

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: November 2nd, 2010 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Village Hall
Present: Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Mark Benzing Kieron Black
Johnnie Johnson Ruth Kent (Clerk)

Action

Alan welcomed 8 residents to our meeting.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of September 14th 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Planning Matters

We received and discussed the verbal report of the planning committee and thanked those active in it.

We were pleased to note that permission for refurbishment of the village hall has been granted, subject to conditions relating to approval of materials

We had discussed the application for an extension at 8 Barn Close Lane by email and had no objection

We had discussed by email the application for listed building consent to repair Four Ashes and had no objection. We were pleased to meet the new owner, Dr Julian Woodhouse.

We noted that the application for a swimming pool at Crux Easton House has been rejected by BDBC though they expressed willingness to discuss possible changes to the application.

We discussed a new application which appears to be a clarification of earlier planning consent for Crux Easton House. The council had no objection to this and actioned Ruth to report this to BDBC.

Ruth

We discussed a revised application for a Certificate of Lawful Development relating to Fieldway. The council actioned Ruth to report to BDBC that we had no further information to add.

Ruth

4. Military Flying

Alan reported that the MoD response to his letters relating to hovering

Alan

helicopters appeared to be stereotyped and not answering our specific points! Nevertheless, we have not been troubled by such events since then, so Alan agreed to write to Sir George for information, to be able to close down the correspondence.

5. Local Roads

It appears that HCC are progressing with repairing two of our signposts – so far the posts themselves have been repainted with black and white stripes, looking very smart. We hope the fingers and finials will be replaced to match that by the war memorial. We hope they may also be able to paint white stripes on that post, but if not, will do it ourselves with volunteer labour.

The Crux Easton sign post still swings in the wind despite several attempted repairs. Alan will contact HCC to seek a proper repair.

Alan

It was requested that a sign (or signs) be erected pointing to Crux Easton church. This was welcomed but it was suggested that this could be achieved by local action, rather than HCC.

Carol

We discussed our strong concerns at some vehicles speeding dangerously through Ashmansworth village. There are now a number of young children (as well as free range chickens) who are vulnerable. Residents had already spoken to one young driver in the village and his parents about his speeding. It was agreed that this should be reported to PC Matt Deery for follow up. Alan has been in touch with HCC and their Andrew Kettlewell and awaits his reply. We might consider measures such as gates and signs to encourage responsible driving and repainting the present SLOW sign.

Alan

Alan had also been approached about speeding past Zell Farm (Highclere Parish) and advised that a sign might be appropriate.

6. Community Enhancement

Salt Bins – Alan reported the planned locations of the 7 new salt bins across the parish. Thanks for HCC for this.

Ponds – We welcomed the resurrection of the pond on the East Woodhay Road – a great improvement. Some further clearance there will follow when the season permits.

7. Phone Boxes. The parish council will need to maintain the red phone box in Crux Easton and Ruth is preparing a quotation for any costs involved.

Ruth

We discussed the Ashmansworth phone box – at previous meetings there seemed to be a consensus for having it removed since it was little used. Johnnie prepared a note for the Calendar announcing this and requesting that anyone objecting to this should contact him as soon as possible. As a result, he has received several inputs requesting it to be retained, in case of occasional emergencies. This was agreed, so no further action will be taken.

8. Chinese Lanterns

At our last meeting, Johnnie reported his concerns about Chinese Lanterns which could set fire to property and injure livestock. He was actioned to write to Sir George who responded indicating government policy, which offered sympathy but no ban! Alan reported that on 29th

**Johnnie
Alan**

October, a lantern landed in one of his trees and set fire to it. Damage was minimal, but the tree was only a few metres from five thatched cottages – if the lantern had landed on one of these, the results could have been catastrophic. Johnnie was actioned to reply to Sir George, to contact local standards enforcement, sales outlets and possibly police, to try to stop lantern use in our locality. Alan was actioned to email the village and his contacts in neighbouring villages to point out the dangers in the lead up to Guy Fawkes night.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Alan and Carol attended a Police Focus Group on Rural Policing at Winchester on 6th October and found it very useful. It was held by the Hampshire Police Authority.

10. Public Meeting on Housing needs

Interested councillors and residents are invited to attend an open meeting on “Housing and other Development and the Future of our Villages and Communities” at the Portal Hall, Burghclere on Monday 13th December at 7.30pm. Those wishing to attend should notify Alan so he can inform the organisers. They may also respond to the BDBC LDF consultation on-line at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf/newhomes/default.htm> before 14 January 2011

11. HALC & BDATPC

We are invited to send representatives to the Annual Parish Conference at Basingstoke on 29th November. Those interested to attend should notify Alan before 19th November for Ruth to book places.

All

12. Finance Matters

We approved the **Parish Accounts** for 2009/10.

Ruth advised us that we would need to submit a request for a **Precept** for 2011/12 by 5 January. Alan agreed to prepare a draft budget for the new year for us to discuss and approve at our next meeting.

Alan

Invoices for payment - We approved 3 cheques:

E.M.Christian, Cheque no. 100458, £180.00. grass cutting

Ruth Kent, Cheque no. 100459, £100.00, clerk

Ken Abraham, Cheque no. 100460, £28.00, internal auditor

13. Correspondence

Invitation for our clerk to join the Society of Local Council Clerks. We discussed this briefly and invited Ruth to gain more details, including the costs and benefits, for discussion at our next meeting.

Ruth

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st December, in Crux Easton church at 7.30pm

The **Meeting** closed at 10.15pm