



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 5th April 2022, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

PRESENT: Cllrs Forbes (Chair), Haite, Lee, Owen, Phillips, Spoor and Tyrrell

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Roberts (Clerk), Samantha Booker (Assistant Clerk), County Councillor Russell and District Councillor Belsey and **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** none

ABSENT: Cllrs Draper & Loveday

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell reported that she had again spoken to Richard Speller about the substandard footpath at Wall Hill. Now West Sussex County Council is in the new financial year, he is going to visit the site with Balfour and a Highways steward. He would also like to arrange a date for a site visit with the Village Council.

The Forge Twitten pathway repair is in the job system and a preliminary design has been done, but there is no date for the work to start.

Cllr Russell said that rumours are circulating that the Imberhorne Waste Recycling Centre will be using a booking system. This is not the case. If a booking system were to start, it would be on a trial basis and in conjunction with a public consultation.

The Highways cabinet minister is still working on concessionary travel for young people as part of the Bus Back Better initiative. West Sussex are able to bid up to 17.7 million to improve bus use.

Children's Services – West Sussex County Council will maintain control of Children's Services – this is actually the first authority ever to have a statutory decision revoked. This was revoked due to the rapid improvements made to the service. They have now had 5 Ofsted inspections, with the 6th due soon.

Last month was the Youth Justice Inspection and we can hear more details in the coming months. Currently a Commissioner is over-seeing Children's Services, but as they are moving away from a trust, they will now have an independent chair.

Cllr Belsey reported that Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) has put information on their website with details of support for Ukrainian refugees – those who have offered accommodation will have their properties checked. There are also 400 Afghan families in temporary accommodation in West Sussex.

Cllr Belsey also reported that the £150 Council tax rebate will be paid in April.

The Food Waste Trial is on track to start late summer and residents who will take part in the trial will be written to in June.

Cllr Belsey will follow up on 3 planning applications which are on-going; The Forge, Shovelstrode and The Barn. He will also chase Clarion regarding removal of the garages to improve parking in the area.

b. Public Questions – None

2. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Draper & Loveday; 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 a personal interest in item 7c as the club Chair and also in item 9b as a member of the Short Mat Bowls Club.
4. **Chairman's Announcements** – none
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Village Council held on 1st March 2022**– 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 1st March 2022
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee – to ratify the staff pay increase from April 2020 – resolved; members agreed to the step increase
 - c. Youth Club – Cllr Loveday had emailed to report that the Youth Club had 25 members last week and 3 new members join. The club will be on Easter break for the next 2 weeks.

7.15pm – Cllr Belsey arrived

8. **Finance**
 - a. **Accounts to pay**
The accounts payable from 1st to 31st March 2022 totalling £4,928.98 were **ratified and approved by the Council**.
 - b. To receive the RBS income and expenditure report up to 31st March 2022 – the report was received and noted.
 - c. To receive the bank reconciliations for February and March 2022 – the reconciliations were received and noted
 - d. To agree to the purchase of 2 uninterrupted power supplies to the office at the cost of £200 – **Resolved**; members approved the expenditure
 - e. To consider allowing the Clerk to carry over 30 hours (4.5 days) of annual leave and the assistant Clerk to carry over 17.2 hours (4 days) – Resolved; members approved the carry-over of unused annual leave.
9. **To consider Grant Applications**
 - a. To consider an application by the Air Ambulance Charity KSS (Kent, Surrey & Sussex) – they have asked for a donation of £500 to help them continue to provide critical pre-hospital care across the region – **Resolved**; members agreed to the donation of £500
 - b. To consider an application by the Ashurst Wood Short Mat Bowls Club who requested £300 towards new mats – **Resolved**; members agreed to a donation of £300
10. **Public Services**
 - a. To receive an update on proposed outdoor gym equipment at John Pears – Cllr Forbes, Cllr Phillips, the Clerk and a local teenager are visiting 2 sites on 6th April to see equipment from both Proludic and The Great Outdoor Gym in situ. There has been favourable feedback from residents, but no decisions or commitments have been made yet.
 - b. To receive an update on the boundary hedge at John Pears – the work was completed over two days – the 14th and 21st March and over 400 slips were planted.

- c. To receive an update on the Queen's Green Canopy Project – the Oak tree was planted on 5th March on the Recreation Ground and photos were sent to MSDC and posted on the website.
 - d. To receive an update on possible road safety measures; a road safety survey is being distributed with the Spring Newsletter to every household in the village. The Council hopes it gets a good response
 - e. To consider registering with Connected Kerb to provide electric vehicle charging points in the Village Centre car park – members discussed that this would be a long-term project at no cost to the Council; **resolved** members agreed to register an interest.
11. **Events** – to receive reports and updates about the following event:
- a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Thursday, 2nd June 2022 – the Clerk and Assistant have booked 2 food vendors; Delaney's & Ox Burgers for the event and they will be invoiced this month. The assistant clerk will be ordering the event t-shirts this week.
12. **Consultations** - None
13. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – Cllr Forbes attended the Trustees meeting for the Village Centre – the trustees agreed that they would allow the hall to be used for group meetings for Ukrainian refugees if they come to the Village when available. Cllr Lee reported that the MSDC EPLG meetings will cease and be replaced with a newsletter. Cllr Haite attended the Governors meeting at the Queen Victoria Hospital – the main topic is the proposed merger.
14. **Items of correspondence** - Previously circulated.
15. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** None
16. **Date of next meeting** - Annual Meeting of the Village Council – 3rd May 2022

Meeting closed: 8.02pm

Chairman.....

Date.....