

**ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2022 at New Ash Green**  
**Youth & Community Centre, DA3 8JY commencing at 7:45pm**

Present: Cllr M Brown  
Cllr Mrs Brammer  
Cllr Mrs Clucas  
Cllr S Glover  
Cllr Mrs Hobbs  
Cllr Mrs Howie  
Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr M Manley  
Cllr V Ngwenya

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk  
Ms Rosemary Selling – Action with Communities in Rural  
Kent

**The meeting was suspended to receive the results of the Housing Needs**  
**Survey for Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council from Rosemary Selling- Action**  
**with Communities in Rural Kent**  
**The meeting reconvened at 8.20pm**

**8429/22 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Clark, F Cottee and S Fishenden (holiday), Cllr Mrs Connell (ill), Cllr P Nightingale (work) and Cllr Miss Sapiets (family commitment). Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Hobbs and AGREED.  
Cllr D Brazier, Kent County Council, Cllrs A Pett, Mrs Cole and P Cole - Sevenoaks District Council also sent their apologies.

**8430/22 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.

**8431/22 Dispensations**

None received.

**8432/22 Minutes**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022 be approved and signed. PROPOSED Cllr M Manley SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and AGREED.

**8433/22 Planning**

- a. Applications  
**SE/22/01831: Cader Idris Poultry Farm, Gravesend Road, TN15 7JS – Notice of demolition.** Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not

object to this application as long as it does not conflict with local planning policy. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

**SE/22/01867: Little Acorns, Oak Farm Lane, TN15 7JU** – Single storey front extension to form new front entrance and bedroom with en-suite shower room. Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not object to this application as long as it does not conflict with the 50% rule. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Hobbs and AGREED.

- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/07/22 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
- c. Appeals  
None at time of Agenda.
- d. Enforcements  
None at time of Agenda.
- e. The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 07 July 2022 were NOTED.

#### **8434/22 Finance**

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. Cllr V Ngwenya advised that general reserves currently sit at four and a half times monthly running costs. The Sports Centre general reserves have reduced to 1 times monthly running costs.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Brammer SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- c. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Finance Committee meeting will be held on 26 July 2022.
- d. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that additional expenditure up to £2,000.00 from the Youth Reserve is authorised for the provision of the Summer Sports Scheme which has proved to be very popular SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and AGREED.
- e. Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that a grant in the amount of £250.00 is awarded to the New Ash Green Junior Football Club. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

#### **8435/22 Sports Centre**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of Sports Centre Management Committee will be held on 01 August 2022 at 10am.
- b. Cllr M Manley reported that The Centre usage fell in June due to the Jubilee bank holiday. We have had 4 new gym members but no new Racket Members since the June meeting. Repairs have been carried out on identified gym equipment. It was announced on 18<sup>th</sup> July that Meopham Leisure Centre will remain open with a new operator coming on board. A meeting has been arranged with a couple of the trustees to discuss the ongoing challenges faced by local sports centres since covid. We have had 3 new Class members join since the June meeting. A new classes timetable has been put together with class and times being changed. We will only be running Gentle Exercise Classes and Circuits during August to give the instructors/members a rest. With regard to the accident in the gym, no serious damage was done to the person's hand and to date no claim has been submitted. Alison and Val ran the stall at NAG Village Day which was a success with people of all ages visiting the stall to take part in the rowing and cycling challenges. Age group winners won a day pass with an overall winner receiving a month's membership.

**8436/22 Barnfield Park**

- a. It was NOTED that the meeting of the Barnfield Park Liaison Group will be held in August.

**8437/22 Northfield**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Northfield Management Committee will be scheduled on receipt of the Woodlands Plan.

**8438/22 Burial Ground**

- a. The minutes of the Burial Ground Committee held on 16 June 2022 were NOTED.

**8439/22 Youth**

- a. The Summer Sports Scheme has proved to be very popular with between 230 and 250 children between the ages of 1 to 9 attending each week and there is provision for up to 140 children between 9 and 18 each week. Some of the older children's categories are under subscribed. It was NOTED that funding has been received from the Co-op for ref and the Pavilion and New Ash Green Village Association. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that a vote of thanks is RECORDED for all the Sports Centre Staff, and specifically to Mrs Valerie Benfield for the enormous contribution she has made to this initiative. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clucas and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- b. It was NOTED that the Trustees of the Youth & Community Centre were due to have a meeting on 20 July 2022, to discuss the proposal put forward by Kent County Council.

**8440/22 Climate Change**

No report

**8441/22 New Ash Green Village Association**

No report

**8442/22 Highways**

- a. Historically hedge maintenance was carried out annually for Health and Safety and to enable all vehicles to travel on the roads. New signage has been put up close to the road as hedges have not been cut back. Other signs cannot be seen as they are hidden in hedges. Hedges growing out an angle are restricting vehicles from passing. Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that a letter is sent to Highways regarding vegetation maintenance and that Cllr D Brazier is copied in. SECONDED: Cllr M Brown and AGREED.

**8443/22 Footpaths**

- a. No report.

**8444/22 Transport**

- a. It was NOTED that the meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parishes will be held on the 11 October 2022.
- b. Bus Service withdrawal – the information emailed to members was NOTED along with the information provided by KCC at the last KCC, Arriva and Parish Councils meeting.

**8445/22 New Ash Green Focus Group Meeting**

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Focus Group held on 04 July 2022 were NOTED. Incidents of graffiti have been noted in the village.

**8446/22 Ash, Hodsoll Street and Ridley**

- a. Ash – a survey has been sent out to residents of Ash to get ideas to encourage more use of the Village Hall.
- b. Hodsoll Street – the Annual Inspection Report for Hodsoll Street Play Area was RECEIVED and NOTED. Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the Clerk and Cllr F Cottee meet and decide what immediate repair work is required, and obtain quotes before contacting the landowner. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED.
- c. Ridley – The renovations at Ridley Church have been completed and an automatic light has been installed in the toilet.

**8447/22 The Bulletin and Parish Website**

- a. The Bulletin – delivery of the Bulletin has been completed.
- b. Website – no report.

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Focus Group will be held on 04 July 2022. Any items of concern should be forwarded to the Clerk.

**8448/22 Thursday Lunch Provision**

- a. It was NOTED that the lunch club was closed this week as the Cook was on annual leave.

**8449/22 KALC**

- a. No report.

**8450/22 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence**

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/06/22 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....