

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: July 5th, 2011 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Village Hall
Present: Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Mark Benzing Kieron Black
Ruth Kent (Clerk)

Action

1. Apologies

Johnnie Johnson, Cllrs Mitchell, Izett and Thacker

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of May 24th 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Planning Matters

a) Cross Lane We were very concerned that the occupants of the site in Cross Lane are still present. Alan has chased BDBC who assured him that they would be issuing an eviction order shortly.

b) Fieldway The application for removal of the agricultural tie for Fieldway, Ashmansworth has been approved.

c) Lower Manor Farm We agreed by correspondence to an application for a further change to the garage at the Old Chicken Farm (St Mary Bourne Parish)

4. Local Roads

a) Ashmansworth Speeding At our previous meeting, we had agreed to monitor the situation after Alan had written to the village requesting calmer driving and to try to identify any speeding drivers. No reports back so far.

b) Pot Holes HCC have repaired pot holes in Ashmansworth as requested but have missed some, especially on the road from the Yew Tree. Alan will inspect and list those that still need attention and report back to HCC. **Alan**

c) Access to A343 We are still concerned at the poor visibility at all our access points to the A343. Alan is in dialogue with HCC to try to get some improvement. **Alan**

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

e) Road Names Ruth expressed concern that the local roads in Crux Easton are not named, making it difficult for visitors to find destinations. (The same applies to Ashmansworth). After some discussion, it was not felt

desirable to make any change to this. For example, the existing sign post directs you to the centre of Crux Easton, from where you can see the church.

- f) Footpaths** As a result of complaints received, Alan has spoken to several residents who walk on the path across Steeles Farm. They report that some of the stiles are dangerous and/or too high for easy crossing. He has discussed this with Sally Burch who has volunteered to speak to Mr Fisher to see what can be done. Grants may be available to assist. Alan was actioned to clarify the situation regarding public liability with HCC. **Alan**
- g) Grass Cutting, Crux Easton** It was reported that the grass by the telephone box was not cut regularly. It was suggested that a local resident might be persuaded to take on this task. Failing that, Alan could discuss with BDBC whether they could take on this role. **Ruth**
Alan
- 5. Broadband Survey.** Alan sent a reminder to all known email addresses in our parish encouraging them to lobby for faster broadband locally.
- 6. Neighbourhood Watch**
Nothing to report.
- 7. Waste Bins, Crux Easton**
It was proposed that we consider obtaining a waste bin to replace the present one, which is in disrepair. Ruth will enquire what is available. **Ruth**
- 8. Council Plans**
- a) Parish Co-operation** Alan reported that he has now attended two meetings with the chairmen of Highclere and East Woodhay parish councils and our local borough councillors, seeking areas of mutual co-operation between us. Alan was actioned to forward the latest task list to councillors. **Alan**
- b) Localism** Kieron reported that Cllr Mitchell had not yet called his meeting on Localism.
- c) Gypsy Consultation** Alan reported that he had submitted our agreed response to the government consultation on gypsy sites
- d) Emergency Planning** Alan had shown his first draft of this document and received comments back from councillors. The target audience is for Basingstoke and Hampshire councils to know how we are organised and who to contact if necessary. A sub-set showing local points of contact etc will be provided within the parish. A second meeting of the working group would be held on July 6th. **Alan**
- e) Local Transport** We still await a decision on our bus service, but are led to expect that it may be cancelled. In that case, we have to examine alternatives. Some funding is likely to be available but we are still unclear how that might benefit us. The most likely solution is to invite residents to offer lifts to their neighbours in case of need. Any further ideas will be considered with interest. **All**
- f) Mobile Library** Our mobile library service has been reprieved for now but could be cut next year if not used more. We have discovered that HCC have changed the timing so Alan will notify residents to encourage them to use the **Alan**

service.

g) Village Plans We felt that it would be desirable to create village plans for each village. Alan will locate other examples and show to councillors. We will then need volunteers to work on preparing plans. **Alan**

h) Logo The council had, by correspondence, agreed to the use of our logo, less the words "Parish Council", for appropriate uses such as for the village hall and for local signage.

9. HALC & BDATPC

Alan reported briefly on a meeting of BDAPTC which he attended last month.

10. Finance Matters

a) 2010/ 2011 Financial Update: Ruth reported that she had prepared the accounts for last year and awaited Internal Audit. She has not heard from Ken Abraham and was already past our deadline for submission, so contacted HALC for advice. They recommended their own IA service which appears to be more comprehensive, though also more expensive. Ruth has arranged for this to take place on July 6th and this was endorsed by the council, who authorised Alan to sign this acceptance. **Ruth**

b) Invoices for payment - We approved 3 cheques:

Graham Lonsdale, Cheque no. 100474, £150.00, for pruning tree on village green, replacing cheque no. 100470 which was cancelled due to being incorrectly addressed.

EM Christian, Grass cutting, Cheque no. 100475, £144.00

Came & Co, Insurance, to cover increase in tax rate, Cheque no. 100476, £2.50.

c) Royal Wedding Street Party: We received an account showing that a cheque for £100.00 would be paid to the village hall appeal from the profits of this party. We had given a donation of £50 to the party.

11. Correspondence

We received an information pack regarding next year's digital TV switchover

We were notified that BDBC had no objection to felling 2 Leylandii trees at Lower Manor Farm

We received satisfaction questionnaires on conservation and tree preservation. Alan agreed to respond as appropriate on our behalf **Alan**

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday 13th September in Crux Easton church at 7.30pm

The **Meeting** closed at 9.10pm