



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 11th December 2018, 7.45 pm at the Council Meeting Room.

PRESENT: Cllrs: C Judge (Vice-Chair), M Bussell, J Forbes, K Lindsay, B Phillips and J Samways

IN ATTENDANCE: Caroline Leet (Clerk); Ceri Evans (Handyman) **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 0

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting as Chair and welcomed everyone.

267. Public Questions

None.

Responsibility of

268. Apologies for absence

Apologies from Cllrs Bright and Loveday were received and **resolved; the reasons were accepted.**

269. To receive Declarations of Interests from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda

Cllr Lindsay declared an interest in item 12 on the agenda; she was a member of the Ashurst Wood Community Tennis Club.

270. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th September 2018

The minutes were **approved as an accurate account of the meeting.**

271. Recorded meetings: to approve deletion of recording – *there were no recordings currently being held.*

272. To receive the income and expenditure and review the budget for Public Services

Cllr Judge mentioned the War Memorial (4260) was an over spend on budget, but this was approved expenditure and would be offset by the grant from the War Memorials Trust (WMT) of 75% of the renovation costs. Members had no questions.

273. Clerk's report

The Clerk's report was received.

274. To receive a report from the Handyman

The Handyman gave a verbal report. He had carried out a litter pick around the village at the weekend and was pleasantly pleased to find little litter; there were no particular issues. He had reported the dead badger on Hammerwood Road to *lovewestsussex* on 27th November; the report was almost immediately closed yet the badger had not been removed; he had reported it a second time. (The Village Council does not have the facilities to clear dead animals itself.) He said that as there was now little remaining of the animal he would clear away the remnants himself. Cllr Forbes said that she thought dead animals should be reported to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC). Cllr Lindsay noted that the village Facebook page had complained that *lovewestsussex* reports were being closed off quite quickly without the work being carried out. The Handyman mentioned that he would be clearing the gutters to the Council building imminently. Cllr Judge asked if he could also

Handyman

clean the windows. The Handyman would also report any new potholes, of note the one at Park Lane.

Handyman

275. To receive an update on the Winter Management Plan

Cllr Judge said there was nothing further to report since the December full Council meeting. Arrangements were in place for the snow clearance, although West Sussex County Council (WSSC) were yet to send the agreement to the local snow clearance contractor.

Cllr Judge referred to correspondence received from the Cansion Lane Association requesting the Council to provide grit salt for two grit bins they had been able to acquire from WSSC Highways. Cllr Forbes mentioned that the Lane was used by a lot of walkers and it did get quite icy and slippery. The email had said that the grit bins would be sited where the lane was not adopted and therefore the bins would not require licences. WSSC Highways did not replenish grit salt supplies where a grit bin was not on the public highway. Members discussed.

19:50 Cllr Lindsay left the meeting.

Members **agreed** to provide salt grit, using its reserve supply, for the two grit bins for Cansion Lane; however, this would not be replenished for 2018/19 winter should they exhaust the supply. The Association would also have to make its own arrangements to collect and transport the grit salt from the Council. It was also to be made clear to the Association that the grit salt was being provided for the use of the Lane and not for private driveways. The Association would need to reapply to the Council for the winter 2019/20. The Clerk was asked to write to the Association and make the necessary arrangements.

19:52 Cllr Lindsay re-joined the meeting.

276. To receive an update on Highways

a Wall Hill Road bends

Cllr Phillips referred to a recent email from Richards Speller (WSSC Mid Sussex Highways Manager) where he had said that the Wall Hill Road bends was proving difficult due to the DDA (Design and Disabled Access Regulations) i.e. it cannot be built to full standard. Cllr Forbes said that she recalled a conversation where he had said, that shouldn't matter as anything would be an improvement. Members discussed; it was noted that there remained a pedestrian safety issue at these bends especially, as use of the John Pears Recreation Ground facilities was being encouraged; the Youth Club members who used the Pavilion and field; and the new footpath through John Pears joining Wall Hill Road. Members agreed that they would like to still pursue a solution and suggested a meeting be arranged with Richard Speller. The Clerk was asked to arrange.

