

## ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2020 at Hodsoll Street & Ridley Village Hall, Hodsoll Street, commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr F Cottee  
Cllr Mrs Clark  
Cllr S Glover (arrived 7.50pm)  
Cllr Mrs Howie (arrived 7.55pm)  
Cllr N Lejot  
Cllr M Manley  
Cllr I Mann  
Cllr V Ngwenya  
Cllr P Nightingale

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Clark PROPOSED that Cllr F Cottee is elected Chairman of the meeting. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

- 7818/20 Apologies were received from Cllrs M Brown, Mrs Brammer, Mrs Apologies Clucas, Mrs Connell, J Kelly and J Scott due to self-isolating in response to the COVI-19 Virus. Cllr Mrs Hobbs, work. The apologies and reasons for absence was accepted.
- 7819/20 a. Declarations of Interest – Cllr P Nightingale declared a prejudicial Declarations Of Interest interest in item 4a as his partner is a member of the staff of Ash Green Sports Centre.  
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. (Cllr S Glover arrived)
- 7820/20 None received Dispensations (Cllr Mrs Howie arrived)
- 7821/20 It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday Minutes 20 February 2020 be approved and signed as a true record with the addition of work as the reason for Cllr F Cottee's apologies and the addition of Cllrs Mrs Clark and M Manley declaration of interest as members of Ash Village Hall committee. PROPOSED: Cllr P Nightingale SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED.
- 7822/20 a. Emergency Delegation of Authority. In response to the COVID-19 COVID-19 outbreak in the UK and having considered the report, the following VIRUS decisions were taken:
- To extend the delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman during any period of restricted activity in respect of the COVID-19 Virus, to enable the Parish Council to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline and to fulfil its responsibilities, under **Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972**. PROPOSED: Cllr F Cottee SECONDED: Cllr I Mann and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

- To continue with the scheduled Parish Council meetings as long as they are quorate. Meetings to be held at Hodsoll Street Village Hall as the other venues are closed. PROPOSED: Cllr F Cottee SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- To suspend the Annual Parish Meeting. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Clark SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- Planning Committee – to hold Planning Committee meetings via email or Zoom software, if suitable, with members viewing applications via the Sevenoaks District Website and the consultation responses to be delegated to the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to submit to the District Council. PROPOSED: Cllr Mrs Howie SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED
- Finance Committee – to hold the Finance Committee meeting of 19 May 2020 via email or Zoom software, if suitable for information and any decisions being put to the May Parish Council meeting or delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman under the extended delegation. PROPOSED: Cllr V Ngwenya SECONDED: Cllr I Mann and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- Grass cutting – Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that in the event of the current contractor not being able to fulfil the grass cutting at Ash Village Hall and Hodsoll Street, that the Clerk can negotiate with the Burial Ground contractor to carry out this work in consultation with the Chairman. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- Thursday Lunch Provision – with the suspension of the Lunch Provision, and the offer from the Cook, Clerk and Assistant Clerk to continue the service, Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that as produce is difficult to source, that those vulnerable residents in need of meals, are sign-posted to North West Kent AgeUK instead. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley FOR: 8 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1
- Youth Centre – Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that this item is deferred to the April meeting to allow more information on business insurance and the room hire costs to be calculated. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED. (Cllr N Lejot left the meeting)

b. Ash Green Sports Centre

Cllr P Nightingale left the room and took no part in the decisions below.

The Sports Centre remains open and we will be guided by Public Health England. Milestone Academy has requested that we stop using the Sports Hall and Drama Studio with immediate effect. Following a discussion on the current financial situation of the Sports Centre and the continued payment of wages to staff if the centre is closed, Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that the payment of wages to Sports Centre staff, utilising reserves for a period of two months is APPROVED and that this item is placed on the Parish Council Agenda to be reviewed monthly. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley FOR: 7 AGAINST: 0 NO VOTE: 1

It was AGREED that staff would continue to work their day time shifts as far as is practicable.

Cllr Mrs Howie PROPOSED that should the centre be closed on the

advice of Public Health England, it remains closed to all users including personal training sessions. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenga and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

Cllr P Nightingale re-joined the meeting.

7823/20  
Planning

- a. Applications

**SE/20/00419: 13 Butlers Place, West Yoke, Ash, TN15 7HS** – Erection of a conservatory and side garage/workshop. 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 I Mann and AGREED.

