

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 26th September 2017 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Sally Burch
Councillors: Cllr Angela Harris Cllr Graham Falconer
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk) 4 parishioners
Apologies: Cllr Andrew Bays

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

All existing applications had been approved.

b) Further applications received

17/02952/HSE: 2 Highfield, Church Lane; application to erect a two-storey side extension and replacement of detached two bay garage. The applicant was present and explained that she had spoken to neighbours and had received no objections. It was intended that the new garage would be larger than the current but would occupy the same plot of land.

The council had no objections to the application.

17/03089/FUL: Land at 6 Highfield; application to erect a detached dwelling following demolition of existing garage, with associated parking, turning, landscaping and access. The applicant was present and explained that there was no intention to over-develop the land and that the proposed 4-bedroom house would be within context of the village.

The Chairman noted that if approved the property would be the first new build house in the village for several years and that it was important that this should not create a precedent for other residents to over-develop their gardens. The applicant confirmed that neighbours had been informed of the plans and had not raised any objections.

The council had no objections to the application.

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's report – the Clerk reported that she had received an email advertising the services of the Village Agent scheme. It was felt that the village did not require the service as it was a close community which already looked after its residents well.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk to circulate email for information.

AONB presentation – Clerk to arrange a date for the presentation.

Clerk

Annual review – Cllr Cox commented that the Clerk should arrange a date for her annual job review.

Clerk

- b) Update on Lengthsman scheme and war memorial cleaning – the Clerk enquired as to whether the Lengthsman had cleaned the war memorial. Cllr Cox expressed concern that mould inhibitor had not been used.

Clerk to enquire whether mould inhibitor had been used and, if not, to return and treat again. Clerk to also request that the Lengthsman clean the signposts within the village.

Clerk

Cllr Cox to email landowners to request that footpaths and stiles be cleared of foliage.

Cllr Cox

- c) Poppy wreath – the Clerk agreed to order a poppy wreath on behalf of the council.

Clerk

- d) Woolton Hill surgery donation request – the Clerk advised that the council would not be able to offer a donation to the practice on the basis that it was a private business.

Clerk

- e) Emergency plan data query – Cllr Cox to seek advice in relation to implications of his personal details being published within the emergency plan.

Cllr Cox

6. Local Roads

- a) Potholes/Road Repairs – Clerk to write to Steve Goodall to request repair of the previously reported potholes on the road up from the Yew Tree Inn and outside Old Cottage. Repairs are also required to one just outside the entrance to Steeles Farm.

Clerk

7. Members Report

Newtown Road Recycling Centre – Cllr Falconer reported that he had received a great deal of correspondence relating to permits. He commented that there had been no progress to date but that negotiations were ongoing.

Annual statement of accounts – Cllr Falconer reported that BDBC had signed off and approved accounts the previous day. Cabinet had determined to retain weekly bin collections and tenders were currently underway with a decision to be made in November.

LIF donations – a recent round of donations had just been determined with awards of £50,000 towards Westridge at Burghclere and £19,000 towards the Portal Hall in Burghclere.

Boundary review – it was estimated that 60 councils would be cut to 54. This would be unlikely to affect Ashmansworth but would lead to boundary changes within the borough.

School governor vacancy – Cllr Falconer reported that Woolton Hill Junior School were keen to recruit a school governor. Cllr Cox agreed to circulate an email advertising the role.

Cllr Cox

Plastics recycling – Cllr Cox noted that at a recent BDAPTC meeting it had been revealed that Basingstoke had the lowest recycling rate in the country. Cllr Falconer commented that recycling KPIs were often missed for a number of reasons. Cllr Cox commented that there was now a recycling bin at Burghclere recreation ground which accepted mixed plastics not currently covered by roadside collection.

Cllr Cox had requested a further such bin at Penwood, but Cllr Falconer commented that BDBC would be reluctant to action this as they had struggled to find a contractor that would take the plastics for recycling.

8. Footpaths

Footpath 3- Cllr Cox reported that HCC had requested removal of the lock restricting access to the footpath. It was noted that the landowner had suggested re-routing the footpath. Cllr Cox to ascertain the current situation.

Cllr Cox

Footpath 2 – Cllr Burch reported that she had received complaints relating to walkers failing to keep their dogs on a lead and allowing them to foul on the footpath. Cllr Burch explained that dog fouling carries a parasite that causes cows to abort which had affected at least five cattle in the nearby herd the previous year.

Cllr Cox agreed to send an email reminding walkers of their responsibilities.

9. Broadband

Cllr Cox reported that the link had now reached Lower Manor Farm and was working well. There would be some fine tuning during the following week and then extension to other properties with rollout to a large number by the end of October.

The initial setup charge for each residence would be £250.00, as matched by the government grant. There would then be monthly rental fees as per individual requirements.

Cllr Falconer queried whether the council had received £10,000 from BDBC towards the project. Cllr Cox commented that he had not yet applied for the funding but would do so during the forthcoming month.

Cllr Cox to investigate whether match funding could also be obtained from HCC.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Harris thanked Cllrs Cox and Bays for their hard work.

10. Ash dieback

Cllr Cox reported that he had received notification from two residents that their trees had been lost to the disease. It appeared to be attacking younger trees.

