

“BDB 75241. No objection, subject to concern that the large panoramic window on the east face is out of keeping with the other windows and the style expected of such a cottage. Generally, provided building materials are employed which match the existing property, the proposed extension enhances the village conservation area.”

c) 2 Chapel Cottages, Ashmansworth

The application to replace the existing garage, which is in danger of collapse, with one of similar size and construction – timber and felt roof – was received on the BDBC website a few hours before the meeting. We discussed the details of this with the applicant and were content.

Decision We actioned Ruth to report: “BDB 75343. No objection” **Ruth**

d) There were no other **outstanding planning applications**

4. Local Roads

a) Pot Holes Alan was pleased to report that further to discussions with Steve Goodall of HCC, those pot holes reported had now been repaired. Carol reported a further one outside her property and it was agreed that Ruth should report this to HCC. Steve also reported that his team had repaired one salt bin which had been damaged and would replace another damaged one once new stock arrived. **Ruth**

b) Access to A343 Alan reported that Steve Goodall had advised him that he has placed an order to improve visibility at the Cross Lane junction

c) Crux Easton signpost Alan had reported to Steve Goodall that this signpost was pointing in random directions, but it now appears to have been fixed.

d) Stiles Alan reported that he had requested a grant from HCC towards the purchase of stile kits. He then reported that some affected farmers had subsequently decided against seeking our assistance and that they would instead repair the stiles themselves. Alan further reported that he had just heard from HCC that our request had been turned down since they wished to encourage their replacement with kissing gates. We had previously strongly objected to this, so Alan was actioned to write to Cllr Tom Thacker expressing our opinion on the value of stiles in our parish. **Alan**

5. Telephones/Broadband

Alan reported that he had heard of some progress from Cllr John Izett. An analysis had been made of those post codes within his ward where broadband performance was very poor or non-existent. He provided a graph showing this together with the expected performance with roll-out of VDSL – a great improvement with speeds to 8Mb/s or higher – and the number of properties against each of those postcodes. We await feedback on when we might expect this improvement to be implemented in our parish!

6. War Memorial

Alan reported that he had sought quotations for cleaning our memorial and proposed to proceed with one for £900 + VAT. Alan was actioned to seek a 50% grant from the War Memorials Trust. Alan proposed to **Alan**

raise funds from villagers to cover the balance and was encouraged to have received a number of offers already. Once cleaning is complete, we will be able to establish whether further restoration of the names engraved is required and seek quotations and a further grant for this.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch.** Nothing to report.

8. **Council Plans**

a) **Parish co-operation** Alan reported that he had attended a meeting with the chairmen of East Woodhay and Highclere Parish Councils and our borough councillors. Discussions included Penwood Village Hall, Disaster Recovery, War Memorials, Localism and Village Design Statements.

b) **Localism** Alan reported that Cllr Mitchell planned to call a meeting to discuss the impact of the government's Localism proposals once these become clearer. We will be represented by Kieron.

c) **Emergency planning** Alan reported that a plan covering local parishes had been compiled, including inputs for Ashmansworth. This is now being shown to BDBC and once they are content, we will have a chance to vet the final version.

d) **Local Transport** We had been led to expect that the bus service along the A343, including that which goes through Ashmansworth, was in danger of been terminated, but we have heard no more on this since.

e) **Mobile Library** The new service seems to be working but the timing is unsuitable for school age children during term time. This is probably inevitable, but Alan will discuss this with Cllr Thacker.

Alan

f) **LDF** We had been requested some time ago for a comment on the proposed Local Development Framework, which covers planning for further housing development. Due to this request arriving just after our meeting, Alan gave a personal reply and we were requested to endorse this as representing the council. This was agreed and Alan was actioned to report this.

Alan

Agreed text: "Since we are a conservation village, we have had no green fields development, as opposed to conversions, for about 40 years and I detect no pressure to change this. There is a notable reluctance for change and we all love our beautiful villages (we cover Ashmansworth and Crux Easton) as they are – I am surprised at some even speaking against improvements to poor standard buildings. I accept that it can be difficult especially for the children of local farm working families to obtain housing within the village – there has been a history of what were previously a row of mean cottages to become a single residence for an elderly couple! However, there are only a few agricultural jobs in the village now and it is much easier to find starter homes locally eg in Woolton Hill or Thatcham."

g) **VDS** Alan reported that he had received information on preparing a **Village Design Statement**, but that this was very lengthy so he planned to prepare a summary for consideration at a future meeting.

Alan

9. **BDAPTC, HALC**

Alan reported that he attended the recent AGM of HALC. The key issue was that Hampshire County Council have reduced their grant to HALC as part of their cost cutting so we approved a small increase in

subscription for next year – for Ashmansworth an increase of £10 to £120.

10. Finance Matters

a. Budget We examined and approved a proposed budget prepared by Alan. We approved a request to BDBC for an unchanged grant of £1100 and Precept of £1500 for 2012/13. Ruth was actioned to report this to BDBC. **Ruth**

b. Annual Audit Now we have our audit for 2010/11 approved, we actioned Ruth to publicise this according to the required procedure. **Ruth**

c. Invoice for payment We approved a cheque no 100481 for £60 payable to the Audit Commission.

11. Correspondence received

We received confirmation from BDBC that a proposal for trimming trees at The Old Cottage, Ashmansworth had been approved.

12. Dates of Next Meeting

Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The **Meeting** closed at 9.20pm