



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 3rd September 2024, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Rebecca Roberts (Clerk), RFO, Samantha Booker, County Councillor Jacquie Russell and **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 2

ABSENT: Cllr Phillips

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell reported that the 20mph application was progressing and that the TRO Tile (map) is in the draft stages. It is anticipated that the order will go for Public Consultation in November. Cllr Russell will confirm later if the consultation will be on-line and in a public space, such as the Village Centre.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has been sharing a Chief Executive with East Sussex County Council for the last 4 years. A West Sussex Chief Executive, Leigh Whitehouse, has now been appointed.

Children's Services - the latest Ofsted Focussed visit report has been received. It is not a graded inspection but it is clear there is extensive improvement which is good news. The Director of Children's Services has now left to work for the Department of Education and therefore recruiting has begun for a new director.

Budget Setting – starts next month. There is a projected 22 million over-spend for next year– mainly due to the provision of adult and children social care.

Highways – there has been additional investment from WSSCC and therefore 1.5 million is to be invested over the winter months, including the purchase of a new jet patcher to fill in pot holes more efficiently.

District Councillor Belsey sent his apologies and the following report:

Thanks to all those who responded to the parking consultation. This has yet to be discussed by Council but by far the majority of residents expressing their views oppose extending parking hours and hopefully that will have impact with the Liberal Democrats and Independent Cabinet leadership. Also, the report on Gatwick expansion is now being prepared for the Secretary of State, for their consideration. It should take up to 3 months (end of November) for the report to be prepared with a recommendation and then the Secretary of State will decide in the 3 months after that. A S106 agreement has been reached in terms of amount of infrastructure payments to be made but no detail in that agreement as to where and on what it is to be spent.

b. **Public Questions** – Applicants for co-option to the Council were asked if they wished to say anything about themselves, but they were happy to rely on the applications already submitted.

2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Phillips; 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 Haite hoped that everyone had a good summer and also thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for all their hard work with organising and setting up the toy library – it was done very professionally.
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 2nd July 2024**– the minutes of the meeting were **approved** and were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

6. **To consider to resolve members of the public to leave the meeting for item 7** (*please note members of the public will be excluded for this part of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960*) **Resolved; members of the public left the meeting (7:10pm)**

Members briefly discussed the applications
Members of the public rejoined the meeting at 7:16pm

7. **To receive co-option applications and vote to fill the Councillor vacancy –**
There were four applications. Members voted and Jane Fairbourn was co-opted having received an absolute majority of 4 votes.
Cllr Haite thanked all applicants for their interest and said all were great candidates – it was a shame there was only one vacancy. However, she urged them to consider standing at the next election.
8. To receive the co-opted Councillors Declaration of Acceptance of Office – due to Jane Fairbourn being on a pre-arranged holiday, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be done at a mutually convenient time.
9. **Clerk's Report** – the Clerk's report was received and noted. The Clerk reported that she had met with West Sussex Highways about the areas that any potential 20mph speed limit will cover in the village.
The Clerk also reported that Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) had tried to charge for the road closure for Remembrance Sunday, but after a strongly worded email, MSDC replied and stated that they would overturn their decision.
10. **To receive the minutes of Committees and reports from working groups and to consider any matters arising:**
- Planning Committee – Minutes were received and noted from the meetings held on 16th July and 7th August
 - Finance, Administration & Human Resources Committee – Minutes were received and noted from the meeting held on 30th July
 - Events Working Group - None
11. **To receive an update on the Ashurst Wood Youth Club** – Chris Loveday, Youth Leader reminded members that the Youth Club had a year 6 taster evening in July which was very well attended and they all seemed to have enjoyed the night. The last week of term was also very well attended with over 20 children. The club had not been running over the summer holidays and will re-open on 11th September. Hopefully we will see a lot of new members when we start. We have soap making, make your own pizza's and more planned for this half term.
12. **To receive an update on recent & planned events**
- Remembrance Sunday** – the road closure has now been applied for – both the 10th and 11th of November have been requested, to allow the Primary School to take the children to the War Memorial for 11am on the 11th. The Air Cadets are booked in, but there is currently no bugler. Cllr Granger commented that Tom Aronson will give the War Memorial a clean.
 - Christmas Market** – The Clerk reported that the booking form for pitches has been created and one form has already been requested and returned. Cllr Spoor will see if the Church want to do the mulled wine, but if not, the Councillors will do that. It is hoped to get the Harbour Fish & Chip van to attend. Councillors will ask for raffle prizes from various outlets and it was agreed that a percentage of the profit from the raffle will go to a charity chosen by the Village Council.
 - VE-Day 80** – Again, it is hoped that the fish and chip van will attend the event and that the Maypole Inn will run a bar – Cllr Loveday will ask the Maypole. Everything is in hand at the moment.
 - Sunflower Competition** – the deadline for applications was 31st August – 7 applications have been received. The deadline to receive photographs of the entered sunflowers is 7th

September and judging will take place on 9th September by Cllrs Forbes, Tyrrell and Spoor. The prize for each category (tallest and largest flower head) will be a £30 National Garden Centre voucher.

13. Highways

- a. **To receive an update on potential traffic calming measures in the village** – As Cllr Russell previously reported, the application for the 20mph speed limit should be going to a Public Consultation in November.

14. Finance

- a. **Accounts to pay**
The accounts payable from 1st to 31st July totalling £4,882.36 and also from the 1st to 31st August totalling £4,971.90 were **ratified and approved by the Council**
- b. To receive and approve the Finance Pack for August 2024 (which includes the RBS income & expenditure report, & bank reconciliations) – **the Finance Pack was received and noted.**
- c. To receive the External Auditors report and comments for the Annual Return Year End March 31st 2024 – **the report was received and noted**
- d. To approve the updated Grants & Donation Policy as recommended by the Finance, Administration & Human Resources Committee on 30th July 2024 - **Resolved; members approved the updated policy**

15. To receive an update on the preparation of the Council welcome pack for new residents and to consider purchasing pens personalised with Ashurst Wood Village Council website address to hand out with the pack – Cllr Haite thanked Cllrs Broad & Forbes for all their hard work in creating the welcome pack. Members agreed to produce the pack A4 folded. Members also looked at the sample pen and **Resolved to order 250 units at the cost of £320 plus £15 p&p**

16. **To consider Grant Applications** – (amount spent so far this year is £350 + approx. £150 for the chocolate box appeal as agreed at the meeting of 5th March 2024 and the budget was £2,500) – None

17. **Consultations** – None

18. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – None

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

20. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** None

21. **Date of next meeting** – 1st October 2024

Meeting closed: 8:07pm

Chairman.....

Date.....