

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2024 at the New Ash
Green Village Association Meeting Room, Centre Road, New Ash Green,
DA3 8HH

Present: Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr M Aspinall
Cllr R Brammer
Cllr C Clark
Cllr J Clucas
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr C Gorton
Cllr S Hobbs
Cllr A Jauch
Cllr P Kirtley
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr M Manley
Cllr G Pender

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Cllr L Manston – Sevenoaks District Council
4 members of the public

8851/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr V Ngwenya, (holiday) and Cllr J Scott (prior engagement). Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr C Gorton and AGREED. District Councillors Perry Cole and Penny Cole gave their apologies.

8852/24 Declarations of Interest

a. Cllr S Fishenden declared a non pecuniary interest in item 6.4, Men's Pop-In Group as he had explained the grant process and assisted with the application. Cllr G Pender declared a non pecuniary interest in item 6.4, Farm Holt Residents Society as the grant request letter was addressed to him. Cllr S Hobbs declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.4, New Ash Green Stay and Play as she cares for one of the organiser's child.

8853/24 Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2024 be approved and signed as a true record PROPOSED: Cllr P Kirtley SECONDED: Cllr R Brammer and AGREED.

The meeting was suspended at 7.47pm

- **To receive reports from the District Councillor**
- **Public Session**

The reports from the above are attached to these minutes

The meeting reconvened at 7.56pm

8854/24 Clerk's Report

- a. The Clerk's Report was RECEIVED and NOTED. Cllr J Clucas suggested that details on how to report the use of nitrous oxide is included in the next edition of the Bulletin.

8855/24 Council Administration

- a. **Financial Regulations** – Cllr J Clucas PROPOSED that the Financial Regulations are adopted with the amendment to 6.1 with the addition of ' In the absence of the Clerk/RFO, examination on invoices and preparation of payment schedules is delegated to the FO. SECONDED: Cllr M Aspinall and AGREED.
- b. **Grass Cutting Specification** – Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Grass Cutting Specification is AGREED with the addition of:
General Conditions – Workmanship – addition of 'or removed' to the last sentence.
Hodsoll Street Play Area – H2 to increase the cuts on the outfield to weekly, making 32 cuts
Ash Burial Ground – BG3 to increase the removal of saplings from twice to three times a year, April, July and October. SECONDED: Cllr C Gorton and AGREED.
- c. **Community Grants Scheme** – Cllr G Pender PROPOSED that the Community Grants Scheme is adopted with an amendment to holding two rounds of grant applications. SECONDED: Cllr M Aspinall and AGREED.
- d. **Lances Almshouse Charity** – one of the church wardens may have information about two individuals who have expressed interest in the vacancies.
- e. **Sevenoaks District Arts Council** – Cllr P Kirtley agreed to join the Sevenoaks District Arts Council, representing the Parish Council.

8856/24 Finance and Governance

- a. **Current Financial Position** - In the absence of the Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer, a report was read to the meeting, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.
- b. **Approval of Payments** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the payments from 13 July 2024 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- c. **External Audit** . – The external auditor's Report and Certificate for the year ended 2023-2024, Section 3 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the Parish Council and Ash Green Sports Centre was RECEIVED and NOTED. The notice of conclusion of audit will remain on display in compliance with the **Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015**.
- d. **Grant Requests**
- Men's Pop In Group – Cllr C Gorton PROPOSED that the Parish Council awards a grant in the amount of £50.00 towards refreshments. SECONDED: Cllr P Kirtley and AGREED.
 - Farm Holt Residents Society – Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not award a grant for the provision of a dog bin, as this falls under the responsibility of the Village Association. SECONDED: Cllr I MacLeod FOR: 12 AGAINST: 0 NO VOTE: 1
 - New Ash Green Stay and Play – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the Parish Council covers the room hire costs, and funds to be allocated from Youth Provision. Quarterly reports to be provided to the Parish Council. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- e. **Speed Indicator Device**

Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Parish Council not proceed with the provision of a new pole on North Ash Road. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden FOR: 10 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 3

- f. **CIL Spending** - It was NOTED that additional work was required on the roof of the Sports Centre, approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman M Aspinall. The total cost of the work is £8,178.00

8857/24 Planning

a. New Ash Green Solar:

- **Meeting Request** – Cllr M Aspinall PROPOSED that a structured meeting is arranged with NAG Solar, which will include the following:
 - Introduction
 - Presentation
 - Answers to pre-submitted questions
 - Open Q&A session from the floor, moderated by the Parish CouncilTom Tugendhat, MP to be invited and this event to be included in the next edition of the Bulletin. SECONDED: Cllr P Kirtley and AGREED.
- **Community Benefit Fund** – Cllr M Aspinall PROPOSED that discussions regarding the proposed Community Benefit Fund are commenced to secure the best possible agreement for the residents of the whole parish.-It will be made clear that any discussions will not indicate any form of support at this stage. SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.

8858/24 Ash Green Sports Centre

- a. **Current Financial Position** – In the absence of the Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer, a report was read to the meeting, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.
- b. **Approval of Payments** – Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the payments made from 13 July 2024 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr C Gorton and AGREED.
- c. **Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 06 August 2024 were NOTED.

8859/24 Northfield Management Committee

- a. The minutes of the meeting held on 02 September 2024 were NOTED.

