

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, Ash Green Sports Centre, Ash Road, New Ash Green, Kent, DA3 8JZ

Telephone: 01474 702760

Email: enquiries@ashcumridley-pc.gov.uk

14 February 2025

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the next meeting of the Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council which will be held at **7.45pm on Thursday 20 February 2025 at Ash Village Hall, The Street, Ash, TN15 7HB.**

Yours faithfully

A de Jager

Alison de Jager
Parish Clerk

AGENDA**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE****2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 January 2025.
(Attached).

SUSPENSION OF MEETING

- **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' AND VILLAGE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE.**
- **PUBLIC SESSION**

4. CLERK'S REPORT**(APPENDIX A GREEN)****5. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION**

- 5.1 **National Insurance Contributions** to consider writing to Tom Tugendhat MP regarding the governments decision not to exempt town and parish councils from changes to the National Insurance Contributions to come into effect from April 2025.

6. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**(APPENDIX B PINK)**

- 6.1 **Current Financial Position:** To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Clerk on the Council's current financial position and note the reports received.
- 6.2 **Approval of Payments:** To approve the payments made from 14 December 2024.
- 6.3 **Policies.**
- Staff Appraisal Policy** – to give consideration to adopting the attached draft policy.
 - Disciplinary Policy** – To carry out a review of the attached policy.
 - Grants Policy** – to consider the suggested amendments to the attached policy.
 - Co-Option Procedures** – to carry out a review of the attached procedures.
- 6.4 **Consultation: Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.** Consultation questions attached. Consultation closes on 26 February 2025.

6.5 **Grant Application** – to give consideration to the appeal for funding from the No NAG Solar Group. To note that this application is made outside of the Grants and Donations Policy due to time constraints.

To suspend Standing Order 7.a to allow the following topic to be discussed within 6 months of previous resolution. (decision taken to continue with the RBS Accounting software taken in October 2024)

6.6 **Accounting Software** – to give consideration to recommendation from the Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer to change software provider. Oral report at meeting.

7. PLANNING

(APPENDIX C GOLD)

7.1 Applications:

25/00105/FUL: Site of The Green Man, Greenfields, Hodsoll Street, TN15 7LE – Demolition of existing garage and storage building and construction of replacement public house and garage. **Cllr F Coffee**

25/00317/HOUSE: Mimosa, Ash Road, Hartley, DA3 8HA – Erection of an annexe and store, demolition of two buildings and removal of hardstanding. **Cllr M Manley**

7.2 To note the notes of the Planning Applications Working Group meeting of 5 February 2025.

8. ASH GREEN SPORTS CENTRE

(APPENDIX D BLUE)

8.1 **Current Financial Position:** To receive a verbal update from the Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer on the Sports Centre's current financial position.

8.2 **Approval of Payments** – To approve the payments made from 14 December 2024.

9. NORTHFIELD

(APPENDIX E LIGHT GREEN)

9.1 To note the minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 13 January 2025.

10. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

10.1 **Community Warden** – Community Warden, Jackie West officially commenced her sponsorship time with Ash-cum-Ridley and Hartley Parish Councils from the week commencing 10 February 2025.

10.2 **COVID-19** - To give consideration to marking COVID-19 Day – a day of reflection on 09 May 2025.

10.3 **New Ash Green Children's Centre** – a response has been received advising that the NHS intend to dispose of the property. Sevenoaks District Council has been advised as this building is listed as a building of community value.

10.4 **Kent Fire and Rescue Services** – to note that a meeting with Steven Lewis of Kent Fire & Rescue Services has been arranged at Hodsoll Street Village Hall on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 1pm.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION:

11.1 To receive verbal reports from all Councillors, for information only.

12. PROGRESS TRACKER

(APPENDIX F LIGHT BLUE)

12.1 To note the progress tracker of Council decisions.

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda Item: **Full Council (20 February 2025)**

Report Title: **District Councillor's Reports**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr M Lindorp reported that as Kent had not been successful in the devolution application, the KCC elections will take place in May. Shop keepers in Vigo have a grievance with the managing agents, KMP who are the same managing agents for the New Ash Green Shopping Centre and have asked their MP to assist. Cllr Lindorp confirmed that some of the shop keepers in New Ash Green are happy with KMP and their conditions.

Cllr Penny Cole reported that developments are on-going with the solar farm and Green Man Pub planning applications. KCC have been told that the devolution will not go ahead, however at a meeting at Sevenoaks District Council, the Leader and Chief Executive advised that devolution will go ahead, but at a later date. The reorganisation of councils will have an outline by March and full proposal by November with the re-organisation starting in 2027 and completed by 2028.

Cllr Perry Cole advised that the Local Government Boundary Review is under consideration again, to reduce the Sevenoaks District Wards.

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda Item: **4 – Full Council 20 February 2025**

Report Title: **Clerk's Report**

Burial Ground – there is one burial space left in Ash Burial Ground.

Planning – Oasthouse Nursery development. The new street will be called Oast House Place and numbered 1 – 13 and 15,17,19,21 and 23.

Village Trust – at a meeting held with the Trustees of the Village Trust on 13 February 2025, it was agreed that a meeting will be facilitated with the New Ash Green Village Association regarding the future of the Youth & Community Centre.