

## ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

**Date:** February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 **Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Place:** Crux Easton church  
**Present:** Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors: Mark Benzing  
                  Johnnie Johnson Ruth Kent (Clerk)

#### **Action**

Alan explained that our previously planned meeting for 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 was cancelled due the snow.

#### **1. Apologies**

Kieron Black

#### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **3. Planning Matters**

We were very pleased to learn that the appeal against refusal of planning permission for a gypsy site in Cross Lane has been rejected. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to all those who contributed to this rejection, especially members of the planning committee. We understand that the BDBC Enforcement team are already working to get the site cleared.

It was pointed out that the roadside at Doyley Bottom, for so long the home of the Lee family who are now occupying the Cross Lane site, now looks worse than when it was occupied, due to road materials being placed there. We agreed to look into possible landscaping in discussion with Hampshire County Council.

**Alan**

We were pleased to note that refurbishment of the village hall has started, with new windows and featherboarding already in place and a start being made on replacing the ceiling and updating the electrics.

We noted that the application for an extension at 8 Barn Close Lane has been approved.

The application for listed building consent to repair Four Ashes has been withdrawn and subsequently reapplied for. We had no objection and actioned Ruth to report this to BDBC.

**Ruth**

The new application which appears to be a clarification of earlier planning consent for Crux Easton House has been approved.

We noted that a revised application for a Certificate of Lawful Development relating to Fieldway has been approved. A new planning

**Ruth**

application, similar to the original one, has now been submitted to BDBC. We discussed this in detail and noted that some of the dormer windows originally proposed have been removed, at the suggestion of BDBC. We had no objection and actioned Ruth to report this to BDBC.

#### **4. Military Flying**

Alan reported that he has written to Sir George for information, to be able to close down the correspondence regarding military flying over Ashmansworth.

#### **5. Local Roads**

We welcome the new salt bins which were useful in the recent cold weather. We still expect one near the junction of Cross Lane and the Andover Road. One at Three Legged Cross is in the wrong location. Ruth to contact HCC on both these.

**Ruth**

We welcome that Cross Lane is now on the Priority 1 list for salting, whereas the bus route through Ashmansworth is Priority 2. Alan has already requested that Crux Easton be included in the next update, but no confirmation has yet been received.

We are very grateful to HCC for repairing two of our signposts – repainted with black and white stripes, the fingers and finials replaced to match that by the war memorial. We plan to paint white stripes on that post with volunteer labour once the weather improves.

The Crux Easton sign post still swings in the wind despite several attempted repairs. Alan has again contacted HCC to seek a proper repair and awaits a reply.

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  
ongoing**

We discussed our strong concerns at some vehicles speeding dangerously through Ashmansworth village. Alan has been in touch with HCC and their Andrew Kettlewell. He has chased them again and still awaits his reply. We might consider measures such as gates and signs to encourage responsible driving and repainting the present SLOW sign.

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

Alan was pleased to report that he had erected signs at each end of our stretch of Wayfarers extending the prohibition of motor vehicles with more than two wheels by a further 6 months and that a permanent prohibition is now planned.

Johnnie explained that he considered that the tree on the village green by the war memorial needed careful pruning to bring it back to shape. He will discuss this with David Hill, Tree Officer at BDBC. Ideally they would arrange this, but if not, we might be able to do so before the end of our financial year.

**Johnnie**

#### **6. Royal Wedding celebration**

Alan reported that a children's party and hog roast are being planned to

be held at the village hall.

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 ongoing**

**Race to Infinity.** Alan reported that users of Highclere telephone exchange did not cast enough votes to qualify for early conversion to super fast Broadband but Cllr Horace Mitchell is lobbying for us, as remote rural communities, to be considered for new technology once available.

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 reported his correspondence with Sir George, local standards enforcement, sales outlets etc, to try to stop lantern use in our locality. Alan emailed the village and his contacts in neighbouring villages to point out the dangers in the lead up to Guy Fawkes night. Concerns remain at the danger to farm animals and crops, woodland and thatched cottages. Alan will assist Johnnie in continuing to lobby for their ban, especially through Sir George.

**Johnnie  
Alan**

9. **Facombe Estate**

Alan reported for information that Facombe Estate Woodland was being evaluated for “Forest Certification”.

10. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Nothing to report

11. **Council Plans**

**Parish Co-operation:** Alan reported that he had recently participated in a meeting with the chairmen of Highclere and East Woodhay parish councils and our local borough councillors, seeking areas of mutual co-operation between us. We identified areas such as insurance, grass cutting where savings might be made and asked the three clerks to get together to further discussion. We were also concerned at possible plans to drop our local bus service and would work with the other councils to seek an optimal solution.

It was suggested that we might need to prepare village plans for each village which could identify policy towards further development. Many new houses are planned just across the border in West Berkshire so further building in our area should not be necessary. We might also work to prepare a common Disaster Planning document.

**All**

Johnnie reported that he represented us at an open meeting on “Housing and other Development and the Future of our Villages and Communities” in December

12. **HALC & BDATPC**

We postponed discussion on membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks to a future meeting

**13. Finance Matters**

Ruth presented a summary of our financial update for the current year. After inclusion of the invoices for payment below, we would have a bank balance of £1381.26, which is about £1,000 more than our balance at the start of the financial year. We had budgeted donations to local good causes of £700, but felt that this could be increased to about £900. Ruth was actioned to confirm the limit for such donations, which we believe to be about £5 per elector – of which we have 173. We will then allocate such donations at our next meeting

**Ruth**

We approved the budget for 2011/12, noting that we had already approved by correspondence a request for a Precept of £1500 (unchanged from previous years).

**Invoices for payment** - We approved 4 cheques:

E.M.Christian, Cheque no. 100461, £90.00. grass cutting

Ruth Kent, Cheque no. 100462, £200.00, clerk

Village Hall, Cheque no. 100463, £75.00, use of hall

Audit Commission, Cheque no. 100464, £105.75

**14. Correspondence**

None of interest!

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

The **Meeting** closed at 9.30pm