

# ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Anne Rumble

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Office: Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon in Hapstead Hall, Ardingly

Minutes of the Ardingly Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 2 March 2010 in the Reading Room at Hapstead Hall from 7.30pm.

Present: Mr G Ruse (Chairman) Mr D Hadden  
Mr M Brixey Mr D Marchant  
Mrs R Chalk Mr K Monk  
Ms S Chapman Mrs B McNulty  
Mrs P Dennis Mrs F Rocks

In attendance: Mrs A Rumble (Clerk)  
Mrs S Spencer (RFO) (Part)

## MINUTES

### 7.30 pm - Update from Geoff Bennett, Parish Community Constable on policing matters

- 227. Questions/comments from members of the public** - There were no questions or comments received.
- 228. To accept apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from PC Geoff Bennett. No apologies had been received from Mr Pritchard. Consequently, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders; Item 8 - Absence and the Local Government Act 1972 (section 85(1 & 2)), "failure to attend any meeting of the Council for a continuous period of six months renders him unable to continue in office." Councillors had no alternative but to confirm that Mr Pritchard is no longer a member of the Parish Council. The Clerk will write to Mr Pritchard and contact the Returning Officer at Mid Sussex District Council to advise them of the vacancy.
- 229. Declaration of Interests** - Mr Brixey declared an interest in Item 238.2 Planning Applications; AR/09/03768/FUL - South of England Agricultural Society South of England Centre, Selsfield Road. Mr Marchant declared an interest in Item 248 – Wakehurst Place.
- 230. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 2 February 2010**  
The Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 February 2010. With one alteration these were AGREED and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.
- 231. Matters arising from previous minutes – Item 206 – Financial Matters**  
Mr Hadden stated that the Hapstead Hall Accounts will be regulated in accordance with the Parish Council's systems and policy.
- 232. Financial matters**
- 232.1 Any grant/donation requests;
- 232.1.1 Request received for a donation of £200 towards a film night (£155 for hire of film plus cost of popcorn and drinks) – Councillors AGREED that the proposal lacked sufficient detail to properly assess the request. To facilitate this application, councillors proposed that a formal proposal should come from the Sports & Social Club.
- 232.1.2 Request received for a donation towards St Peter's School new allotments - Councillors AGREED that the application lacked sufficient detail to properly evaluate the request.
- 232.1.3 Request received for a donation towards the upkeep of St Peter's Churchyard (£350). It was proposed by Mr Hadden, seconded by Mr Marchant to support a donation of £350 towards the upkeep of St Peter's Churchyard. A request for a copy of the Annual Accounts will be made.
- 232.2 Schedule of Payments - The schedule of payments were distributed by the RFO. It was proposed by Mr Monk, seconded by Mr Marchant and AGREED that payment be made.
- 232.3 Maintenance of tennis courts – Research had been undertaken by Mrs Chalk for the cleaning of the multicourts to improve safety, drainage and extend the life of the court. Mrs Chalk stated that a site visit had been arranged that day with Proline Tennis

- Courts; specialists in tennis court repairs and maintenance, to inspect the site and to provide an estimate. Councillors AGREED that an additional quotation be obtained and for Mrs Chalk to consult with the Tennis Club in the sharing of the expenditure.
- 232.4 Maintenance of fingerposts - Ms Chapman reported that costings were being prepared by Mr Simmonds and an application will be submitted to WSCC for financial support from the Members' Priority Fund for restoration of fingerposts.
- 232.5 Internal Auditor – It was proposed by Mr Hadden, seconded by Mrs Rocks and AGREED that Mr Peter Frost be re-appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor to audit the 2009/2010 accounts. Mrs Spencer confirmed that the audit plan had been prepared in accordance with NALC guidelines, therefore comply with the procedures.
- 232.6 WSCC Pension Fund 2010 Formal Valuation – A recent letter (1 February 2010) from WSCC, was discussed. Mr Hadden reported that the letter highlighted actuarial findings in relation to potential shortfalls in the overall pension fund, due to the fall in value of the pension fund, including a number of issues for consideration. As a reply was required before the Parish Council meeting, Councillors AGREED that the response was appropriate and supported Mr Hadden's statement;
1. the Parish Council wish to continue with the pooling arrangements,
  2. the Parish Council require a "Funding Update" specific to our members at a shared cost with others of £500,
  3. the Parish Council would be in favour of a "Contribution Stabilisation Mechanism" which would even out contributions, rather than see large increases when valuations show a funding deficit and decreases when there is funding and therefore support this recommendation.
- 232.7 Reserve of £3,700 is restricted to supplying and erecting an activity wall. It was proposed by Mr Hadden, seconded by Mr Ruse and AGREED that the sum of £3,700 for an activity wall be carried forward into next year's budget.

### **233 Hapstead Hall**

- 233.1 Update on refurbishment of garden area outside Hapstead Hall (2009/10 Environmental Initiatives) – Ms Chapman stated that quotations were being obtained from contractors and guidance sought from MSDC (grant paying body) as to the consequences of a potential delay.

### **234. Recreation Ground**

- 234.1 The Playground Project update  
Opening Ceremony – Friday, 5 March 2010 at 10.30am.  
Mr Brixey confirmed that arrangements were well underway for the Opening Ceremony of the new playground on the 5 March. Councillors were very appreciative to all members of the Working Party for the work they had undertaken in respect of the new playground.