Clerk

Cllr Bussell mentioned the section of Hammerwood Road where the Church hedge was; she said that this section of road was getting very difficult for two cars to pass. She also said that whilst attending to the flowers at the War Memorial she observed a couple waiting for the bus, after 15 minutes they walked off, three minutes later a bus arrived. She said she thought real time electronic bus stops would be useful.

b Maypole Road/School Lane junction

Cllr Judge said that something did need to be done with this junction. Cllr Phillips said that efforts had been made over the years, including suggestions to change the pavement arrangements and a white painted hatch area, but WSSC Highways had now said that it was up to the primary school to push for this and include it in its Safer Routes to School. He had met with the school to

discuss this and it was now up to the school to follow-up. Members **agreed** to remove this from its agenda.

c Speed survey on Lewes Road, near Rockaway House

Cllr Judge mentioned that the speed survey results had been presented at the last full Council meeting. She suggested the results be presented at the next Annual Village Meeting (21st May). Members agreed and Cllr Phillips said that he would prepare some charts. Cllr Forbes said that the speed results were high enough for WSCC Highways to consider if there was an issue and if additional measures to slow down traffic were needed. Members discussed. It was noted that the speed at the 85th percentile was never above 40mph. Cllr Phillips added that when the speed limit was set at 40mph, the speed survey results showed the 85th percentile speed to be 46mph. When the measurements were taken a year later with the new reduced speed limit at 30mph it had come down to 39mph. This recent survey showed that there had been no change. He also mentioned that there was a permanent traffic data monitoring point at Worsted Lane so the speed was being monitored. Cllr Forbes felt that the speed set should be kept to, if it was not possible for this to be achieved, steps to make sure traffic slowed down should be made. Cllr Phillips reminded members that when the speed was reduced to 30mph, highways had said that if after two years the results were not satisfactory, they would consider putting the speed back up to 40mph. Members **agreed** no further action was necessary. The Clerk was asked to forward the report presented to the full Council to the resident who had requested the speed survey.

BP

Clerk

277. To receive an update of the War Memorial renovation work

Cllr Judge mentioned that this had also being reported to the full Council at its meetings. The works were now completed and the WMT had written to confirm the payment of the grant; £2,290. Cllr Samways noted that the WMT had said in its recent letter that the Council was required to maintain the War Memorial; failure to do so could lead to the WMT seeking to reclaim the grant. Cllr Bussell said the Council did already maintain the War Memorial and the flower arrangements (which she attended to regularly). It was noted that the sandstone bollard had been knocked and dislodged by a vehicle recently. Arrangements were being made to have this refitted. Cllr Judge said this item could be taken of the agenda.

278. To receive an update on possible tennis court improvements – John Pears Recreation Ground

Cllr Judge said there was nothing further to report at this stage as it was with MSDC who were considering its budgets and possible funding. Cllr Samways referred to the Clerk's report which mentioned that the Council may have to provide funding for a new electric socket if MSDC funding fell short; he questioned if the one already provided at the Pavilion would be adequate. Cllr Lindsay said the electricity supply would be needed for the courts to power the electronic gate entry system and as the gates would also be working with an app it was needed to power a card for the Wi-Fi. The company providing the equipment did not quote for electric supplies.

279. To receive an update on the scheme for a Speed Indicator Device with other parishes in the Cluster Group

Cllr Judge said that this was also being reported to the full Council, but it was looking encouraging that several Councils in the Cluster Group would be able to make a contribution in the new financial year towards a shared Speed



Indicator Device (SID). Cllr Forbes noted that Balcombe Parish Council minutes reported that they had made an application to the WSCC Crowd funding for its own SID.

280. To receive an update on the Shopping Bus including the numbers using the service and recent issues with Community Transport Sussex

Cllr Judge referred to the Clerk's report which had noted some recent issues raised by Community Transport Sussex (CTS) regarding driver sheets not being completed and that these were legal documents; if not completed the driver could be fined £1,000. CTS had also claimed that one of the drivers had damaged one of their minibuses. This had upset some of the drivers, but the Assistant Clerk had been very diplomatic and reassuring to the drivers. There were currently six drivers. Cllr Lindsay suggested that the drivers take photographs of the forms when they had completed it, in case of future queries. Members also noted that the drivers had voiced concerns over the condition of the minibuses including the electronic step not always working.

281. Any items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda

None.

Cllr Forbes suggested the Council should have a photograph book with a selection of pictures from the past Ashstock events. Members discussed and liked this idea. It was suggested that this should cover the Council term and could also include other Council events and achievements for example, the new Council Office and footpath. Members suggested forming a small group to select the pictures and ask Cllr Bright if he would put the book together.

Cllrs & RB

282. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 19th February 2019

Meeting closed: 20:36

Chairman.....

Date.....