

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 7th July 2020 **Time:** 6.00 pm
Place: Meeting held virtually via Zoom
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Angela Harris Cllr Kieron Black
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk) 6 parishioners
Cllr Graham Falconer
Apologies: Cllr Sally Burch

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Sally Burch.
Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Bays for organising the meeting via Zoom.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. Cllr Cox agreed to sign them and hand back to the Clerk.

**Cllr
Cox**

3. Planning applications

a) Application update

20/00570/HSE Beech Tree & Bramble Cottage. Application approved

20/00061/FUL Land at Manor Farm Barns. Application still pending.

b) New applications

20/01283/FUL Steeles Farm. The applicant's agent was present and explained that the application concerned the building of a new dwelling and a change in use from agricultural to residential.

Concerns were expressed by councillors and parishioners in relation to the change of land use, the proposed size of the new dwelling, the lack of an agricultural tie, its closeness to the road and the potential for creating a precedent of more conversions from agricultural land to residential.

The council objected to the application on the basis of the proposed change of use from agricultural to residential land for what was deemed a speculative build of a large house which was felt to be of unsympathetic design, adjacent to a listed building within the conservation area and AONB.

20/01638/FUL Charters, Crux Easton. The applicant was present and explained that the application concerned the erection of a replacement dwelling and demolition of the current building. The council viewed the plans and had no objections.

4. Council business

a) Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from neighbouring parish councils requesting support in opposing a decision by HCC to remove residents' ability to use the recycling centre at Newtown Road. It was noted that Ashmansworth residents had been unable to do so for over three years anyway, but the Chair agreed to support the neighbouring councils and to issue a joint statement in opposition to the proposal.

**Cllr
Cox**

Cllr Falconer commented that the local MP and leader of BDBC were both in talks with HCC to try and reverse the decision.

b) Lengthsman tasks

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman had failed to attend on the scheduled date and so stiles on footpaths 2 and 3 remained still in a state of disrepair and footpath 20 still required cutting back. Clerk to chase the lengthsman to get book a re-scheduled time.

Clerk

c) Outstanding actions from past minutes

Cllr Cox agreed to update the website in relation to the three properties of historical interest within the parish.

**Cllr
Cox**

The Clerk reported that further investigation would need to be undertaken in relation to updating the website as the proposed new provider, Hugo Fox, did not provide an email facility.

Clerk

e) Update from Borough Councillor

Cllr Falconer reported that there had been a number of planning committee meetings held recently by the council and that the upcoming Manydown planning application was due to be heard the following day.

He commented that the issue of Newtown Road Recycling Centre was a key issue concerning a number of residents.

It was noted that a report on the financial impact of the COVID pandemic had been requested and Cllr Falconer warned that reserves may have been depleted by up to £4 million.

Cllr Cox queried whether weekly bin collections were due to recommence. Cllr Falconer responded that the council had made a commitment to restore weekly bin collections as soon as practicable.

5. **Local Roads**

Potholes/Road Repairs

The Drove, Crux Easton: Cllr Cox stated that he had reported the bad state of the road and that contractors had attended and repaired the upper half of the road but left the remainder untouched. Cllr Cox had chased for an update but was yet to receive a response.

Speeding Vehicles

Annabelle Blossie-Lynch was in attendance and advised that she had received a good response in relation to her campaign to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village. The Estate Director of Facombe Estates Ltd had offered to assist with installing gates to indicate the start of the village.

ABL

It was suggested that these may work well at the top of the village but may not be appropriate for the far end.

Annabelle Blossie-Lynch (ABL) agreed to send a further email to residents urging reduced speed through the village, and to investigate further the cost and practicality of installing a gate and sign at the Newbury end of the village.

6. Footpaths

Covered under item 4 above.

7. Waste bins

Cllr Cox reported that the parish was home to three waste bins and queried whether they should be retained. It was suggested that the bin opposite the Plough and in the phone box at Crux Easton would be retained, as residents had offered to monitor and empty them.

It was agreed that the bin at the recreation ground would be removed.

**Cllr
Black**

8. Looking forward

Cllr Cox commented that he had circulated a discussion document to the Ashy PC email group suggesting items that would need to be addressed in the future in the light of climate change and environmental issues, especially relating to electricity supply and house heating systems. He reported that he had received a limited response to date and would welcome further discussion.

**Cllr
Cox**

9. Grant request

The council had received a request for a grant from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Victim Support organisation.

Given the small size of the parish precept it was felt that grants would be more appropriate if awarded to parish causes.

10. Coronavirus response and local needs

It was felt that the combined efforts of Neighbourcare and the Ashy PC email distribution list was providing a good level of support and assistance. It was agreed that Cllr Cox would write a note of thanks to Neighbourcare thanking them for inclusion within their scheme

**Cllr
Cox**

11. Financial Matters

- a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (Appendix A). The payments were unanimously approved. It was asked whether the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground was being done satisfactorily. Cllr Black offered to verify.

Clerk

**Cllr
Black**

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 2nd September at 6.00 pm.

Appendix A

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 07/07/2020

Balances:

Statement No: 07/07/20 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 07/07/20
£5,938.01	£5,337.65

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			

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 396	190.00
	A D Clark	Invoice 497	190.00
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary July	115.68
	HMRC	Month 4 Tax/NIC	28.80
TOTAL			£668.96

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
26/05/20	HSBC Bank	Closure of account	68.60
TOTAL			68.60

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00