11. Neighbourhood watch

Cllr Harris commented that she was still not receiving any updates despite requesting inclusion on the email distribution list. Cllr Cox agreed to send a further request to add Cllrs Harris and Burch to the list as neighbourhood watch representatives.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Cox noted that PCSO Hope had now resigned with a replacement yet to be appointed.

12. BDAPTC/HALC

Cllr Cox had attended the BDAPTC annual conference on Wednesday 21st June. He reported that the main topics for debate were recycling and broadband. It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place in November.

13. Financial matters

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix A). The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process. **Clerk**

b) Annual return approval and acceptance – the Clerk presented the audit findings to the council. BDO had found no discrepancies within the Annual Return and accounts. **Clerk**

c) Budget planning – the Clerk proposed a financial budget for 2018-19 (appendix B). The council agreed and approved the budget. **Clerk**

d) Precept planning – based on the estimated budget the Clerk proposed to retain the precept at its current amount of £4,123. Cllr Burch proposed and Cllr Harris seconded agreement to approve the suggested precept. **Clerk**

14. Newtown Road recycling centre

See item 7 above.

15. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm. Next meeting 16th November. **Clerk**

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 26/09/2017

Balances:

Statement No: 04/08/17 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 26/09/17
£4,740.55	£6,196.47

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen	Printer inks - stationery	21.00
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary May	139.24
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary June	139.24
	A D Clark	Grass cutting Inv 103	142.50
	A D Clark	Grass cutting Inv 115	142.50
	Do the Numbers	Audit Inv 12/565	155.00
	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Donation	500.00
	GLEAM	Membership	15.00
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary July	139.24
	A D Clark	Grass cutting Inv 145	142.50
TOTAL			1,536.22

New Items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
26/09/2017	Vision Ict	Website hosting 10/17-09/19	231.60
26/09/2017	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary August	139.24
26/09/2017	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary September	139.24
TOTAL			510.08

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
07/09/2017	BDBC	Precept	2,061.00
TOTAL			2,061.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
01/07/2017	A D Clark	Grass cutting Inv - 127	95.00
TOTAL			95.00

APPENDIX B

Ashmansworth Parish Council
2018-19 Budget

2016/17 Actual (31/03/17)	2017/18 Budgeted	2017/18 Actual (25/09/17)	2017/18 Predicted year end		2018/19 Budgeted	
£	£	£	£	Income	£	
1,100.00	733.00	733.00	733.00	Grant	366.00	Cut of £367
23.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	Council Tax Grant	8.00	Cut of £7
3,000.00	4,123.00	4,123.00	4,123.00	Precept	4,123.00	No increase
273.00	276.00	276.00	276.00	Grant from BDBC - Grass Cutting	276.00	Based on figures received from BDBC
200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Donation towards planings	0.00	One off payment
800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Donation towards defibrillator	0.00	One off payment
2,085.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	Transparency fund grant	0.00	One off payment
770.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	Donation towards phone box	0.00	One off payment
186.60	419.00	673.30	673.30	VAT recovery	250.00	Based on current year VAT spend
8,438.01	5,566.00	5,820.30	5,820.30	Total Income	5,023.00	
				Expenditure		
155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	Auditors	155.00	Internal audit fee.
1,670.88	1,670.88	835.44	1,671.00	Clerk's Salary	1,671.00	Based on this year
26.00	80.00	0.00	40.00	Clerk's Expenses	40.00	Variable
0.00	144.00	84.00	144.00	Hire of meeting room	144.00	
9.00	120.00	9.00	50.00	Training	50.00	Variable
9.10	50.00	21.00	50.00	Stationery	50.00	Variable
276.49	280.00	288.48	288.48	Insurance	280.00	Based on last year. Will hope to reduce
123.00	135.00	127.00	127.00	Subscriptions HALC	135.00	To allow for increase.
180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	HALC HR fees	180.00	Set cost
231.60	250.00	231.60	231.60	Vision Ict - Website	250.00	Based on last year.
66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Email hosting fee (bi-annual)	66.00	Bi-annual fee due in 2018
969.00	1,100.00	522.50	1,100.00	Grass Cutting etc	1,100.00	
102.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Roller Hire	0.00	One off payment
276.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Planings	0.00	One off payment
36.00	36.00	0.00	36.00	Subscriptions CPRE	36.00	Set cost
15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Unpaid cheque fee	0.00	One off payment
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	Subscription GLEAM	15.00	Set cost
20.00	550.00	800.00	820.00	Other Section 137 donations	400.00	Reduction cost saving
970.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	Phone box painting	0.00	One off payment.
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Laptop ringfenced funds	500.00	
20.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	Electrical services	0.00	One off payment
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Miscellaneous buffer	500.00	Miscellaneous buffer
1,512.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Defibrillator	0.00	One off payment
12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	NALC fee	12.00	Set cost
6,694.56	4,777.88	3,281.00	4,920.06	Total Expenditure	5,584.00	
				Net result	-£561.00	
£1,743.45	£788.12	£2,539.30	£900.24			

Actual bank balance at 31/03/2017 £3,657.67
 Actual balance at 25/09/2017 £6,196.47
 Target balance for 31/03/18 £4,557.41
 Target balance for 31/03/19 £3,996.41