

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: February 7th, 2012

Time: 7.30 pm

Place: Village Hall

Present: Alan Cox (Chairman)

Councillors: Mark Benzing

Kieron Black

Johnnie Johnson

Action

1. Apologies

Carol O'Shaughnessy, Ruth Kent (Clerk). We were delighted to learn that Ruth was now home from hospital and making a good recovery

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of December 20th 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Planning Matters

a) Red Roses Garage, Ashmansworth

Still awaiting a decision by BDBC – now on third case officer!

b) Wood House, Crux Easton

This application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

c) Steeles Farm, Ashmansworth

This application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

4. Local Roads

a) A343

Alan reported that he continued to be concerned at the level of large lorries using the A343 in preference to the A34/A303 and this was confirmed by councillors. He indicated that he is trying to gain support for having the road downgraded to B status and is lobbying HCC and affected parish councils. This approach was endorsed. Alan will prepare a draft to show our councillors before sending it to the other councils.

Alan

b) Footpaths

We had been invited by HCC to update the list of priority vegetation cutting on our Public Rights of Way. While we supported some, we felt that others should be added or removed from the list. Alan reported the details to HCC as requested.

c) Verges

Alan has received a complaint about vehicles driving over verges. We discussed this and reiterated our previous advice, recognising the rural nature of our village with its narrow roads, but requesting drivers to be careful, while avoiding parking on the highway. We were also unhappy

at flints and similar obstructions forming a hazard to vehicles.

5. Telephones/Broadband

We have been advised of a Rural Community Broadband Fund Information Event at Winchester on 17th February, which Alan will attend. We are very keen to see an improvement in our extremely poor broadband service. We also invite all villages to register our support for this at www.hants.gov.uk/broadband-signup.

Alan

6. War Memorial

As approved at our last meeting, Alan has launched an appeal to pay for cleaning our memorial. We are pleased to report that we have now reached our target of just under £500, including donations from Australia and the USA! Although the work requires the better weather expected in the Spring, we should place an order with the company now. Once cleaning is complete, we will be able to establish whether further restoration of the names engraved is required and seek quotations and possibly a grant for this. Alan has requested Ruth to write acknowledging and thanking all the donors. There will be no net cost to the council, but they will be able to reclaim the VAT element.

**Alan
Ruth**

7. Neighbourhood Watch. Nothing to report.

8. Council Plans

a) Parish co-operation

Alan reported that he would have further discussions with the chairmen of East Woodhay and Highclere Parish Councils on February 8th.

Alan

Alan has posted the details of the local Heating Oil co-operative on the Calendar and a number of residents have joined this.

b) Diamond Jubilee

Alan reported on an initial meeting held on February 6th to examine how Ashmansworth should celebrate this event. It is proposed to hold a Big Lunch, possibly to light a beacon and to give commemorative mugs to all our children. There will be a further meeting to plan this on March 7th. We discussed the possibility of making a small donation (£50?) towards these celebrations. We supported this in principle, but would make the formal decision in the new financial year.

c) Localism

We still await Cllr Mitchell planned meeting to discuss the impact of the government's Localism proposals once these become clearer. We will be represented by Kieron.

d) Planning Guidelines

Mark reported that he is studying planning aspects with an aim to prepare a list of guidelines to aid our decision making on planning. We discussed how he might progress this by meeting other local councillors

**Mark
ongoing**

e) 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
ongoing**

f) Emergency planning

The plan covering local parishes had now been completed, including inputs for Ashmansworth. Copies have been posted in the village hall and issued to Councillors (by Alan)

9. BDAPTC, HALC

Nothing to report.

10. Finance Matters

- a. Budget** Ruth provided a financial report on our expenditure and balance to date. This will be studied and commented to the council, but is believed to be in line with our approved budget. **Alan**
- b. Annual Audit** Alan published the required notice reporting that our audit for 2010/11 has been approved, and that copies may be obtained from him by email or, for a small fee, on paper. No such requests have been received.
- c. Donation** We received a letter from the Village Hall Treasurer requesting a donation towards their appeal to update the kitchen. We strongly supported this. Alan will study what we can afford and propose approval at our next meeting – hopefully around £700. **Alan**
- d. Invoice** Alan counter-signed a cheque payable to Ned Christian for grass cutting, as approved at our last meeting. Cheque no. 100482 for £288.00.

11. Correspondence received

Information on a proposal to trim and remove some trees at Ashmansworth Manor. No objection.

It was reported that Clere school had been put into special measures.

12. Dates of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The **Meeting** closed at 9.00pm