

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 22nd March 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 10th January 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

17/00504/HSE: The Old Chapel, Ashmansworth; application for conversion of existing roof space to living space to include the insertion of 2 rooflights to south west elevation and stained glass window to front of property. There were no objections. Clerk to revert to BDBC.

T/00094/17/TCA: The Old Post Office, Ashmansworth; application to fell a non-continuous line of 10 hazel trees at the back of the garden close to the existing fence, replant with a continuous line of beech hedge or similar. There were no objections. Clerk to revert to BDBC.

Clerk

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's report – the Clerk reported that the defibrillator had been purchased and registered and was now in situ on the side of the village hall. Thanks were given to Cllrs Burch and Bays for their fundraising efforts, to Mr Lambden for installing the machine and to the Village Hall Committee for allowing the positioning of the defibrillator on the side of the hall.

Cllr Cox had enquired whether Crux Easton would be interested in purchasing a further defibrillator; however Cllr Harris reported that there had been no interest in doing so.

It was agreed that a demo DVD showing how to use the defibrillator would be played at the APM.

Cllr Harris to request that Dr Woodhouse inspect the defibrillator and check that it had been installed correctly.

Cllr Harris

Clerk to invite Dr Woodhouse to speak at the APM.

Clerk

Transparency funding – the Clerk reported that the parish council had received a grant in the sum of £2,085.21 from the transparency fund. It was agreed that a council laptop would be purchased.

Clerk

- b)** Update on Lengthsman Scheme – it was reported that the Lengthsman had flattened and filled in the rut in the triangle of grass at Crux Easton.

Cllr Harris commented that the original damage had been caused by an incorrectly positioned 'Diversion' sign leading HGVs off the main road. Clerk to request that HCC remove the sign.

Clerk

- c)** Footpaths/Stiles – reports had been received of some stiles requiring repair. Cllr Cox agreed to report these to Mr Boyles.

Cllr Cox

6. Local Roads

- a)** Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox commented that all potholes reported had now been filled in, but that more were appearing nearby.

It was noted that the road was particularly bad near the Yew Tree Inn. Cllr Black also reported a particularly bad pothole about 300 metres west of Zell Farmhouse (both within Highclere parish). Clerk to report.

Clerk

- b)** Litter problems – Cllr Cox reported that he had been approached by a number of residents independently complaining about increased litter in the parish, particularly between the Yew Tree Inn and Wayfarers (Highclere parish). Clerk to contact Highclere parish clerk and request that the litter warden includes the area within his route.

There had been reports of some items of rubbish being left in the recreation ground. Cllrs to arrange for removal of the items.

All

7. Broadband

Cllr Cox reported that Gigabeam had applied to Ofcom for a licence to install a microwave link from Winchester straight to Ashmansworth. It was not known how long the application would take.

Cllr Cox reported that over 2/3 of the parish had now signed up to show interest in the Gigabeam solution. Such a large number would have proved difficult using the initial proposed relay method, hence the application for a direct link.

Cllr Bays commented that Gigabeam were still determining how much fibre would be needed to roll out to the parish, and that a concise rollout plan, with precise dimensions of equipment and planning requirements would be

Cllrs Cox & Bays

required prior to making any final decisions. Cllrs Cox and Bays to continue negotiations with Gigabeam to obtain a detailed plan.

8. Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk circulated the February beat report.

Cllrs Harris and Burch commented that they had still not been added to the distribution list despite numerous requests.

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) Bank responsibilities– the Clerk commented that she was in negotiation with the bank to ensure that authorisation for all payments was required from two signatories rather than one (as seemed to be the case at present).

c) Village hall payment – Cllr Cox requested that the council agree a payment in principle to the Village Hall Committee for use of the village hall throughout the year. This was agreed, with Cllr Cox agreeing to request an invoice.

Cllr Cox

11. Newtown Road recycling centre update

Cllr Cox reported that after numerous correspondence with Cllrs Izett and Falconer, Cllr Thacker had written to HCC requesting that Ashmansworth be regarded as a special case and allocated permits to the Newtown Road recycling facility.

12. AOB

a) Cllr Cox proposed thanks to Flora Lyon in relation to securing the new Neighbourhood Watch sign.

b) Cllr Cox reported that BDBC were considering reducing the number of grey bin collections to fortnightly rather than weekly. It was agreed that the council would send an official objection to the proposal.

**Cllr
Cox/Clerk**

c) Cllr Cox read a statement from Cllr Falconer in relation to BDBC's change in investment strategy:

“As cash is a useless investment we have now allocated £25 million in an Invest to Grow Fund which invests in business opportunities in the borough and £30m into a property fund which will invest in commercial property opportunities. It is believed we can make a 6 to 8% return which is a lot more than cash. We will reduce the cash from £162m to £40m. The importance of this is that we get £7m in Council Tax but the total cost to run BDBC is nearer £40m so the balance comes from commercial rents, £17m, govt Grants £2.5m and cash interest was only £2.2m.”

13. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm. Next meeting 2nd May (APM).

Clerk

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council
Meeting date : 22/03/2017

Balances:

Statement No: 001 (03/03/2017) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 22/03/17
£3,817.20	£3,657.67

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
Online	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Sept	171.00
Online	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Oct	114.00
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Dec	139.24
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Jan	139.24
Online	HALC	Course fees	9.00
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Feb	139.24
Online	A Deptford	Defibrillator	1,512.00
Online	HSBC	Overdrawn fee	15.00
TOTAL			2,238.72

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
Online	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary March	139.24
Chq 10001	Mr C Lambden	Electrical fittings defibrillator	20.29
TOTAL			159.53

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
27/02/2017	HALC	Transparency fund	2,085.21
27/02/2017	Mrs S Burch	Defibrillator fundraising	800.00
TOTAL			2,885.21

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00