



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE COUNCIL held on
Tuesday 1st October 2024, 7.00 pm at the Council's Meeting Room

PRESENT: Cllrs Haite (Chair), Broad, Fairbourn, Forbes, Granger, Phillips & Tyrrell

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

ABSENT: Cllrs Loveday & Spoor

1. a. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Cllr Russell sent her apologies and the following report:

Parking

- West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) have taken the decision to freeze on-street parking costs for a year. This includes Pay & Display and Permit Parking. The decision was taken particularly in light of the significant increases in car park charging by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and the desire to help support town centres and the local economy.
- MSDC have concluded their consultation with respect to extending parking hours into the evening/weekends but have deferred their decision for three months whilst they consider the implications further and, I understand, review a potential offer to residents with no on-street car parking in the Queens Road area, who rely on parking overnight in the car park as they will be directly impacted. I am quite pleased that they have taken this on board as this was something I had vocalised both in debate and throughout the consultation.

WSSCC Budget

- WSSCC is now in the process of beginning to think about budget setting for 2025/26 and as I think I said last time, there are some challenges ahead. A lot is going to hang on the budget which takes place on 30th October and whilst we can make assumptions prior to that, we aren't able to firm up some of those assumptions until then and of course, we won't know for sure what we are receiving until the financial settlement figure is released in December.

Care Leavers Focussed Visit by Ofsted

- The report was published last month and today, I gave an address to Public Cabinet at West Sussex to discuss it. It was certainly one of the most positive reports thus far to come out of Children's Services.

Remembrance Sunday

- Just to advise that this year, I will be laying a wreath in East Grinstead. I have to alternate between the two parishes and hence, I won't be in Ashurst Wood on this occasion

District Councillor Belsey sent his apologies.

b. Public Questions – None

2. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Loveday & Spoor; 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 formally introduced and welcomed Jane Fairbourn as our new co-opted Councillor.
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 3rd September 2024**– the minutes of the meeting were **approved** and were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate 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 – Minutes were received and noted from the meeting held on 3rd September
 - b. Finance, Administration & Human Resources Committee – None. The next meeting will be held on 15th October
 - c. Events Working Group - None
8. **To receive an update on the Ashurst Wood Youth Club** – Chris Loveday, Youth Leader reported that they had an attendance of 29 the previous week. They have only been back from the summer break for 3 weeks and had had general crafts and games. Last week, the Paramedics attended to show how to do CPR and basic first aid. Future activities include pumpkin carving, which will be judged by Cllr Belsey.
9. **To receive an update on recent & planned events**
 - a. **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. A volunteer will be required to download the National Anthem and the Last Post as well as the Reveille and press at the appropriate time during the Order of Service.
 - b. **Christmas Market** – The Clerk reported that the pitches are almost full already, assuming that the Primary School and Pre-School also want a pitch. The Councillors will run the mulled wine stall as well as selling mince pies. Unfortunately, the Father Christmas that was lined up, is now unable to do it. Hopefully, Councillor Loveday will be able to take his place. The Cllrs agreed to have a meeting to discuss the raffle amongst themselves.
 - c. **VE-Day 80** – The Clerk confirmed that the Harbour Fish & Chip van will attend the VE Day-80 celebrations in May next year.
10. **Highways**
 - a. **To receive an update on potential traffic calming measures in the village** – no further update other than as stated at the previous meeting, the application for the 20mph speed limit should be going to a Public Consultation in November.
11. **Finance**
 - a. **Accounts to pay**

The accounts payable from 1st to 30th September totalling £4,684.00 were **ratified and approved by the Council**
 - b. To receive and approve the Finance Pack for September 2024 (which includes the RBS income & expenditure report, & bank reconciliations) – **the Finance Pack was received and noted.**
 - c. To ratify the expenditure of £355.00 for two replacement RCD's due to failing the 5-yearly EICR – **Resolved, members ratified the expenditure.**
12. To agree the final draft of the Council welcome pack for new residents – Members **agreed the final draft**, but noted that there were some formatting issues which will be resolved, before the guide is printed. The Welcome Pack will include the walks leaflet and the new pens, which have now been received.

13. **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

14. **Consultations** – None

15. **To receive reports from Councillors who have attended outside bodies** – Cllr Haite attended the AGM at the Queen Victoria Hospital and met the new Chief Executive. The board are still working at expanding services at the Community Diagnostic Centre. They are producing their strategy document, once approved by the trust board. The Trust has also sold an area of land behind the hospital which therefore means that there will be no deficit this financial year. Cllr Forbes attended the meeting of the Village Centre Trustees. The trustees need more volunteers as two are stepping down. A volunteer has come forwards to look after the regular hirers on a trial basis. The lease for the hall expires in 2030 and unless a new lease is agreed, the running of the hall will come back to the Village Council. It was noted that the insurance for the hall no longer allows bouncy castles. It was also noted that the electrical tests have been completed for the whole building; that the Wi-Fi is not working and the salt grit hippo bag still needs removing.

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

17. **Items for reporting or inclusion on future agenda:** Recruiting of a new Handyman/woman

18. **Date of next meeting** – 5th November 2024

Meeting closed: 8:00pm

Chairman.....

Date.....