

## **ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**

**Date:** March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Place:** Village Hall

**Present:** Alan Cox (Chairman)

Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mark Benzing

Kieron Black

Johnnie Johnson

#### **Action**

#### **1. Apologies**

Ruth Kent (Clerk). We were delighted to learn that Ruth was making a good recovery and hope she will be able to attend our next meeting.

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

Minutes of the meeting of February 7<sup>th</sup> were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

##### **a) Red Roses Garage, Ashmansworth**

Withdrawn by applicant

##### **b) Steeles Farm, Ashmansworth**

This is a new listed building application for a replacement porch. We had agreed by correspondence to indicate our support for this and Ruth has reported this to BDBC.

##### **c) Cox's Cottage, Crux Easton**

This is a new application for a single story extension. We had agreed by correspondence to indicate that we had no objection to this and Ruth has reported this to BDBC.

##### **d) Faccombe Party License Application**

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, we learned of an application for a large party at Faccombe Estate. We were especially concerned about not having been consulted earlier and the potential impact on our roads, so an open meeting was called for March 16<sup>th</sup>. About 20 villagers were joined by the organisers and we expressed our concerns. As a result, they have now scaled down their application and have now applied for a series of temporary licences. We are expecting to receive revised details shortly and Alan will forward this to the council. If there are any unexpected developments, Alan will consult the council again.

**Alan**

#### **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.

Continued concern was expressed about the dangers of poor visibility at the Cross Lane/A343 junction. Alan was actioned to chase HCC.

**Alan**

**b)  
Footpaths**

Alan reported on a meeting on the Countryside Access Plan he attended this morning led by the North Hampshire team. It covered a number of aspects relating to footpaths, bridleways etc., especially for repairing and enhancing them.

We received a request from the Ramblers' Association to appoint a footpaths' contact. Johnnie volunteered to take on this role. Alan will pass on this contact.

**Johnnie  
Alan**

**c) Litter**

We discussed our concern at increasing levels of litter - two large bags of empty beer cans and other rubbish were collected on a recent walk between the village and Wychpits. It was agreed that Alan would submit the following text for inclusion in the next Calendar:

**Alan**

"We have received increasing reports of rubbish being discarded, presumably by passing cars, especially between Ashmansworth and the Yew Tree. A large part of this is empty cans of strong drink, which suggests that it is not just ordinary accidental litter. We are very keen to stop this disfiguring our beautiful countryside and are very grateful to residents who have kindly collected some of it. If you know the source or can catch the number plates of offenders, that would be a good start towards controlling this. We are thinking about creating a rota for picking up litter – would volunteers please notify Alan Cox by email or on 250904."

**5.**

**Broadband**

Alan reported that he attended a Rural Community Broadband Fund Information Event at Winchester on 17<sup>th</sup> February. We are very keen to see an improvement in our extremely poor broadband service. We are concerned at the slow progress since then and Alan has requested John Izett to arrange a meeting with key experts.

**John  
Izett**

**6.**

**War Memorial**

Alan is making contact with our proposed contractor to arrange the steam cleaning as approved.

**Alan**

**7.**

**Neighbourhood Watch.** Nothing to report.

**8.**

**Council Plans**

**a) Parish co-operation**

Alan reported that he had further discussions with the chairmen of East Woodhay and Highclere Parish Councils on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The main new topic was concerns about the Clere school being placed in special measures.

**b) Diamond Jubilee**

Alan reported on meetings held to examine how Ashmansworth should celebrate this event. It is proposed to hold a Big Lunch, to give commemorative mugs to all our children and possibly to light a beacon. Alan reported that he had received anonymous donations totalling £200

towards this celebration and passed the money, via Carol, to Ruth.

**c) Grass Cutting**

We agreed for the whole of the recreation ground's grass to be cut, at least until early June, to allow the jubilee party sufficient space. If it is too long to be cut by mower, Kieron has offered to use his topper. Ruth to check with Ned Christian.

**Ruth**

There was also concern at the apparent discrepancy regarding invoices for grass cutting. Ruth will sort this with Ned Christian.

**Ruth**

**d) Localism**

We still await Cllr Mitchell's planned meeting to discuss the impact of the government's Localism proposals once these become clearer. We will be represented by Kieron. It is likely that today's announcement by the government on local planning will impact this.

**e) Planning Guidelines**

Mark reported that in his study on planning aspects with an aim to prepare a list of guidelines to aid our decision making on planning, he has received some information from St Mary Bourne. Again, it is likely that today's announcement by the government on local planning will impact this. We also noted with support the new guidelines on planning for gypsy sites. We plan to invite the conservation officer to attend a future meeting to provide guidance on planning 'rules' in the conservation area.

**Mark ongoing**

**f) 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**

**9. BDAPTC, HALC - Nothing to report.**

**10. Finance Matters**

**a. Budget**

Ruth had earlier provided a financial report on our expenditure and balance to date. Alan has studied this and it is believed to be in line with our approved budget, with the exception of the apparent discrepancy over grass cutting.

**Ruth**

**b. Donation request**

We received a letter from the Village Hall Treasurer requesting a donation towards their appeal to update the kitchen. We strongly supported this and approved a cheque no 100483 for £700.

**Alan**

**c. Invoice**

We received an invoice for use of the village hall for our meetings since February 2011 for £73 and approved a cheque no 100484.

**11. Correspondence received**

Request for appointing a footpaths liaison from the ramblers Association, as above.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

We confirmed that we will hold our Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, followed by a short regular meeting of the council.

The **Meeting** closed at 9.00pm