

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the online meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2020,
commencing at 19:45

Present: Cllr Mrs Brammer
Cllr Mrs Clark
Cllr Mrs Clucas
Cllr Mrs Connell
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr S Glover (arrived 19.49)
Cllr Mrs Hobbs
Cllr Mrs Howie
Cllr M Manley
Cllr Mrs Manston
Cllr V Ngwenya
Cllr P Nightingale (arrived 20.14)

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk (arrived 19.52)

*In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the meeting
The Clerk reported technical issues accessing the meeting and Cllr S Fishenden
agreed to take the minutes until the Clerk was able to join the meeting.*

7973/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M brown (ill), Cllr P Nightingale, late arrival (Medical) and Cllr J Scott (technical difficulties). Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.

7974/20 Declarations of Interest

- a. Declarations of Interest – none
- b. No changes to the Register of Interests. Members were reminded that any alteration or new interests must be registered with the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

7975/20 Dispensations

None received

7976/20 Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2020 be approved. PROPOSED: Cllr M Manley SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.

7977/20 Casual Vacancy

- a. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that notices are placed on the notice boards advertising the vacancy, with a closing date set for January 2021. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Connell and AGREED.

7978/20 COVID-19

- a. Ash Green Sports Centre closed again on 05 November 2020 and the staff placed on Furlough in line with government guidelines.

- b. New Ash Green Primary School had reported cases of COVID-19 and the relevant class bubble were isolating.
- c. Milestone Academy had reported phase 2 to be isolating. The site team were also isolating as one member had tested positive.
- d. Holywell Park Care Home in Hodsoll Street remains COVID free.

7979/20 Planning

a. Applications

SE/20/03127: 120 Colt Stead, New Ash Green, DA3 8LW – Single storey rear and side extension.

Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not object to this application as long as it does not conflict with local planning policy.

SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.

SE/20/03197: Willow Garth, The Street, Ash, TN15 7HB – Single storey rear extension, two storey front extension and new dormers to front elevation.

Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that the Parish Council objects to the proposed application for two main reasons. The property is in the Green Belt and by the applicant's own admission has already been extended beyond the 50% limit. The proposed extension will take this to well over double the area of the original bungalow and the resulting increase in bulk will be harmful to the openness of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances have been claimed in order to mitigate this harm.

In addition, the combination of architectural changes proposed will greatly increase the visual impact of this dwelling on the village street scene, to the harm of the overall character of the village. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

The applications for information only were NOTED.

- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/11/20 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
- c. Appeals
None at time of Agenda.
- d. Enforcements
None at time of Agenda.
- e. It was NOTED that the Planning Committee meeting scheduled for 05 November 2020 was cancelled as there were no applications for consideration. (*Cllr P Nightingale arrived at 20:14*)
- f. Gravesham Borough Council Local Plan – It was AGREED that Cllr F Cottee would prepare a submission to be considered at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 03 December 2020.

7980/20 Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya advised that the Sports Centre projection for a deficit of approximately £11,000.00 at year end could increase due to the second lock down.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr V Ngwenya SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
- c. The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 03 November 2020 were NOTED.

- d. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Parish Council awards West Kent Mediation £350.00 under **Section 137 of the LGA 1972**. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Howie and AGREED.
- e. Sports Centre Budget 2021/22 – It was NOTED that the budget will be reviewed due to lock down and brought back to the Finance Committee in February 2021.
- f. Budget 2021/22 – Cllr V Ngwenya took members through the budget and Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set the precept at £118,338, being a 2.6% increase which equates to an increase of £1.22 on a band D property. SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and AGREED.
- g. Computer equipment in the Parish Office – following consideration of the quotes received, Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the quote from Laptops Direct is accepted for two laptops and two monitors and to purchase the docking stations, keyboards and laptop bags from Amazon. SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and AGREED. Cllr Mrs Brammer also PROPOSED that in addition to the upgrade in hardware, the Parish Council moves to Microsoft 365 Business which is a subscribed service costing £9.40 plus VAT per user per month. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

7981/20 Service of Remembrance

- a. Laying of wreaths took place on 11 November 2020 with Rev Helen Reeves saying a prayer and reading the names of the fallen.

7982/20 Sports Centre

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee held on 23 October 2020 were NOTED
- b. It was NOTED that the Sports Centre closed on 5 November 2020 by order of the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7983/20 Northfield

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 26 October 2020 were NOTED.

7984/20 Burial Ground

- a. The minutes of the of the Burial Ground Committee meeting held on 09 October 2020 were NOTED.
- b. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Burial Ground Committee will be held on 23 November 2020 at 11.00am.

7985/20 Youth

- a. Cllr Mrs Manston took members through the proposal and answered questions. Cllr Mrs Hobbs PROPOSED that this matter is taken to the Youth Committee to investigate further how the Parish Council will be able to support these ideas. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED. A date for a Youth Committee Meeting will be set accordingly.

7986/20 Highways

- a. No report.

7987/20 Footpaths

- a. Claimed amendment to the line of Footpath SD297 - KCC have advised that this footpath has been incorrectly recorded on the definitive map and will be corrected to run along the verge of Knights Croft.

- b. Countryside Access Warden Scheme – residents interested in assisting with the footpath network need to register with the Kent County Council scheme and receive training. The wardens help local communities by carrying out simple jobs to make the Rights of Way friendlier to use.

7988/20 Transport

- a. The notes of the meeting with KCC, Arriva and parish councils held on 27 October 2020 were NOTED. Cllr Mrs Connell reported that no drivers from Arriva and GoCoach had tested positive for COVID-19.

7989/20 Health

- a. The doctor's surgery has improved. Use of the app or using 111 has been easier. When telephoning, it was suggested that having a queue number would be useful so that residents know how long the wait will be.

7990/20 Ash, Hodsoll Street & Ridley

- a. Ash – the village hall is available for limited use.
- b. Hodsoll Street – Ivor Stoneham used to provide a Christmas tree for the village and the new owner will continue the tradition. Carols on the Green will be held in a reduced form on Friday 18 December 2020.
- c. Ridley – the delivery of 1 tonne of salt and grit has been delivered to Ridley Court Farm.

7991/20 Bulletin and Website

- a. Bulletin – no report
- b. Website – the vacancy for the Ash Ward will be placed on the Website.
- c. Website Accessibility Policy – Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Accessibility Policy is ADOPTED SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

7992/20 Lunch Provision

- a. The lunch provision continues to provide take away lunches and have one more resident on the books. Christmas Lunch will be provided next week.

7993/20 KALC

- a. No report

7994/20 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/11/20 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 21:18

Signed: Date:
Chairman