



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 25<sup>th</sup> January 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 and V. Hanstad-Pilcher.

L. Bannister (Clerk)

HDC Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen

3 representatives of Save West of Ifield Group

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gatt, Fleming, Hill and Saunders. WSCC Cllr Nagel also sent apologies for missing the meeting. Cllr Adams has been in touch to confirm that he would like to remain as a councillor.

### 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. Save West of Ifield

- a. The Save West of Ifield Group gave an informative presentation on their work to date and their plans to object to the Land West of Ifield site development. The presentation was appended to the Agenda for members of the public to view. Councillors were supportive of the Group and what they are trying to achieve.

HDC Cllr Hogben updated that the new Leader Jonathan Chowen wants to take all strategic sites out of the Local Plan. Nationally there are 14 councils that have refused to meet their housing targets, the most local of which is Mid Sussex District Council. They are all waiting to see how the Department of Levelling Up will deal with this. There is political pressure on MPs to deal with this and HDC is on the verge of rebelling. Out of the 130,000 electorate in Horsham, there were 50,000 negative responses to the last Local Plan review consultation. HDC is starting to see some mitigations emerge for water neutrality. Natural England has said that if there is a strategy in place they may release the restrictions. Crawley Borough Council has asked HDC to provide 1500 homes per year, which the Planning Inspector has agreed.

HDC Cllr Kitchen added that there will be a new Chief Executive soon and this may change the direction of the Council. Unfortunately Cllrs Kitchen and Hogben cannot be part of the Save West of Ifield Group as this would leave them unable to vote at HDC meetings. They can however attend meetings and speak to the Group.

- b. The grant application was considered. The Group would be open to restructuring so that RPC could take on some of the tasks. The Group are aware that there is a huge amount of uncertainty in their estimates for the funding required. It was agreed that the Clerk will take a look at the Budget and advise on what amount could be granted and what budget heading this could come from.

## **5. Open Forum**

No members of the public were present at this time.

## **6. Reports from other Authorities**

Cllrs Hogben and Kitchen reported as follows:-

- HDC are proposing a 2.9% increase in council tax. Parking will be going up a lot, but this takes into account inflation and the lack of increase over the past few years.
- Green Lane, Old Holbrook and other lanes around Rusper have seen terrible traffic following the road closures at the Land North of Horsham development site.
- Cllr Kitchen has raised the poor train service with Gatwick subcommittees as the Gatwick Express rarely runs.
- The supermarket plans at Land North of Horsham are not in keeping with the look of the local area.

## **7. Climate Emergency**

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

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

To plan for:-

- a. Beacon lighting – Cllr Sallows will ask if Bell and Sons will help to fill the beacon with wood.
- b. Street party – the Mayday Committee are planning a street party on the Sunday but would like to work with Rusper PC to achieve this. Councillors would like someone from the Mayday Committee to attend the February meeting to explain how they would like Rusper PC to be involved.
- c. Queen's Green Canopy – councillors suggested that some oak trees could be put on the Sports Field and maybe some cherry trees along the road side to bring colour to the village. Cllr Hussey will speak to the school to find out if they would like to be involved.

## **9. Roles for councillors**

**It was RESOLVED** to appoint the following roles:-

- a. Tree inspections – Cllr Cooke
- b. Village Hall Committee representative – Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher

## **10. Grounds maintenance**

It was agreed to add the following tasks to each visit by the contractor rather than on an ad hoc basis:- jet washing the playground, and the grass verge at the finger post on the junction of Capel Road and Newdigate Road and along to the 30mph verge.

The 30mph repeater sign between The Plough and the playground needs to be trimmed back. The grounds contractors will be asked to do this.

## **11. Wooden gate and sign at Ifield**

Councillors asked for more quotes for signs to be found, and to find out if the price would be reduced per unit if more fences/signs were purchased.

## **12. Litter collection**

It was agreed to hold the litter collection day on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **13. Annual Parish Meeting**

The following will be invited to present at the meeting:-

- Save West of Ifield Group.
- Rural Crime Team from Sussex Police. Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher will try and get in touch with them.
- District and County Councillors.

### **14. Website**

It was agreed to pay Mr Allen £30 per month for support and maintenance of the Parish Council website, subject to a scope of works being agreed.

### **15. Subscriptions**

**It was RESOLVED** to renew the subscription to Local Councils Update at a cost of £100 with online access.

### **16. Reports from representatives**

Councillors reported as follows:-

- Cllr Fillmore reported that air traffic at Gatwick Airport has gone down by 50% since Christmas. There is a Courage Dyer Trust meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April and Cllr Fillmore will draft something to be published with information on the fund and who could apply.
- Cllr Cooke reported that the Horsham District Older Peoples Forum now has a list of speakers for the year. Two MPs will speak including MP Jeremy Quin in November.
- Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher circulated a report following a meeting with the county Road Safety Officer. They have suggested preparing a Road Safety Plan to decide what actions the parish wants to prioritise. In particular, they suggested following the speed indicator device with Community Speedwatch action then asking the PCSO to attend the site. This report will be taken forward to the next Roads and Transport Committee meeting to discuss in detail. The Officer was shocked at how dangerous the area outside The Star was.
- Cllr Hanstad-Pilcher has attended one meeting with the Village Hall Committee. They have raised a lot of money to repair the roof and are looking into other funding sources.
- Cllr Sallows reported that the Sports Club met last week. They are looking for a new secretary and treasurer and hope they will have people coming forward by their AGM. The football club are really pleased with the quality of the pitch and facilities.
- Cllr Hussey attended a chairman's meeting hosted by the Sussex Association of Local Councils and the main topic was the Rampion windfarm.
- Cllr Hussey plans to attend the meeting ran by WSCC about electric vehicle charging points.

### **17. Correspondence**

The S106 report from HDC was noted.

### **18. Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported as follows:-

- The Community Highways Scheme application for a new footway on Newdigate Lane was not successful. The application did not meet the set criteria appropriate to deliver a sustainable and beneficial highways improvement.
- The landlord for the Recreation Ground will not consider starting the 15 year term any later than 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, and will not cover any legal fees. They will now prepare the lease for signing.
- The new owner of Ghyll Manor has confirmed that the Council can continue to use the Millennium Field for this year, and would like to meet to discuss in more detail.

- The notice of vacancy has now been posted. If an election is not called the Council can fill the vacant seat via co-option.
- Rusper PC will have a seat on the Britaniacrest Community Liaison Group. Cllr Saunders has offered to attend this.
- The BT contract has been renewed at a price of £40.95 plus VAT (reduced from £44.99 plus VAT). This includes a free internet phone which will be offered to the Village Hall Committee.
- A poster has been put up for Community Speedwatch volunteers but nobody else has registered.

## 19. Financial

**It was RESOLVED** to approve the report. It was noted that the Lloyds account has not yet been closed and the final balance has not been transferred. Cllr Fillmore has spoken to Lloyds and they have said this will be done before the end of the week.

## 20. Schedule of payments

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

Payee	Reason for payment	Amount due
Various	Salaries	1,274.74
Rusper Parish News	Advertising fee	110.00
Surrey Hills Solicitors	Legal advice	300.00
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>1,684.74</b>

The meeting closed at 10 pm