

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: February 5th, 2010

Time: 7.45 pm

Place: Village Hall

Present: Alan Cox (Chairman)

Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)

Mark Benzing

Johnnie Johnson

Ruth Kent (Clerk)

This meeting replaced that planned for January 7th, which was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Action

1. Apologies

Kieron Black

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of November 25th 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Planning Matters

It was reported that approval has been granted for applications at Poultry Farm, Doyly Bottom, and Old Cottage Ashmansworth

It was reported that the application for Fieldway, Ashmansworth, has been withdrawn for consideration of possible changes to the design. We held informal discussions regarding the initial application.

We held informal discussions regarding Pheasant Cottage, Ashmansworth, where a possible application is being considered

5. Tree Planting

Ruth confirmed that she had submitted a request to Cllr Tom Thacker of HCC for a grant of £200 towards planting trees in our villages

We agreed that, if the request is successful, we would plant Black Walnuts, one in the centre of Crux Easton, the other near the Ashmansworth phone box.

We had proposed planting two silver birches to the rear of the village hall, but on discussion, preferred either a Field Maple or a Norwegian Maple. Alan agreed to work with Ruth and councillors to agree a decision and to proceed to a plan for planting, once the weather improves.

Alan

Ruth

6. Neighbourhood Watch

It was noted that some local farms do not receive Countrywatch reports due to not having email. Alan exchanged mobile contact details with Mark Fisher, Steele's Farm, promising to forward him details of any relevant urgent warnings

Alan

7. Local Roads

We were pleased to note that all our salt bins have been topped up, including the one on the hill below Wychpits which had previously been missed.

We received a request for further bins in lower Ashmansworth and closer to the Cross Lane/Andover Road junction. We noted that it appears that HCC may be able to buy these for us in the new financial year, so we decided not to spend our scarce resources on buying these now.

We noted that a number of potholes had recently appeared as a result of the bad weather. Alan offered to make a list of these later, once the weather has improved, and to report this to HCC roads department. Councillors noting any particularly dangerous holes should report these immediately.

Alan

Our agreed text regarding verges and parking in the village has been published – no improvement so far, but the concerns remain.

We again discussed measures to slow down those vehicles speeding in Ashmansworth village. Alan agreed to look into the possibility of a sign warning "children playing".

Alan

8. Rights of Way

We were pleased to note that HCC have now banned vehicles with more than 2 wheels from using our section of Wayfarers until 23 December 2010.

9. Community Enhancement

Mark reported that he had obtained permission from BDBC to remove the major part of the willow tree growing in the East Woodhay Road pond and hopes to get assistance from a local farmer to do this work.

Mark

There was continuing concern at the level of litter in the village and surrounding roads, mainly jettisoned from passing cars. Several members have already collected bags full! Mark will make any necessary arrangements to put this on a regular footing and try to co-ordinate statistics.

Mark

A further topic for consideration was the condition of our war memorial - ongoing.

Mark

10. Phone Boxes

We are attempting to buy the Crux Eaton phone box, non-operating, from BT for £1. We still await a reply.

Johnnie has contacted Hampstead Norreys PC who have recently

Johnnie

succeeded in getting BT to convert their phone box back to the red variety. We would like to do the same for Ashmansworth. Johnnie and Mark will explore this – Johnnie to prepare costings for the possible alternatives and Mark to explore the possibility of moving it to a different site within the village. We would prefer the new box to be operational, but one less favoured possibility would be to place a red one non-working in a new location, while keeping the present box unchanged.

Mark

11. Waste Bin for Crux Easton

Carol reported that the bin has now been placed by the phone box. Our thanks!

12. Village Website

www.ashmansworth-pc.gov.uk is listed in the Calendar.

13. HALC and BDAPTC

Ruth to discuss possible training courses with Kieron.

Ruth

14. Finance Matters

Ruth reported that she had submitted request a Precept unchanged at £1500

Alan invited submissions for our next meeting for charitable support to **local** causes.

All

Invoices for Payment:

It was agreed to issue cheque no. 100445 to Ken Abraham for £28-00 to replace cheque no. 100439 for £28-00 as lost in post, reference 32/19/9. This cheque has now been cancelled.

16. Correspondence Received

None

17. New Topics for Next Meeting

None

18. Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 2nd in the Village Hall, since changed to 9th March in Crux Easton church.

The **Meeting** closed at 10.00 pm