**SE/20/00592: 12 Butlers Place, West Yoke, Ash, TN15 7HS** – Part single, part double storey rear extension. Cllr I Mann PROPOSED that the Parish Council does not object to this application as long as it does not conflict with local planning policy. SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
- b. The decisions, as set out in Appendix A to Agenda A/03/20 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 05 March 2020 were NOTED.
- f. Sevenoaks District Council Commissioner for the Public Realm – public realm spaces or features within Ash-cum-Ridley identified are The Minnis, Northfield, the buffer zones between neighbourhoods in New Ash Green, The Meadow in New Ash Green, Hodsoll Street Village Green and Bowdlers Well. Any other suggestions are to be emailed to the Clerk.

7824/20  
Finance

- a. The current financial position and accompanying reports were NOTED.
- b. The cheques signed since the last meeting were authorised. PROPOSED: Cllr V Ngwenya SECONDED: Cllr I Mann and AGREED.
- c. The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 18 February 2020 were NOTED.
- d. Cllr I Mann PROPOSED that the recommendation from the Youth Committee to commission Kent County Council's Children, Young People and Education services to deliver a 48 week centre based youth club of young people aged 11 – 18 in the amount of £10,645.44 with the shortfall in the youth provision budget to be met from General Reserves. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- e. Cllr V Ngwenya PROPOSED that the attendance of the Assistant Clerk/Finance Officer to the KALC Audit Workshop on 08 April is APPROVED in the amount of £45.00, if it goes ahead due to the COVID-19 Virus. SECONDED: Cllr Mrs Clark and AGREED.
- f. Cllr Mrs Clark PROPOSED that the Parish Council awards a grant in the amount of £250.00 TO THE Air Ambulance, Kent, Surrey and Sussex SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.
- g. Cllr P Nightingale PROPOSED that the provision of two Family Fun Days on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020 provided by Play Place in the amount of £1,524.24 is AUTHORISED SECONDED: Cllr S Glover and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. It was NOTED that a free Fun Day will be

provided by Sevenoaks District Council on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

- 7825/20  
Sports Centre
- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Sports Centre Management Committee held on 17 February 2020 were NOTED.
  - b. It was NOTED that the Sports Centre has been successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of £3,320.00 towards the installation of air source heat pumps in the squash court and circuit training room.
- 7826/20  
Great British  
Spring Clean
- a. No response has been received for this incentive and due to the COVID-19 Virus it will not be pursued.
- 7827/20  
Barnfield  
Park
- a. It was NOTED that the meeting of the Liaison Group scheduled for 03 March 2020 did not take place.
- 7828/20  
Northfield
- a. All future meetings have been suspended, including the meeting due to be held on 06 April 2020.
- 7829/20  
Burial Ground
- a. The minutes of the meetings of the Burial Ground Committee held on 27 January and 17 February 2020 were NOTED.
  - b. It was NOTED that a decision has been taken to award the contract to build the Memorial Wall.
- 7830/20  
Youth
- a. It was NOTED that the funding application to UK Youth to subsidise the senior youth club had not been successful.
  - b. The minutes of the meeting of the Youth Committee held on 07 March 2020 were NOTED
  - c. 8 – 12's - No report
- 7831/20  
Highways
- a. It was reported that there are a large number of potholes especially on Pease Hill.
- 7832/20  
Footpaths
- a. Cllr Mrs Howie had noted an increase in members of the public using the public footpath network and suggested that information about local rights of way could be included in the next edition of the Bulletin.
- 7833/20  
Transport
- a. The minutes of the meeting of Arriva, KCC and the Parish Councils held on 02 March 2020 were NOTED.
- 7834/20  
Health
- a. The response from the Jubilee Medical Group regarding prescriptions was NOTED. Cllr F Cottee suggested that we respond, reminding the practice of our request, and if a satisfactory response is not received, to take the complaint further.
  - b. Cllr S Glover PROPOSED that a separate letter is sent to the practice regarding the allocation of appointments as appointments in Longfield are given to residents in New Ash Green and vice versa, this is not logical and difficult for those residents reliant on public transport. SECONDED: Cllr P Nightingale and AGREED.
- 7835/20  
Ash, Hodsoll
- a. Ash – Ash Village Hall is closed for all functions due to the COVID-19 Virus. T

Street, Ash &  
New Ash  
Green

- b. Hodsoll Street – clubs have been cancelled, but the hall remains open for residents to play single games of table tennis. The Green Man Pub has closed due to the virus.
- c. Ridley - .

7836/20  
Bulletin and  
Website

- a. Bulletin – the deadline for the Bulletin has been set for 09 April 2020.
- b. Website –

7837/20  
Focus Group  
and Police

- a. The meeting of the Focus Group due to be held on 06 April 2020 has been cancelled.

7838/19  
Lunch  
Provision

- a. No report.

7839/20  
KALC

- a. No Report

7840/20  
Reports,  
Circulars and  
Correspond.

The reports, circulars and correspondence as set out in A/02/20 were NOTED.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....