*Mrs Spencer left the meeting.*

- 235. Village Voice** - Ms Chapman reported on the research that she had carried out to reduce expenditure of the publication. It was AGREED that the Chair would consult with the Editor on this matter.
- 236. The Annual Parish Meeting of the Trustees of Hapstead Hall & Annual Parish Meeting**  
236.1 Council's approval of annual report - All members endorsed the Annual Report. The Clerk will organise printing of the document for distribution to all households within the village with the spring edition of the Village Voice newsletter.
- 237. Annual Review of Standing Orders** - Notification received from SALC - publication of 'Standing Orders for Local Councils'. Councillors AGREED to undertake a review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders.
- 238. To consider planning matters**  
MSDC  
238.1 Decisions  
AR/09/03795/EOT – Garage Block between 19 & 21 Munnion Road, Ardingly

To extend the time limit for implementation of 04/02983/FUL- Erection of one private dwelling house & retention of two garages – GRANTED.

#### 238.2 Applications

AR/09/03768/FUL - South Of England Agricultural Society South Of England Centre, Selsfield Road - To install a 90,000 litre potable water storage tank to supplement the Showgrounds mains supply during periods of high usage. This course of action will be in accordance with recommendations put forward by Southeast Water.

Comment – no objection. Recommend approval.

AR/10/00436/LBC – Bolney Farmhouse, Selsfield Road

Removal of suspended timber floor and construction of solid limecrete floor in ground floor sitting room.

Comment – no objection. Recommend approval.

- 239. Village Guide** – Mrs Dennis stated that she will report on progress at the May meeting of Council.
- 240. Street Lighting PFI - South Coast Street Lighting Maintenance & Electricity Supply Agreements** – Councillors recommended approval of the Street Lighting PFI contract received from West Sussex County Council.
- 241. Ardingly Youth Club** – there was nothing to report.
- 242. Sports and Social Club** – there was nothing to report.
- 243. Twinning of Ardingly with Beuzeville** – The Chair updated councillors on future visits by the group.
- 244 Parish Plan**  
244.1 Parish Council Website – Mrs McNulty reported that meetings of the Working Party had been undertaken and timescales identified to progress the formation of a website.
- 245. Reports from representatives on outside bodies** - Ms Chapman reported that she had attended a very informative seminar organised by West Sussex Design Commission about the Government's document; 'Manual for Streets', key points included, traffic calming measures, including the rationalisation of road signs. A request was made to the Clerk to research and investigate the use of a Speed Indication Display (SID) in the village which is being employed by local parishes. Mr Ruse reported on his attendance at the Code of Conduct training held on the 9 February at MSDC Chambers.
- 246. Reports from committees**  
246.1 Recreation Ground Committee – Thursday, 18 February 2010  
Mr Brixey reported that the Recreation Ground Committee had agreed to co-opt representatives from the Football and Cricket Clubs to engage with the Clubs on future projects, such as refurbishment of the facilities in the recreation ground. He stated that advice had been sought from two electricians on lighting around the pavilion and as vandalism of the lights is an issue; it was resolved by the committee for the installation of additional street lighting to be referred to the Environment Committee for consideration. Proposals for the maintenance of the hedges in the recreation ground had been received from three local contractors; Smart Gardens, Cedarwood Tree Care and Mr C Brand-Spence. Members of the committee had agreed to appoint a one year contract to Mr Brand-Spence on confirmation of adequate Public Liability Insurance. Mr Brixey reported that three tree surgeons, Sussex Tree Surgeons, Bartletts and Mr Alan Bishop; had been invited to tender to undertake work in the recreation ground.
- 247. Correspondence**  
247.1 A response to correspondence received from West Sussex re: Snow Summit will be collated by the Clerk and submitted.  
247.2 Previous circulated – MSDC Newsletter update February 2010 was received.  
247.3 The Mid Sussex District Council Parking Strategy Review - Stakeholder consultation; deadline 31 March 2010 was received.

- 248 Wakehurst Place -** A discussion ensued in respect of Wakehurst Place and the National Trust Lease, highlighted “as an area of special attention” published in the Independent Review of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Councillors AGREED that Mr Hadden will prepare a letter of support.
- 249. Training -** Mrs McNulty confirmed her attendance at the New Councillor Training to be held 22 March 2010.
- 250. Chairman’s announcements**  
**Items for information** – Councillors were disturbed by recent reports of criminal damage and anti social behaviour in the village. A request was made to the Clerk to write to the Chief Superintendent of Sussex Police. Mrs Chalk gave a verbal report on her research into the salting of roads and pavements by a private contractor. Mr Monk stated that he had contacted Blockade with regard to their vehicles speeding through the village.
- 251. Future meeting dates**  
The Playground Project Working Party – to be confirmed  
Ardingly Parish Council – 6 April 2010  
Annual Parish Meeting – 4 May 2010  
Ardingly Parish Council –11 May 2010  
Recreation Ground Committee – May 2010  
Environmental Committee – Spring 2010  
Finance Committee – April 2010

CONFIRMED MINUTES

SIGNED ..... DATED .....