

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 10th January 2017 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bays
Councillors: Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Sally Burch
Cllr Angela Harris
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Graham Falconer

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Cox handed Cllr Harris some further historical documentation to add to the phone box collection.

Cllr Harris

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

All existing applications had been approved.

b) Further applications received

16/04650/HSE: Wood House, Crux Easton: application for construction of a swimming pool and erection of a pool house. The council reviewed the application. There were no objections. Clerk to revert to BDBC.

Clerk

5. Council Business

a) Defibrillator – Cllr Burch reported that she had applied for a £500 grant from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community foundation towards the cost of a defibrillator. Any successful grants would be allocated in April. A further £100 had been donated by Cllr Bays. Cllr Cox confirmed that the village hall committee supported the installation of an externally fitted defibrillator.

Clerk

The Clerk commented that she was awaiting a formal quote from Heartstart Thatcham and would forward upon receipt.

Cllr Cox commented that he had been contacted by Cllr Norton of Highclere Parish in relation to a review of the Emergency Plan and felt that it should include reference to the defibrillators in East Woodhay and Highclere.

Cllr Cox

- b) Clerk's report – in response to a request from HCC Countryside Access Team, the Clerk requested a priority cutting list for five footpaths within the parish. Cllr Cox agreed to ask the residents for suggestions. **Cllr Cox**

Transparency funding – the Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from HALC in relation to funds available to assist smaller councils with compliance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. The legislation has negated the need for an external auditor for all councils with an income less than £25,000, but requires full compliance with the rules of the Code.

The Clerk commented that work was required on the council's website to ensure full compliance and that at the very least the council should consider purchasing a laptop. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply to the fund to assist with ensuring full compliance. **Clerk**

Facebook page – the Clerk reported that upon Cllr Black's suggestion, the Council now had a Facebook page www.facebook.com/cruxashy/. Clerk to send link to Cllr Cox for email distribution. **Clerk**

- c) Update on Lengthsman Scheme – it was suggested that the Lengthsman may be able to flatten and fill in the rut in the triangle of grass at Crux Easton. Litter collection was also suggested. Clerk to request action. **Clerk**

6. Local Roads

- a) Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox commented that the worst of the reported potholes had now been filled in.

Cllr Cox further noted however that there was a particularly bad hole on the Wayfarers/East Woodhay road which was a potential danger to cyclists. Despite repeated reported the issue had not been actioned. Clerk to contact Steve Goodall and request repair. **Clerk**

Cllr Cox reported that he had requested a reduced speed limit on the A343, without success. It was sadly acknowledged that there had been a fatality on the A343 over the Christmas period, and Cllr Cox commented that speed and safety issues of the road should again be re-iterated within this context. Cllr Cox to progress the matter with Cllr Falconer and Cllr Thacker.

Cllr Cox reported that he had requested that the A343 be reduced in categorisation to a 'B' road. This had been rejected on the basis that the road formed the main diversion route in the instance of closure of the A34.

- b) Litter problems – Cllr Cox reported that he had been approached by a number of residents independently complaining about increased litter in the parish.

Cllr Cox suggested that residents be canvassed in relation to the idea of employing parish litter warden.

Cllr Burch commented that the problem did not seem to warrant employment of a warden and suggested instead a voluntary monthly litter pick.

Cllr Cox agreed to raise the issue for discussion via the email distribution list.

Cllr Cox

7. Broadband

Cllr Cox reported that he had spoken to Gigabeam that afternoon and that a potential site for a relay station had been found near the junction of the A303/A34. The landowner had agreed to the location and a temporary mast would be set up in the relay area for proposed trials. Once the temporary mast had proved successful a permanent mast would be installed next to it and then relays switched.

Cllr Bays queried where and who would be testing the temporary relay on a daily basis. Cllr Cox agreed to clarify with Gigabeam.

Cllr Cox

It was reported that trials on the temporary mast were due to commence the following week, and if successful would lead to a predicted general rollout starting in March.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk had not yet received a December beat report.

9. BDAPTC/HALC

The Clerk commented that there was nothing to report.

10. Financial Matters

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

Clerk

b) Precept update – the Clerk confirmed that a precept of £4,123 had been requested from BDBC.

c) Change of bank – the Clerk reported that the new bank account had been successfully set up with online access. Despite a written request, Barclays Bank had failed to transfer the council's balance from HSBC. The Clerk suggested that the council's full balance of £3,170.71 be transferred via a cheque to Barclays and all further payments to be then made electronically once the cheque had cleared. Action agreed.

Clerk

11. Newtown Road recycling centre update

The Clerk commented that recycling permits had been received by East Woodhay and Highclere residents on the previous Thursday. Cllr Cox confirmed that Ashmansworth residents were yet to receive their permits.

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. The following dates were agreed for forthcoming meetings: 22nd March, 2nd May (APM), 21st June.

Clerk

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council
Meeting date : 10/01/2017

Balances:

Statement No: 382 (28/12/2016) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 10/01/17
£3,170.71	£2,607.23

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100643	Vision ict - email fee	Email hosting fee	66.00
100644	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Oct	139.24
100644	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Nov	139.24
100645	Royal British Legion	Remembrance poppy wreath	20.00
TOTAL			364.48

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Dec	139.24
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Jan	139.24
TOTAL			278.48

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100642	AD Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Sept	171.00
100642	AD Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Oct	114.00
TOTAL			285.00