. The Commercial Vehicle Unit also helps to work against these criminals by pulling over commercial looking vehicles that appear un-roadworthy.

- An example of heritage crime was a church in Slinfold that had a small rock thrown through a stained glass window which cost £40,000 to replace.
- One of their biggest challenges is being in the right place at the right time. They are reliant on reports from the community.
- They use a system called Disc as a community messaging service, particularly for farmers and heritage owners. This is a group to share information and to receive non-urgent crime reports.
- The team keep their remit quite tight and for this reason they are not responsible for all crime committed in rural areas.
- There have been lots of thefts from outbuildings in West Sussex, especially close to Pulborough. Alarmed padlocks are very effective as a deterrent to these.

Inspector Fisher warned that whenever there is a spike in prices (such as puppies, fuel, machinery), crime in these areas always increases. Residents with fuel tanks should consider fitting audible alarms as they are an effective deterrent.

Question/comment	Response
Are they involved in fly tipping at all? Do they use ANPR cameras that issue automatic tickets?	Tracked cameras are really useful. They sit high up in trees and are triggered by vehicles, but not animals.
Quite often they see open top trucks going around which are badly loaded with the load in danger of slipping off. Do police go after these vehicles?	Yes. The Police often run operations specifically to pull these vehicles over. These vehicles should be reported on 101 and the Rural Crime Team will pick this up.
There have been reports of uncontrolled dogs attacking livestock. How well do the team liaise with Surrey Police as Ruspur is on the border?	The team regularly liaises with the Surrey Police rural officers, but there are only two of them for the entire county.  The team deal with a lot of livestock worrying and this results in a lot of community resolutions, with court action as a last resort.
Do they have powers to seize vehicles that are used in fly tipping?	They have some powers, especially if the vehicles are uninsured and in poor repair (which they normally are in these circumstances).

Inspector Fisher can be contacted directly on [oliver.fisher@sussex.police.uk](mailto:oliver.fisher@sussex.police.uk).

## 24. Report from/questions for County and District Councillors

Unfortunately WSCC Cllr Nagel could not attend.

HDC Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen were in attendance and Cllr Hogben updated as follows:-

- HDC deals with bins, planning, housing numbers and where houses are going to be built.
- Cllr Hogben is the Deputy Leader of HDC and Cllr Kitchen sits on the cabinet.
- The new Leader, Cllr Chowen, is putting the environment first and foremost. He was given backing based on this.
- The Government forces housing targets on areas and local councils only have limited control over this. The current requirement for Horsham is 1,150 houses per year.
- Last year they were faced with a water crisis where it was found that an unsustainable amount of water is being taken from Pulborough Brooks in the Arun. There are lots of different agencies trying to find a solution to this. Any planning applications that would cause an increase in water usage are unlikely to be approved at the moment. There is not necessarily an end in sight. HDC are told that they may get

some mitigation measures but these may not come through quickly. This decision won't be made by HDC, but they are a stakeholder. New planning applications need to be able to demonstrate that they are water neutral.

- The new Leader of HDC is holding a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May called the Big Conversation. This is open to anyone to attend but the last date for registration is 20<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Chowen will update the participants about what HDC is doing at the moment.
- There will be a resident survey being done this year. Only around 1 in 6 people will receive this, not the entire District.
- HDC's portion of the council tax is going up by 2.9%, which equates to around 4p per week. Horsham has the lowest council tax in the south east.
- Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen try to attend every Rusper Parish Council meeting and are there to give updates and answer questions.
- The new bridge across the A264 opened today.
- A planning application for a supermarket in the Mowbray development has been submitted. This can be viewed and commented on by anyone. Councillors are working to get the most environmentally friendly and visually amenable building.
- £2,500 has been granted to Rusper Village Hall for insulation.

Question/comment	Response
Did the Government force 2,750 houses on the Land North of Horsham site and 10,000 on the West of Ifield site?	The housing figures are set by a complex algorithm that Government has set based on various things. The last figure they came up with was 600 per year in 2014. This is Government's way of depressing house price inflation. Crawley cannot build all of their housing requirement within their boundaries and there is a duty to cooperate with them which increases Horsham's figure by 150 per year.
It is believed that house builders make a lot more money building in more densely populated areas. Why don't the Government put more houses in the north of the country where there are buildings sitting empty?	Local MPs are actively fighting for this to happen.  Unfortunately lots of Horsham's surrounding towns are constrained and so there is more pressure on Horsham to provide housing. If there is not a Local Plan there is more chance of houses being approved.
It is believed there is doubt with the algorithms. Rusper has had nothing out of the Land North of Horsham development, but will bear the brunt of the traffic.	Legal and General do have to provide traffic mitigation, but it will realistically be 10 years before any action is taken. Until water neutrality is resolved no further building will be approved on the site.
What is the chance that boundaries will be moved once the development is complete?	Cllr Hogben has not heard that this will happen, but this would be down to the Boundary Commission.
With the water neutrality issue, it doesn't mean that building can't take place.	For example, if Homes England apply for a school on Ifield Golf Club they may be able to prove that the school would use less water than the golf course. Also, if a landowner owns other buildings and can reduce the amount of water used in those (such as grey water harvesting), this may offset against the new planning application.
Will the houses in North Horsham all be fitted with electric vehicle charging points?	No, they will all have the capability of having them fitted but they won't all have points.

Could it be a condition that the new supermarket is covered with solar panels?	The new application for the supermarket at Mowbray has its roof covered with solar panels and electric vehicle charging points in the car park.
A traffic report was done for the Land North of Horsham development, but there seems to be some issue with the conflict of the provider.	This is down to the developer to provide and pay for the reports. HDC would not get involved in this. In any event, WSCC are responsible for the roads and enquiries should go to Cllr Nagel.

## 25. Presentation from the Save West of Ifield (SWOI) Group

SWOI is a group who exist to oppose the 10,000 homes that Homes England would like to build. The full presentation [can be seen here](#) (note that permission must be sought from the Save West of Ifield Group if any part of the presentation is to be used).

Question/comment	Response
Where is the map showing exactly where the link road will go?	This information doesn't appear to be anywhere on the Homes England consultation documents. There is some speculation about which route would be used and these don't appear to be suitable for the HGVs and construction traffic that would need to gain access to the site.
The 11am walks held on a Saturday are very informative.	These start at The Plough in Ifield and are run by the Ifield Society – a very knowledgeable local historian and occasionally a local expert.
Would any of the development be built on a flood plain?	Yes. This has been raised with planning consultants who say that the planning requirements to mitigate flooding are so strong that it might not be an area that they can object against.  MP Henry Smith is speaking to other localities to ensure they are aware that flooding may increase in their areas if this development goes ahead.
All objections at the moment should go to HDC as they will be promoting this site in their Local Plan.	
This site was previously dismissed as not suitable, but none of the required mitigations seem to have been addressed.	

More information on the Save West of Ifield Group can be found on their website: [Save West of Ifield](#)

## 26. Questions from members of the public

The following questions/comments were made:-

Question/comment	Response
A resident did a training course in 2020 for Community Speedwatch but hasn't heard anything since.	The Parish Council is looking for more volunteers to help out with this.
Can thanks be passed on to HDC? When fly tipping is reported it is collected very quickly.	The Clerk will do this.

Recently they had three men break in to their house. The Police attended but thanks need to go to the Parish Council as they were very supportive.	
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Cllr Hussey said a final thank you to past councillors Roland Allen and Valerie Bender for their work to the parish over the years that they served as councillors.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm