

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 30th January 2020 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Sally Burch Cllr Angela Harris
Cllr Kieron Black
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk) 1 parishioner
Apologies: N/A

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record, excepting reference to Andrew Malins, which was amended to Adam Malins. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising.

4. Planning applications

a) Applications received

No applications had been received, but the Clerk informed the council that notification had been received in relation to T/00026/20/DDD which required no planning consent as it concerned the felling of a dangerous ash tree for safety reasons.

5. Council business

a) Clerk's report

The Clerk suggested that the parish may wish to join the Great British Spring Clean <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>. Cllr Cox commented that residents were already very pro-active at collecting litter and consequently there was little requirement to do anything further.

The Clerk reported that the council's precept request for 2020-21 had been submitted, as had the request for electoral roll access.

Cllr Cox informed the council of a local recycling initiative which was collecting bottle tops in one box and printer cartridges in another to be recycled via one of the local schools.

The Clerk reminded councillors and residents of the requirement to register their vehicles for ongoing future access to Hampshire recycling centres (see attached link www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/vehicle-registration).

b) Lengthsman tasks

It was requested that the hedge to the right hand side of the recreation ground be cut back. It was further requested that a foliage and grass on the far side be cut back, where it is stifling growth of the hedge.

Clerk

It was agreed that Cllr Burch would ask the landowner of a broken stile on footpath 3 whether they wished to repair, and if not to refer to the lengthsman.

**Cllr
Burch**

Cllr Burch to seek advice in relation to the health and future of a black walnut tree which had recently been planted.

**Cllr
Burch**

c) Outstanding actions from past minutes

Cllr Cox had reported a number of dangerous overhanging trees on the road to the Pheasant Inn to HCC Highways Arboricultural Office but had not received a response. Cllr Cox did chase again for a response, which is still awaited.

Cllr Bays to contact the landowner and request that advice be taken in relation to any safety risks posed by the trees.

**Cllr
Bays**

Cllr Cox had received a response from Adam Malins at BDBC to further investigate a reported complaint.

It was noted that potholes outside Old Cottage, and between Zell Farm and Hollington Lane had been repaired that morning.

Cllr Cox reported that he had reported a blocked drain which regularly led to flooding of a section of the A343.

6. **Local Interest**

Flight Sergeant Scull: Cllr Cox reported that he had investigated the origin of a brass plaque discovered at the war memorial and discovered that it had been commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the first return crossing of the Atlantic by air in July 1919. Cllr Cox commented that the crossing had taken place by airship. The plaque commemorated Flight Sergeant Norman Scull who was born in Ashmansworth, listed as serving in WW1 on the war memorial, had been an engineer on the flight.

Cllr Cox had ascertained that the plaque had been left by the granddaughter of Flight Sergeant Scull. With her agreement, Cllr Cox proposed that the council arrange to fix the plaque to the war memorial. All agreed.

All

All to seek advice on how best to adhere the plaque to the memorial.

Major Hugh Seagrim: Cllr Cox reported that a resident had written a piece about Major Seagrim for the parish magazine. It was explained that Hugh Seagrim was born in Ashmansworth on 24 March 1909, son of the vicar. He and his older brother Derek are the only known brothers to have been awarded the George Cross and Victoria Cross respectively. Cllr Cox reported that Major Seagrim was the leader of a party which included two other British and one Karen officer working in the Karen Hills of Burma. By the end of 1943 the Japanese had learned of this party who then commenced a campaign of arrests and torture to determine their whereabouts. In February 1944 the other two British officers were ambushed and killed but Major Seagrim and the Karen officer escaped. The Japanese then arrested 270 Karens and tortured and killed many of them but still they continued to support Major Seagrim. To end further suffering to the Karens, Seagrim surrendered himself to the Japanese on 15th March 1944. He was taken to Rangoon and together with eight others he was sentenced to death. He pleaded that the others were following his orders and as such they should be spared, but they were determined to die with him and were all executed.

Seagrim's bravery was recognised by the award of the George Cross.

Cllr Cox reported that it had been suggested that a blue plaque be installed at the former residence of Major Seagrim (with the current homeowner's consent).

The council agreed in principle, but it was acknowledged that further research was required in relation to the blue plaque scheme.

7. Local Roads

Potholes/Road Repairs

Please see above.

8. Footpaths: Nomination of priority paths for cutting

Councillors reviewed a list produced by Cllr Cox. It was agreed that they would revert with nominations in the following few days.

All

9. BDAPTC/HALC

No update

10. Financial Matters

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

Clerk

11. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 25th March at 7.30 pm.

Appendix A

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 30/01/2020

Balances:

Statement No: 30/01/20 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 30/01/20
£5,826.95	£5,682.47

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00

New items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen HMRC	Clerk salary Jan Month 10 Tax/NIC	115.68 28.80
TOTAL			144.48

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
	Mrs S Owen	Correction to poppy sum	3.00
TOTAL			3.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00