

## **ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2018</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>
<b>Place:</b>	Ashmansworth Village Hall		
<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman)	Cllr Graham Falconer	
<b>Councillors:</b>	Cllr Sally Burch	Cllr Andrew Bays	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Sadie Owen (Clerk)		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Kieron Black	Cllr Angela Harris	

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Planning applications**

**a) Update on previous applications**

Cllr Falconer reported that application 18/00495/FUL relating to 6 Highfield was still being reviewed by BDBC. External legal advice had been sought and was being reviewed by the internal legal department.

**b) Applications received**

18/01533/HSE: Thurston Cottage. No comments or objections.

**5. Council Business**

**a) Consultation on county funded transport** – Clerk to clarify whether the taxi service used by the parish was funded by BDBC or HCC. Cllr Falconer did not believe that there was any threat to the service. Clerk to draft a response on behalf of APC to the consultation

**Clerk**

**b) Lengthsman** – Cllr Cox reported that the Lengthsman had cleared the ditch at Crux Easton. Clerk to request that the drain associated with the ditch be cleared, and that undergrowth at the front of the village hall be cleared.

**Clerk**

**6. Local Roads**

**a) Potholes/Roads** –Cllr Cox reported that he had attended a meeting with Highclere Parish Council at which MP Kit Malthouse had been present. See report attached at Appendix B.

- b) Emergency Plan - Cllr Cox noted that whilst a local emergency plan was in existence, neither the borough nor county council appeared to be aware of it. Cllr Cox reported that he was liaising with the Chair of Highclere Parish Council to establish a way of raising the profile of the plan. **Cllr Cox**
7. **Footpaths**  
It was noted that a footpath still remained unlawfully locked.
8. **Hedgehog friendly village**  
Whilst the council were generally supportive of the idea, there was insufficient information to proceed.
9. **'There but not there' sculpture**  
The council agreed that it was supportive of both the idea of the sculpture and of becoming a hedgehog friendly village, but that insufficient information had been presented to be able to make an informed decision.  
To be removed from Agenda until further information received.
10. **Neighbourhood Watch**  
A report had been received from PCSO Dillingham on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Clerk to add to the website. **Clerk**
11. **BDAPTC/HALC**  
BDAPTC - Cllr Cox reported that he had attended the BDAPTC AGM and a new Chair, Paul Mahoney had been appointed.  
  
GDPR- the Clerk noted that councillor email address' needed to be changed to non-personal **Clerk**
12. **Financial Matters**
- a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix A). The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process. **Clerk**
- b) Annual governance statement 2017-18 - the Clerk presented the annual return to the council. The council approved the annual governance statement and Cllr Cox and the Clerk duly signed the relevant section.
- c) Annual accounting statements 2017-18 - the council approved the annual accounting statements as a fair representation of the council's financial position and its receipts and payments. Cllr Cox and the Clerk duly signed the relevant section.
- d) Internal audit findings -  
Key points raised in the internal audit referred to having the football goals regularly inspected and the grant procedure required updating. **Clerk**  
Clerk to request an inspection from BDBC and to update the relevant procedure.
13. **Date of next meeting**  
The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. Next meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

**APPENDIX A**

**Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council**  
**Meeting date : 26/06/2018**

**Balances:**

<b>Statement No: 25/06/18 Balance</b>	<b>Balance after reconciliation - 26/06/18</b>
£5,857.31	£5,522.83

**Payments since last meeting date :**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	HMRC	Month 12 Tax/NIC	8.40
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary April	115.68
	HMRC	Month 1 Tax/NIC	28.80
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary May	115.68
	HMRC	Month 2 Tax/NIC	28.80
	A D Clark	Invoice 200	95.00
	Do the Numbers	Internal audit	160.00
	Came & Company	Insurance	288.46
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>840.82</b>

**New Items for payment**

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary June	115.48
	HMRC	Month 3 Tax/NIC	29.00
	A D Clark	Invoice 209	190.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>334.48</b>

**Receipts since last meeting date :**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>

**Payments not yet presented**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>

## Appendix B

### Notes on A343 Meeting, 8 June 2018

Present: Kit Malthouse, MP; Cllr Graham Falconer; Cllr Tom Thacker; Cllr Brad Norton (Highclere); Cllr Alan Cox (Ashmansworth); Cllr Julia Easton (Highclere); Sue Edwards (Highclere clerk) and others.

The meeting was called by Kit Malthouse to examine problems and solutions regarding the A343. It was agreed that the main problem is lorries using the road as a "short cut" rat run between the A34 and the A303. The road is too narrow and in places steep, resulting in long queues behind lorries. Kit himself suffers since he uses the road when travelling to London.

Kit has tried to get the road downgraded to B status, but faces opposition from Hampshire County Council, who would lose part of a government grant for A roads. Also, there is meant to be an A road connecting Andover to Newbury, which can also act as an alternative route for when the A34 or A343 is closed.

He has tried to get the database used by the satnav companies to keep lorries off the A343. A problem is that many drivers, especially from abroad, use personal satnavs designed for cars.

We discussed speed limits, but these would impact cars more than lorries and the police claim not to have the resources so have in the past blocked these suggestions.

The police claim there have been few accidents on this stretch of road, but it appears that most are not reported to them unless very serious. We are therefore asked to encourage all locals to report any accidents to the police on 101 (999 if urgent) so they may be logged.

He has asked for signs on the A34 and A303 barring through lorries, but these have been rejected.

We discussed a possible roundabout or traffic lights at Penwood Crossroads, but these appear too expensive.

The best-received proposal was from Kit that there should be a brown sign on the A34 promoting the route as having the steepest A road in Hampshire! We were not sure if this was serious, but it might be effective in discouraging the lorries.

We are seeking a solution that discourages lorries from using it as a rat-run without causing extra delays for local cars, so although some speed limits or traffic lights might be helpful, we would not want them to cause too much aggravation for locals.

It was interesting to learn of long-term proposals to convert the A34 into a motorway, extending the new road from Cambridge to Oxford down to Southampton. This sounds very welcome but Kit suggested that we might then lose our junctions with the A34. This would clearly discourage lorries but would severely disadvantage local traffic aiming for the M4 since there is already severe congestion at Wash Common (especially at school times) and Newbury. This can be expected to worsen considerably if 2000 houses are built near Wash Common, as planned!

Alan Cox

25 June 2018