



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 6th June 2023, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

PRESENT: Cllrs Forbes (Chair), Broad, Haite, Keward, Loveday, Phillips, Spoor & Tyrrell

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Roberts (Clerk), RFO, Samantha Booker, County Councillor Jacquie Russell and **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 0

ABSENT: Cllr Granger

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell confirmed that the micro-ashpaltting of Woods Hill Close, Wray Close and Allens Close is not acceptable. A meeting was held between herself, West Sussex Highways and Colas, the contactor, and it was agreed that some remedial work needs to be done, which is being planned at the moment. The work shouldn't take too long to start since Colas' contract with Highways ends in July.

Cllr Russell confirmed that Adam Denby has now started as Highways Manager and that she will ask him to contact the Clerk to introduce himself.

Ashurst Wood Primary School was recently inspected by Ofsted and they were downgraded from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement.' The report has now been published. This means that County will now step in to support the school.

Children's Services has also had its recent Ofsted inspection and received the best sets of results to date. Some aspects were rated as 'Good' but Help & Protection as well as Social Workers 'Required Improvement.' Children's Services need to maintain the trajectory of improvement.

Cllr Russell also said that she was now the Education Cabinet Member as well as the Children's Services Cabinet Member for West Sussex County Council.

Cllr Belsey sent his apologies

b. Public Questions – None

2. **Apologies for absence –** Cllr Granger; 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 Youth Club as Chair of the Youth Club Committee and Cllr Forbes declared an interest in item 10a as she was in receipt of payments for reimbursement of prizes for the Blooming Marvellous Competition.
4. **Chairman's Announcements –** Cllr Forbes thanked all those involved in setting up and running the Annual Village Meeting
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Council held on 16th May 2023 and the Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 25th May 2023–** the minutes of both meetings were **approved** and were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate account of the meetings.
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 16th May 2023
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee – None

8. **To receive an update on the Ashurst Wood Youth Club** – There was no report as one was recently given on 16th May and the Youth Club also had half term. Cllr Tyrrell reported that woodturning would take place from 15th June for a few weeks.

9. **Highways**
 - a. To receive an update on the application to West Sussex Highways for a Community Highway Scheme application for a 20mph zone in the village – Cllrs Haite, Phillips and the Clerk had a meeting with Christine from West Sussex Highways on 23rd May. It appears that after Highways conducted their own speed survey, that the village does meet the criteria necessary for a scheme to be put forward. This will go to a moderation meeting at West Sussex towards the end of July/beginning of August. It can take up to 2 years for the 20mph zone to be implemented if the scheme gets approval. The cost will be around the £6,000 mark.
 - b. To receive an update on the Wall Hill Footpath – during the meeting with West Sussex Highways, when the 20mph zone was discussed, the footpath on the Wall Hill bends was mentioned again and the Village Council was advised to apply for another Community Highway Scheme. Members resolved to apply for a Community Highway Scheme.
 - c. To consider liaising with West Sussex Highways on the state of the pavement along School Lane – it was agreed that the bank needs cutting back from the pavement so that there is more width for residents to walk on. Cllr Russell said that she will raise the issue with Highways in the first instance.

10. **Finance**
 - a. **Accounts to pay**
The accounts payable from 1st to 31st May totalling £5,903.22 were **ratified and approved by the Council.**
 - b. To receive and approve the Finance Pack for May 2023 (which includes the RBS income & expenditure report, & bank reconciliations) – **the Finance Pack was received and noted.**

11. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return**
 - a. To receive the internal auditor's report – the report was received and circulated. The report will go to the External Auditors
 - b. To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/2023 – the Chairman read aloud each of the annual governance statements. The Council **approved the statements 1-8; statement 9 was not applicable.**
 - c. To review and approve the accounting statement for 2022/23 – the end of year accounting figures were presented to the Council for approval; total balances carried forward were **£45,719.** The Council **approved the accounting statements for 2022/23; the Chairman signed the end-of-year return.**

12. **To consider Grant Applications** – (amount spent so far this year is £800 and the budget was £2,000) – None

13. To agree dates for reviewing grant applications – Members discussed reviewing grant applications quarterly and **resolved** that Grant Applications would be considered at the March, June, September and December meetings. The Grant application form will be amended to reflect this change.

14. **Events** - None

15. **Consultations** – None

16. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – Cllr Broad attended the East Grinstead Town Council Meeting on 1st June where the CEO of Modality was there to answer questions on the performance of the GP surgeries in East Grinstead, Crawley Down and Burgess Hill. The CEO arrived after Public Questions. The CEO confirmed that the Modality Group was formed in 2009 and is trying to maintain NHS care over 50 sites. He confirmed they were introducing 'voice

connects' for prescriptions and adding another telephone line, taking lines to 2 for patients calls. Cllr Russell stated that she had a seat on the Integrated Care Board and therefore has a voice – the NHS and Modality have a shared delivery plan and want to increase access to GP's. Cllr Russell wrote to the CEO following the meeting and opened up a dialogue.

Cllrs Forbes, Phillips and Spoor went on an air-side tour of Gatwick which was very interesting. They were told about the future plans for Gatwick, shown its new brand logo, learnt about airspace and noise control. There is a report that can be circulated should anyone want to read it. In addition, Gatwick now have more long-haul flights than previously and 47 destinations. The northern runway is an emergency runway but the airport is proceeding with plans to apply for permission to use it as a second runway for smaller plane take-off only. However, it needs to be extended by 12m and taken out to the side by 9m. The planning process is likely to take several years.

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

18. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** Visioning exercise

19. **Date of next meeting** – 4th July 2023

Meeting closed: 8.16pm

Chairman.....

Date.....