

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 March 2025 at Hodsoll Street Village
Hall, Hodsoll Street, Sevenoaks, TN15 7LE

Present: Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr M Aspinall
Cllr R Brammer
Cllr C Clark
Cllr J Clucas
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr C Gorton
Cllr S Hobbs
Cllr I Macleod
Cllr V Ngwenya

In attendance: Karen Law – Deputy Clerk
Megan Johnson-Hodges – Assistant Clerk
Cllr D Brazier – Kent County Council
Cllr M Lindop – Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council

8931/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Manley (work commitment), J Scott (work commitment) A Jauch (ill), G Pender (family commitment) and District Councillor Perry Cole (Cabinet Meeting) Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr M Aspinall and AGREED.

8932/25 Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr R Brammer regarding the Equality and Diversity Policy
- b. Cllr M Aspinall regarding the Grant request from the New Ash Green Junior Football Club

8933/25 Minutes

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 February and Tuesday 11 March will be deferred until the next meeting. The minutes held on Thursday 20 February 2025 be approved and signed as a true record. PROPOSED: Cllr S Fishenden SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.

The meeting was suspended at 7.51pm

- To receive reports from the District Councillors
- Public Session

The reports from the above are attached to these minutes

The meeting reconvened at 7.59pm

8934/25 Community and Environment

- a. **Ukraine Co-operation Agreement** – this item was deferred as Jordan Meade, Deputy Cabinet Member for Communities at Kent County Council was unable to attend.

8935/25 Clerk's Report

- a. The Clerk's Report was RECEIVED and NOTED

8936/25 Council Administration

- a. **Community Warden Contract:** Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that £1000 is used from the legal earmarked reserves to get legal advice for the contract. SECONDED: Cllr R Brammer and AGREED.

8937/25 Finance and Governance

- a. **Current Financial Position** - The Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer advised that as of 14 March 2025 we are showing a surplus of £17,778. General Reserves after adjustments currently stand at £64,314, allowing for the additional community warden costs. This is £3,143 more than our 3 month/redundancy costs. Members were taken through the reports,
- b. **Approval of Payments** – Cllr F Cottee PROPOSED that the payments from 14 March 2025 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.
- c. **CPRE** – Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED we authorise the renewal of the annual membership to CPRE in the amount of £36.00. SECONDED: Cllr J Clucas and AGREED.
- d. **Policies:**
- i. **Equality and Diversity Policy** – Cllr M Aspinall PROPOSED that the draft Equality and Diversity Policy is adopted. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.
 - ii. **Health and Safety Policy** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the amended Health and Safety Policy be APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.
- e. **Grant Requests**
- New Ash Green Junior Football Club – Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED that a grant in kind be given of £1000 ex VAT which the Parish Council will use to purchase items to be given to the football club. SECONDED: Cllr P Kirtley. FOR: 9 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1
 - West Kent Mediation – Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED that a grant of £350 be given. SECONDED Cllr P Kirtley and AGREED.
 - HiKent – Cllr J Clucas proposed that a grant of £450 be given. SECONDED Cllr C Gorton and AGREED

8938/25 Planning

- a. **Applications**
- 25/00590/FUL: 2 The Link Ash Road Ash Kent DA3 8HG** - Additional doors and windows to existing property. Cllr C Gorton PROPOSED that the parish council is unable to provide a comment due to inaccuracies in the submitted plans, the access from below has been removed, which is not reflected in the plans. Additionally, we would like to highlight that the proposed doors, which would open onto the roof is known to experience flooding due to drainage issues. This is a hazard due to excess surface water when wet and an uneven surface on slippery material. SECONDED: Cllr S Fishenden and AGREED.
- b. The notes of the Planning Applications Working Group held on 05 March 2025 were NOTED.

8939/25 Ash Green Sports Centre

- a. **Current Financial Position** – The Deputy Clerk/Finance Officer advised that the Centre is sitting with a surplus of £4,840 with general reserves at £15,868 which is 2 times our running costs. Members were taken through the reports

- b. **Approval of Payments** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that the payments made from 15 March 2025 are APPROVED. SECONDED: Cllr C Clark and AGREED.
- c. **Sport Centre Management Committee** - It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 March be deferred to the next meeting.
- d. **Sports Centre Budget** – Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED the 2025/26 budget is approved. SECONDED Cllr V Ngwenya and AGREED.

8940/25 Northfield

- a. The minutes of the meeting of the Northfield Management Committee held on 10 March 2025 were NOTED.

8941/25 Community and Environment

- a. **New Ash Green Children Centre** – It was NOTED that Cllrs M Aspinall and C Clark visited the New Ash Green Children Centre to view the property. It was an impressive building and we are waiting for further details from the NHS to be able to discuss further.
- b. **Kent Fire and Rescue Services** – it was NOTED that a meeting with Steven Lewis of Kent Fire & Rescue Services had taken place. It was mentioned that the complaints received from residents after the last two fires IN Hodsoll Street were regarding the speed of turnouts and the location of fire hydrants. It was confirmed that the hydrant at Holywell has an adequate supply of water. Steven will be having a discussion with south east water and will report back to us.

8942/25 Items for Information

Cllr J Clucas reported that the Public Right of Way on the steps going into the Orchard are steep and the bottom handrail is missing.

Cllr F Cottee reminded members of the Big Breakfast held at Hodsoll Street Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month and an Easter Fair that is running on Sunday 6 April 2025.

8943/25 Progress Tracker

- a. The Progress Tracker was NOTED.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

Signed:

Date: Chairman