

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 8th March 2018 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Sally Burch
Councillors: Cllr Angela Harris Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Tom Thacker
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk) 7 parishioners
Apologies: Cllr Graham Falconer

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2018 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

The Chairman thanked all those who had assisted in clearing the roads and helping stranded vehicles in the recent bad weather.

4. County Council Matters

Cllr Cox addressed issues in the context of Cllr Thacker's influence and interest on behalf of HCC.

Potholes/Roads – Cllr Cox commented on the poor state of the local roads. Cllr Thacker re-iterated that potholes would not be filled unless they had been reported. He encouraged the council to ensure that local residents were aware of the requirement to report. Cllr Thacker further suggested that any such potholes also be reported to the parish council to allow for escalation to himself.

Cllr Cox raised concern at the number of articulated lorries forced to use the A343 during diversions from the A34. Cllr Cox felt that the road was not large enough to accommodate the diverted traffic and had discussed the matter with Highclere Parish Council who were in the process of arranging a meeting with the local MP to petition that the road be downgraded in category from an A road to a B road.

Cllr Thacker felt that this would be an unlikely outcome as the road was a direct connection between two towns.

Cllr Cox commented that there was a particularly dangerous dip in the A343 that was prone to freezing and had been the location of a couple of recent accidents.

Cllr Thacker encouraged Cllr Cox to write and inform HCC of the problem and to copy Cllr Thacker into the email.

Cllr Cox

Litter –Cllr Thacker reported that the residents of Ashmansworth would not be granted permits to use Newtown Road recycling facility.

It was noted that HCC and BDBC were working jointly to tackle fly tipping and Cllr Thacker reported that there had been no evidence to suggest that the level of fly tipping had increased.

Broadband – Cllr Cox informed Cllr Thacker that the installation of broadband to a number of residences via Gigabeam had been very successful. It was noted that BDBC had agreed to contribute towards the capital cost of setting the system up in the village.

Cllr Thacker's report

Raised precept - Cllr Thacker reported that HCC had approved a raised budget precept of 6% (made up of 3% allowed by government and 3% for extra adult social care responsibilities). It was noted that the council had raised its precept rather than cutting services.

Combined Authority – HCC will approach government to seek approval to form a combined authority due to the perceived size advantages of presenting a regional approach in relation to housing, economy and health.

Heathrow Airport – Cllr Thacker reported that HCC had voted to support proposals for an extra runway at Heathrow due to the perceived economic advantages that could benefit the local economy.

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

None.

b) Further applications received

18/00495/FUL: 6 Highfield, erection of a detached live-work unit with associated parking, turning, landscaping, and access arrangements following demolition of existing garage.

It was explained by the applicant that an original application (17/03089/FUL), had been withdrawn on the basis that the location was not regarded as being sustainable.

The new application differed in that plans were now for a property with a live-work categorisation, and the façade of the proposed property was narrower.

The council discussed the application at length and reached a majority decision to object to the application on the basis that it did not comply with planning policy and would result in unwelcome development of the village.

Clerk

T/00077/18/TCA: Field maple (T1) at 6 Highfield. Reduce overhang of curtilage by a max of 1.5m. No objections.

T/00110/18/TCA: Yew (T1) at Knights Cottage, Cross Lane. Fell. No objections.

T/00103/18/TCA: Mixed trees, trim back to boundary overhang from neighbouring trees. Elder, fell as near to the ground as possible. No objections.

5. Council Business

- a) Update on Lengthsman scheme – the Clerk requested that the council compile a list of significant tasks to set the Lengthsman during the forthcoming financial year.

The Clerk had circulated a suggested revision to organisation of the Lengthsman scheme which had been proposed by the Lengthsman cluster co-ordinator. The council had no objections to the proposals.

It was suggested that the conversion of stiles to kissing gates may be an area for development. Clerk to forward kissing gate designs to councillors for review.

Clerk

6. Local Roads

- a) Potholes/Road Repairs –Cllr Cox reported that he had received assurances that HCC would re-instate the verges along Cross Lane in the spring.

- b) Litter problems - Cllr Cox commended local residents for all their work in litter collection. It was suggested that a litter picking day be organised by residents.

7. Footpaths

It was noted that the Lengthsman had replaced the broken stile in the churchyard.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Dillingham had circulated a report. There were no significant issues for discussion.

9. BDAPTC/HALC

No updates.

10. Financial matters

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

Clerk

11. Newtown Road recycling centre

Item to be removed from Agenda.

Clerk

12. AOB

Moles – it was noted that there were a number of mole hills on the recreation ground. Cllr Black offered to roll the land.

Cllr Black

Dog fouling – it was noted that there was a significant amount of dog fouling on the recreation ground. Cllr Cox agreed to send an email to the village reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

Cllr Cox

Horticultural society – a member of the horticultural society was present and commented that the society would like to plant some bulbs around the village. The council welcomed this suggestion and thanked the society for its kind offer.

Telephone box – a parishioner requested that a redundant telephone box within the village be removed. Cllr Cox agreed to determine whether there was a telephone in the box and that if there wasn't would request its removal.

Cllr Cox

13. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm. Next meeting, APM 1st May at 7.30pm.

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council
Meeting date : 08/03/2018

Balances:

Statement No: 08/03/18 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 08/03/18
£4,909.15	£4,468.27

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00

New Items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
05/03/2018	A D Clark 16/11	Grass cutting Inv 185	47.50
05/03/2018	Village Hall	Village hall hire	94.50
05/03/2018	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary Jan	147.64
05/03/2018	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary Feb	147.44
05/03/2018	HMRC	Month 10 Tax/NIC	1.80
05/03/2018	HMRC	Month 11 Tax/NIC	2.00
TOTAL			440.88

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00