

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: September 14th, 2010

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Village Hall

Present: Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Mark Benzing Johnnie Johnson
Ruth Kent (Clerk)

Action

Alan welcomed 4 residents to our meeting.

1. Apologies

Kieron Black

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of July 1st 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Planning Matters

Alan reported that the appeal over the rejection of the application for a gypsy site in Cross Lane, Ashmansworth will be held on 24th November. We noted that the government has withdrawn circular 01/06 and its previous strict guidance on the number of gypsy sites to be provided locally.

We discussed the application for a swimming pool at Crux Easton House and the parish council had no objection to this.

Ruth

A new application for refurbishment of the village hall has been submitted in the name of the parish council, who clearly had no objection to this!

Ruth

It was reported that the application for a time extension to an existing planning consent relating to the Old Chapel, Ashmansworth has been approved.

4. Military Flying

Alan wrote to MoD regarding low level hovering helicopters which were upsetting residents by exercising, sometimes for more than 30 minutes, close to midnight. He received a reply explaining the needs of the military. After seeking opinions from residents, he replied explaining our support for the military but requesting them to be sensitive to residents and livestock. He offered to give advice on sensitive areas to avoid.

Alan

5. Concessionary Fares Consultation

New government regulations propose that Hampshire CC take over the bus and taxi travel token schemes, rationalising these across the county.

A public consultation on this expired on 13th September. Alan consulted users of the Ashmansworth bus route and submitted responses.

6. Local Roads

Alan thanked Steve Goodall of Hampshire County Council for their prompt repair of potholes.

We discussed the dangerous state of junctions with the A343 and hoped that these may be improved in due course.

Alan has requested to HCC to replace our two modern signposts with traditional ones. We have received a quotation and are on a short list for funding. One finial is missing and HCC have ordered a replacement for this.

We discussed local footpaths. Alan has had dialogue with the HCC footpaths team over path 3 which had become overgrown and the stile wired to prevent dogs escaping. This has now been replaced by gates so access is easier. We discussed the merits of that path which crosses very close to some houses but made no recommendation. Mark had reported that the stile at the junction of paths 2 and 3 at Steeles Farm was decrepit and HCC will write to the farm to seek its repair. It was also reported that path 2 crossed electric fences!

Strong concerns were expressed at vehicles speeding dangerously through Ashmansworth village. There are now a number of young children (as well as free range chickens) who are vulnerable. Concerns were expressed at cars and vans, usually destined for Faccombe Road, but also tractors and the milk lorry. We discussed possible speed limits and measures such as gates and signs to encourage responsible driving. Alan was actioned to meet those responsible in either BDBC or HCC to discuss possible approaches.

Alan

7. Community Enhancement

Ponds – We thanked Mark, Kieron and Andy Madeley for clearing the pond on the East Woodhay Road. Some further clearance there will follow when the season permits. We hope that a start will be made on the second Mere pond, perhaps during the winter.

Litter – we still get litter, especially beer cans, dropped, particularly on the road from the Yew Tree. Unless culprits are caught in the act, there is little we can do beyond picking up any litter. Thanks to those who do this.

Salt Bins – Alan was pleased to report that we have been awarded 7 new salt bins across the parish. There was slight confusion over the location of one of these, but this has been resolved by Ruth. Alan will publish the locations agreed.

Alan

8. **Phone Boxes.** BT have now removed the mechanism from the Crux Easton phone box. Villagers will need to maintain the red box and Ruth was actioned to prepare a quotation for any costs involved.

Ruth

Johnnie has published a questionnaire in the Calendar about the possible actions for the Ashmansworth phone box and received a few, contradictory, responses. We decided that since the current box was unattractive and appeared not to have been used by anyone for some time, we should consider having it removed. Johnnie was actioned to

Johnnie

prepare a note for the next Calendar announcing this and requesting that anyone objecting to this should contact him as soon as possible. If no objections are received he will approach BT. We made no decision on whether to purchase a non-working red phone box.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Alan and Carol will attend a Police Focus Group at Winchester on 6th October.

10. HALC & BDATPC

At the recent meeting of BDATPC, a motion to approve a 4% increase in HALC affiliation fees for 2011/12 was rejected. Due to the small attendance of that meeting, the question was addressed subsequently to the whole membership. Alan replied indicating that the amount in question was too small to kick up a fuss about – the difference to us between a 3% or 4% increase was just £1!

11. Code of Conduct. It had been thought that some changes might impact us, but this now appears not to be the case.

12. Finance Matters – invoices for payment

We approved 2 cheques:

Ashmansworth Village Hall, £52.50 cheque no. 100456

Crux Easton Church, £18.75 cheque no. 100457

13. Johnnie raised a question about the impact of Chinese Lanterns which could pose a threat to thatched roofs, crops and livestock. He was actioned to write to Sir George Young MP about this, on behalf of the PC. **Johnnie**

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2nd November, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

The **Meeting** closed at 9.30pm