

**ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2022 at Hodsoll Street**  
**Village Hall, Hodsoll Street, TN15 7LN commencing at 7:45pm**

Present:

Cllr M Brown  
Cllr Mrs Brammer  
Cllr Mrs Clark  
Cllr Mrs Clucas  
Cllr Mrs Connell  
Cllr S Fishenden  
Cllr Mrs Hobbs  
Cllr Mrs Howie  
Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr M Manley

In attendance:

Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk  
Cllr D Brazier – Kent County Councillor  
Cllr A Pett – Sevenoaks District Councillor  
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council  
Cllr Perry Cole – Sevenoaks District Council

**8499/22      Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Glover and J Scott (another meeting), Cllrs F Cottee and V Ngwenya (holiday). Cllr Mrs Clark PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.

**8500/22      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.

**8501/22      Dispensations**

None received.

**8502/22      Minutes**

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2022 be approved and signed. PROPOSED Cllr M Manley SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.

**8502/22      Planning**

- a. Applications  
None at time of Agenda
- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/11/22 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
- c. Appeals  
None at time of Agenda.
- d. Enforcements  
None at time of Agenda.

- e. It was NOTED that the meeting of the Planning Committee meeting of 03 November 2022 did not take place as there were no applications for consideration.

### **8503/22 Finance**

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED. The Clerk reported that General Reserves are healthy at just under 8 times monthly running costs having received the remaining precept. Lloyds bank will no longer support Telepay – the method used to pay wages. Wages will be paid from a payment schedule authorised by two Councillors and confirmed by authorising these payments on-line. BT have not advised if it will be financially viable to install an independent line to the Parish Office/Sports Centre. The October half term activities were a success with the total running costs coming in under £800 with the new booking system reducing administrative costs.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr M Manley SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Howie and AGREED.
- c. It was NOTED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08 November 2022 will be distributed with the December 2022 Agenda.
- d. The external auditor's Report and Certificate for the year ended 31 March 2022 for the Parish Council were RECEIVED and NOTED. Cllr M Brown PROPOSED that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk are congratulated. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED. The relevant notices were displayed for 14 days in compliance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
- e. Sports Centre Budget – Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that the Sports Centre Budget for 2023/24 is approved as recommended by the Finance Committee. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Brammer and AGREED.
- f. Budget 2023/24 – Members were advised of four expense codes which make up 10.8% of the proposed increase in precept. Cllr M Manley PROPOSED that the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set the precept at £136,324 being 11.8% increase and equates to an increase of £5.88 per annum on a Band D property. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

### **8504/22 Kings Coronation**

- a. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would like to mark the Coronation of the King on 06 May 2023 and this will be brought to the Parish Council in the new year.

### **8505/22 Sports Centre**

- a. The minutes of the meeting of Sports Centre Management Committee held on 24 October 2022 were NOTED. Cllr M Manley reported that the Sports Centre usage has continued to increase with gym usage at its highest for the year. There were 5 new members since the October meeting. Racket sports have also picked up this month. Classes continue to be monitored. As part of retention ideas, Val has put together a Fitmas Advent Calendar for December with daily challenges set for a small reward. There is also a naughty Elf. David Harcourt from Swale Leisure has been in contact and we are waiting to see if he has any suggestions for the Sports Centre. The wellbeing trial for Milestone Academy staff started on Thursday 10 November 2022 with 5 members of staff attending. Financially, the Sports Centre continues to struggle.
- b. Sports Centre Working Party – It was AGREED that a Working Party will be set up and Cllrs M Brown, S Fishenden, M Manley and I MacLeod will represent the

Parish Council. Other members will be sought who have specific knowledge or expertise.

- c. Cllr Mrs Brammer PROPOSED that the Terms of Reference for the Sports Centre Working Party are ADOPTED SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.

**8506/22 Barnfield Park**

- a. It was NOTED that there had been reports of significant amounts of agricultural thefts some of which have been recovered by the owners from Barnfield Park. Cllr Mrs Clucas PROPOSED that a letter is sent to the Chief Inspector with concerns regarding the increase in rural crime and that residents felt that it is not being dealt with adequately by the Police. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.

**8507/22 Northfield**

- a. It was NOTED that the date for the next meeting of the Northfield Management Committee has not been set.

**8508/22 Burial Ground**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Burial Ground Committee will be held on 12 January 2022.
- b. It was NOTED that the hedge between the Burial Ground and horses' paddock has been cut by Mrs Howie.

**8509/22 Youth**

- a. It was NOTED that the KCC Youth Worker was not able to attend a meeting of the Youth & Community Centre Trustees. As a result, the youth provision on Wednesday evenings has not started.

**8510/22 Climate Change**

- a. No report.

**8511/22 New Ash Green Village Association**

- a. No report.

**8512/22 Highways**

- a. Flooding of Idleigh Court Road and New Street Road has been reported.

**The meeting was suspended at 8.12pm to receive reports from the County and District Councillor**

The reports from the District Councillors are attached to these minutes.

**The meeting reconvened at 8.35pm**

**8513/22 Health**

- a. It was NOTED that the introduction of eConsult at the surgery has improved the services. The Patient Participation Group has been resurrected and are pressing for change. Feedback is welcome to be fed into the system.

**8514/22 Footpaths**

- a. No report.

**8515/22 Transport**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting with KCC, Arriva and Parish Councils will be held on 07 March 2023

**8516/22 New Ash Green Focus Group and Police**

- a. It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Focus Group will be on 09 January 2023

**8517/22 Ash, Hodsoll Street and Ridley**

- a. Ash – the November film is Elvis.
- b. Hodsoll Street – the Big Breakfast is held on the first Saturday of the month at 9am.
- c. Ridley – there has been flooding caused by South East Water digging on New Street Road, Hartley Bottom Road and Haven Hill. Problems on the A227 has diverted more traffic onto the lanes.

**8518/22 The Bulletin and Parish Website**

- a. The Bulletin – the newsletter has been delivered and Councillors and staff who helped with the delivery were thanked.
- b. Website – no report.

**8519/22 Thursday Lunch Provision**

- a. It was NOTED that the Christmas lunch will be held on 08 December 2022

**8520/22 KALC**

- a. No report.

**8521/22 Reports, Circulars and Correspondence**

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/11/22 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....