

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 2nd November 2021, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

PRESENT: Cllrs Phillips (Chair), Draper, Haite, Lee, Loveday, Spoor and Tyrrell

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Roberts (Clerk), Sam Booker (Assistant Clerk/RFO), District Councillor Belsey **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 0

ABSENT: Cllr Forbes

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell sent her apologies.

District Cllr Belsey reported that the Food Waste trial will go before the scrutiny committee this month, but it is hoped that Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) will press on with the trial that should have started in April 2020. MSDC is the collection authority for the trial, but West Sussex County Council are the disposal authority, except they don't currently have a disposal facility available to them – therefore the trial isn't necessarily viable at the moment – collection vans need to be converted and an agreement reached on where the food waste will go.

Leisure centres have been open since July and are now almost breaking even and therefore not straining reserves.

In light of COP 26, MSDC are refreshing its sustainability impact on the environment, residential housing and transport.

MSDC are trying to source whips for the hedge along Wall Hill, with the hope of re-laying and maintaining it.

The new steps to the tennis courts have been laid – hopefully this will reduce the amount of mud that people walk onto the court surface. MSDC are also trialling new cleaning methods for the courts.

Cllr Belsey reported that he was aware of the mess left on the rec by the contactors for MSDC who were trying to spread sand on the football pitch to improve conditions. MSDC had liaised with Clarion to let residents know when the work would take place and not to park over the access to the site. Despite this, a car was parked in the way, so the contractor had to dump the sand and then there was heavy rainfall which made a mess.

Cllr Belsey is still in discussions with Clarion regarding the garages in Wray Close and hopes to have a meeting set up along with the Village Council to discuss the way forwards.

b. Public Questions – None

2. Apologies for absence - Cllr Forbes; apologies were received and **resolved; the reasons were accepted**

3. To receive Declaration of Interests from Members in respect of any matter on the Agenda
Cllr Tyrrell declared an interest in item 9 as a member of the Ashdown Wood Turners Association. Cllr Loveday declared a personal interest in item 7c as his wife is the Youth Leader

4. Chairman's Announcements – None

5. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Village Council held on 5th October 2021– the minutes were **approved** and were signed by the Chair as a true and correct account of the meeting.

6. Clerk's Report – the Clerk's report was received and noted.

7. **To receive the minutes of Committees and reports from working groups and to consider any matters arising:**
 - a. Planning Committee – the minutes were received and noted from 5th October.
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee – the minutes were received from the meeting held on 19th October
 - c. Youth Club – continues with good attendance

8. **Finance**
 - a. **Accounts to pay**

The accounts payable from 1st to 31st October 2021 totalling £4,550.31 were **reconciled and approved by the Council**. Cllr Phillips reminded members that apart from the Handyman, all staff's gross pay is now the same every month and includes allowances for meetings and holidays as appropriate .
 - b. To receive the RBS income and expenditure report up to 31st October 2021 – the report was received and noted. Cllr Phillips reminded members that HMRC and Pension payments were now listed separately, whereas the budget was set with them including in overall staff costs. There is still £7,000 in the budget to provide matching funds for Wall Hill bends – the project is moving only very slowly The money also remains in the budget for allotments.

Next year's draft budget was discussed at the Finance meeting on the 19th October and the provisional figures were shown entered on the budget spreadsheet.
There is currently £8,000 in the budget for the Summer Event.
 - c. To receive the bank reconciliations for October 2021 – the reconciliations were received and noted

9. **To consider Grant Applications**
 - a. The Ashdown Wood Turners Association requested a donation of £200 as a contribution towards a new lathe – **Resolved**; members agreed to award a donation of £250.

10. **Public Services**
 - a. To receive an update on the Film Club – Cllr Phillips had looked at what equipment would be needed to set up the Village Centre hall to show films: the purchase of a screen, DVD player, speakers, wiring, projector, Ethernet cable to the office and a potential subscription to Netflix or Amazon Prime –all possible, but likely to be expensive with no guarantee of how many people would be interested. It has been agreed therefore, to start the film club operating from the Council Office Meeting Room, using the laptop and the large TV screen already present. The room could hold around 15 residents. If successful, the Council could then look again at hiring the hall and purchasing the necessary equipment. It was noted that a licence would be needed to show the films. A request for volunteers to run the club will be included in the next newsletter.

11. **Events** – to discuss the following events:
 - a. Remembrance Sunday – 14th November 2021 – the road closure has been arranged. Volunteers for the road closures have been arranged and the order for the wreath laying. Cllr Forbes will lay the wreath of behalf of the Council and read a lesson in the Church.
 - b. Christmas Market –26th November 2021 – currently have 12 stall holders. The grotto gifts have been purchased and wrapped. Volunteers are needed to help run the raffle, man the door and support Father Christmas in the grotto. It was noted with thanks that Margaret Bussell has kindly offered her help to decorate the hall and that Graham Keenor has yet again kindly agreed to donate the Village Christmas Tree. Volunteers are also required to erect and decorate the tree.
 - c. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 – The Madhatter's Tea Party has been booked and confirmed as the headline act and a deposit paid. MSDC have agreed in principle that the Council can plant an oak tree on the Rec as part of the Queen's Canopy Project. The Clerk has registered the Councils intention to light the Beacon at 9.15pm on 2nd June.

12. **Consultations**

- a. Ashdown Forest Car Parking Charges – Cllr Phillips attended a meeting of the Conservators where they laid out their need for fundraising. One of the ideas is to charge for parking. There are over 40 car parks and as yet they have not determined a practical method of implementation.. The consultation runs until 6th December. Members agreed to send individual responses.

13. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – Cllr Phillips attended the meeting of the Ashdown Forest Conservators where a report was given – this included the consultation on car parking charges (as above)

14. **Items of correspondence** - Previously circulated.

15. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** Updates on:
The Three Crowns
The hedge along Wall Hill
Gym equipment

16. **Date of next meeting** - 7th December 2021

Meeting closed: 8.26pm

Chairman.....

Date.....