



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 7th March 2023, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Roberts (Clerk), District Councillor John Belsey Russell and **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 2

ABSENT: Cllrs Draper & Lee

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell sent her apologies

Cllr Belsey reported that Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) had agreed the budget at £4.95 for a Band D property. This was unanimously agreed. Purdah starts on 24th March, so from this point until after the elections, only routine Council business will take place.

Gatwick Airport is potentially going to apply for consent to expand during purdah.

Cllr Belsey thanked the Village Council for the loan of equipment for the litter pick that took place on 4th March.

The Blue Heart re-wilding project is about to start again.

The food waste trial has now been confirmed to continue for the next 12 months. This is still not being rolled out to all of Mid Sussex until West Sussex County Council can deal with all the food waste.

The Bonfire Society have confirmed the date of their next firework display as 28th October. There will be a fundraising quiz on 21st April as well as an event at John Pears on 17th June to celebrate Sussex Day and all things 'Sussex' including local produce, beers etc. The event will most likely take place between 2pm until 8pm.

b. Public Questions – None

2. **Apologies for absence –** Cllrs Draper & Lee; 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:**
None
4. **Chairman's Announcements –** Cllr Forbes reminded everyone present that the elections are due to be held on the 4th May. It is also encouraged that those who want to stand again try to send their applications in together and have one group appointment at MSDC as opposed to booking several.
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Council held on 7th February 2023 –** the minutes 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 7th February 2023
 - b. Finance & Administration Committee – the next meeting is scheduled for 28th March
8. **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 – West Sussex Highways do not think that our application can fall under a TRO as the cost will be too much, so it will probably be looked at under a Community Highway Scheme instead. No further update on this as yet.
9. **Finance**
 - a. **Accounts to pay**
The accounts payable from 1st to 28th February totalling £4,637.55 were **ratified and approved by the Council.**
 - b. To receive and approve the Finance Pack for February 2023 (which includes the RBS income & expenditure report, statutory balance sheet & bank reconciliations) – **the Finance Pack was received and noted**
 - c. To ratify the expenditure of £250.00 for a new water heater for the office – **resolved; members approved the expenditure**
 - d. To consider the quotations from photocopier suppliers for a new contract – members reviewed the quotations and the advice from the RFO and **resolved to enter a new contract with KCS**
 - e. To approve the Clerk carrying over 46 hours annual leave (6 Days) and the Assistant Clerk 26.1 hours (6 Days) – **resolved; members approved the Clerk & Assistant Clerk to carry over their hours**
 - f. To confirm the payment of £405 for replacing the historic Bow Bell Milepost, number 32 on the A22. (this will take a minimum of 6 weeks to have made and installed) – **resolved; members approved the expenditure to have the Bow Bell replaced.**
10. To confirm a date for the Annual Village Meeting (AVM) – Local Councils should hold their annual village/parish meeting between 1st March and the 1st June. In an election year, it is best practice to hold after the election, so that residents can meet their new Councillors. It is therefore proposed to hold the AVM on Thursday, 25th May at the Village Centre - **resolved; members agreed the date**
11. **To consider Grant Applications** – (amount spent so far this year is £1,850 and the budget was £1,500) - None
12. **Events**
 - a. The 'Blooming Marvellous Coronation' Event, where households will be encouraged to decorate the front of their houses with a Royal theme using flowers, flags and bunting or whatever they have to hand has now been advertised in the Spring Newsletter, (which will be delivered to residents by 17th March), the Parish News and also the E-News. The three best dressed homes will receive a voucher for a garden centre. The competition will be judged by Councillors.
13. **Consultations** – None
14. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – Cllr Tyrrell attended a zoom meeting run by NALC on Climate Change Emergencies. It is reported that we can expect another hosepipe ban in the summer and so it is advised to get water storage for the garden.

Cllr Haite is currently a Governor at the Queen Victoria Hospital (QVH) in East Grinstead, but will be stepping down in June as her term has come to an end. Recently, they sent out 6,000 newsletters, but only got 3 replies back. They need to listen to the views of the QVH members and of the public. The Diagnostic Centre is currently running from the minor injuries department, but there is enough funding to have it in its own building in the grounds of the hospital. QVH and the diagnostic centre is working with 8 local GP practices, where GP's can refer patients to the diagnostic centre for physiological tests including spirometry, FeNO (measuring exhaled nitrous oxide, a biomarker for asthma) and electrocardiogram (ECG). From this April, tests available will also include 24-hour blood pressure and 24-hour ECG monitoring.

It has been noted that GP surgeries in the area are currently unaware that they can refer patients to this centre, so further communication is required. Existing staff will be trained to work at the centre as well as offering apprenticeships.

The merger with Brighton did not go ahead, so the NHS are now looking at integrated care systems; looking at the needs of the population and distribution, to see where departments can be shared. However, QVH is a specialist hospital and therefore already gets many patients referred who are out of the area.

It is hoped that a couple of Governors from the QVH will be able to attend the Annual Village Meeting on the 25th May to talk about the Diagnostic Centre as well as gaining community feedback.

15. **Items of correspondence** - Previously circulated.
16. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** None
17. **Date of next meeting** – 4th April 2023

Meeting closed: 7.42pm

Chairman.....

Date.....