8860/24 Community and Environment

- a. **Meet the Representatives 2024** – The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors and other representatives that attended the event. Although attendance was down from last year, it was AGREED that this event should continue and that it will be advertised in the Bulletin and further publicity. The time of the event will also be reviewed and 2pm – 4pm was suggested. The staff were thanked for organising the event.
- b. **Act of Remembrance** – Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Parish Council organises a Service of Remembrance at Ash War Memorial on Monday 11 November 2024 at 10.45am to be followed with tea, coffee and cake in the Village Hall. SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.
- c. **Wreath** – Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED that the purchase of a wreath is made under **section 137 of the LGA 1972** and a donation of £100.00 made. SECONDED: Cllr S Hobbs and AGREED. A wreath will be purchased and invoiced to the primary school.

- d. **Hodsoll Street Play Area.** – the RoSPA safety inspection report was NOTED, It was NOTED that all the play equipment has been repainted, new nets installed on the basket ball hoop and football goal and the fence repaired.
- e. **Community Warden** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the three options in the report are explored. SECONDED: Cllr S Hobbs and AGREED.
- f. **Focus Group** – The notes of the meeting held on 02 September 2024 were NOTED.
- g. **Kent Highways Consultation** – Cllr J Clucas PROPOSED that the consultation for the installation of the Double Yellow Lines on North Ash Road is supported. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden FOR: 5 AGAINST: 4 ABSTENTIONS: 4

8861/24 Items for Information

Cllr F Cottee reminded members that the Big Breakfast is held at Hodsoll Street Village Hall.

Cllr J Clucas felt that the social with the staff was a good idea, but not in the right venue and suggested that when another event is arranged, a room is hired.

Cllr S Hobbs inquired about the pedestrian crossing at Olivers Mill. There has been no update from Kent Highways and this will be discussed at the next Highways Improvement Plan Working Group meeting.

8862/24 Progress Tracker

- a. The Progress Tracker was NOTED

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda Item: **Full Council (19 September 2024)**

Report Title: **District Councillor's Reports**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr L Manston advised that approval has been received from the Village Association for the installation of signs and slow markings on North Ash Road at the crossing between Punch Croft and The Wents. There is currently a consultation on the installation of double yellow lines at this intersection.

The Oast House planning application has been granted on appeal. Recycling, the new recycling bags will start to be rolled out, however the majority of New Ash Green will remain on the current system of clear recycling bags. A new strategy for the collection of food waste is being looked at. The Solar Farm consultation was well attended.

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda Item: **4 – Full Council 19 September 2024**

Report Title: **Clerk's Report**

BULLETIN – The deadline for the next edition of the Bulletin is 01 October 2024. Please forward any articles to the Assistant Clerk.

BURIAL GROUND – Additional work has been undertaken in the Burial Ground, including the clearance of overgrown graves and oversized shrubs. Representatives from Youth Justice will attend a site meeting at the Burial Ground to assess whether clearing headstones and memorials would be a suitable task for young people. The Parish Council would be responsible for providing brushes and coordinating their visits.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) POLE – the insurance company of the individual who had an accident and knocked down the SID pole on Ash Road has accepted liability. A replacement pole has been ordered from KCC.

SPORTS CENTRE – Staffing – the Sports Centre is fully staffed with the recruitment of an instructor to fill the vacancy.

Charity Event - The Sports Centre will be supporting Grace's Zumba Charity Event and raffle, on Friday 20 September 2024, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the Sports Hall. The event organized by Val and Jo will donate all funds to Grace Tutt.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on Friday 27 September 2024 in the Viewing Gallery.

Summer Scheme – the Summer Scheme was well supported. Waiting lists for some activities indicated that there is potential for additional sessions. Feedback from both parents and coaches has been positive. A weekly martial arts club has started on Wednesday evenings following the sessions at the Summer Scheme.

Work experience – a young person completed a one-day work experience at the Sports Centre in July.

Software – the software was used for the summer scheme and highlighted some areas that needed clarification. Karen and Megan continue working with the providers to address these issues. The system is now being used for racket sport bookings, and this will be expanded to class bookings and will move members over the next few weeks

LOCAL LETTINGS & SALES PLAN (LLP) A Local Lettings & Sales Plan (LLP) has been approved for the former Salts Farm Depot in Longfield. This plan aims to address the local housing need for affordable housing within the Parish of Fawkham (the Primary Parish) and the neighboring parishes of Ash-cum-Ridley, West Kingsdown, Horton Kirby & South Darenth, and Hartley. The ten new affordable homes in the development will be owned and managed by West Kent Housing Association, with completion expected in December 2024/January 2025

Cohousing for older people - potential pilot project in Ash-cum-Ridley Parish.

Sevenoaks District Council has decided to postpone resident engagement within the local community until later next year. This decision was made, primarily due to the current Local Plan lacking any reference to self-commissioned housing, including cohousing.

Community Support Grant

The replacement bench for the Meadow has been delivered and installed. The picnic bench for Hodsoll Street Play Area has also been delivered and is currently being stored at the Village Hall.

Mental Health Programme

Sevenoaks District Council are funding activities under 'Head in the Game' and will a 12 week tennis and badminton programme will start on 16 September at Ash Green Sports Centre.