

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 8th January 2013 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Mark Benzing Kieron Black
 Johnnie Johnson
In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk)
Visitors: None

Action

1. Apologies

No apologies received.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2012 were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Planning Matters

a) Hallam, Ashmansworth [BDB/76994](#)

GRANTED

b) Wood House, Crux Easton [BDB/76974](#)

GRANTED

c) Red Roses Garage, Ashmansworth [BDB/76963](#) [BDB/76964](#)

Withdrawn by applicant

d) Mere Cottage, Ashmansworth - T/01249/12/TCA

No objections received – BDBC have authorised this.

4. Local Roads

a) A343

Cllr Cox has written to Steve Goodall at HCC, again outlining the council's concerns. He noted that the council's request for a lower speed limit and more white lines has been turned down, and that the council may want to protest about this later. HCC have agreed to cut back the bank. Also reported two large potholes – these are now being addressed. Cllr Cox is awaiting a response to the other issues. Clerk to chase about the bank being cut back at the bottom of Cross Lane. Cllr Cox noted that the road from the Yew Tree has been closed twice recently due to fallen branches across the road. Clerk to include this in contact with HCC.

Clerk

**b) Signpost/
ditches**

Cllr Cox has written again to Steve Goodall of HCC, about the broken signpost at Crux Easton. He did not include the ditches just above Crux Easton as it was felt that this should be dealt with separately. The complaint will be about the torrent that flows down the road at the entrance to the village and flows into some properties after heavy rain. Clerk to write to Steve Goodall.

Clerk

5. Telephones/Broadband

No progress. Response unlikely until spring 2013.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

No report.

7. Council Business

a) Clerks Report

The clerk noted the receipt of a thank you card from Ruth Kent. Cllr Cox read out the card.

The clerk has heard further from HALC about the necessity for a VAT dispensation in order to sell advertising space on the website. The advice given is that, whilst it is technically necessary, given the numbers involved and the length of time it would take to gain a dispensation the council do not need to apply for one. Agreed unanimously.

The clerk reported that HCC are holding a public consultation on planning for safe and well maintained highways in Hampshire. Cllr Cox said that this may be a good forum to suggest making the A343 a B road, and that if several parishes in the area respond in a similar fashion, it would add weight to the suggestion. The council supported Cllr Cox's comment. He will contact neighbouring parishes, and put together a formal response.

Cllr Cox

b) Website

This is now fully operational and fully hosted by Vision ICT. The only area that needs further work is the section for local traders. Cllr Cox noted that traders who have worked on the village hall will be offered space for free. He will follow this up in the early spring.

Cllr Cox

c) Tree by Village Hall

HCC have written to the council requesting that the dead tree by the Village Hall is removed. The Village Hall committee are planning to fell the tree in the next few days. Clerk to respond to the letter, thanking them for their concerns, and pointing out that it is not the responsibility of the parish council, but that the tree has now been dealt with.

Clerk

d) Grass Cutting

The council discussed the draft tender document for the 2013 season. Deferred until February meeting. Cllr Black to copy and scan further documentation to aid the discussion. Cllr Black also noted that public liability insurance must be a stipulation in the tender document. Cllr Cox noted the timescales, and stated that the final document must be agreed at the next meeting. Clerk to co-ordinate comments and draft a new tender document.

Clerk

e) Parish co-operation

There have been no formal meetings, although Cllr Cox has had correspondence with other chairs of neighbouring councils. The emergency plan has had some minor updates. Clerk to upload to website.

Clerk

f) Planning Guidelines

Cllr Benzing updated the Council. He has further updated the draft planning document for the parish. He now needs comments on the document from other councillors. The clerk will eventually take on ownership of document to facilitate version control. Cllr Benzing would like the guidelines finalised by the end of January, and it was agreed that councillors would finalise the document via email, ready for formal agreement at the February meeting. It was agreed to send a copy to Cllr Mitchell of BDBC for comment. There was some discussion on the council approach to solar panels and wind turbines, which Cllr Benzing will incorporate into the guidelines.

Cllr Benzing

g) Village Design Statement

Deferred until a future meeting.

8. BDAPTC, HALC

Cllr Cox updated the council. He noted that he has taken over as webmaster for the BDAPTC website, which is now being hosted by Vision ICT.

Mayor's Reception – Cllr Cox is unable to attend this event as he is on holiday. Clerk to reply that Ashmansworth PC is unable to attend.

Clerk

Lengthsman scheme – this is proceeding with 9 parishes interested, including Ashmansworth.

9. Finance Matters

The clerk noted that the bank mandate is still not complete, as Cllr Benzing has only just completed his part. This is due to mis-information on the part of HSBC.

a) Precept & Budget

The clerk confirmed that all necessary dispensations have now been granted. The clerk updated the council on the current position regarding the tax base. The figures sent out by BDBC before Christmas are roughly correct, although this has not yet been officially confirmed. Given that the difference in the tax base for Ashmansworth is only minimally different from last year, the clerk recommended leaving the precept decision as per the decision made in November 2012, with a precept request of £3000 for 2013/14. She also noted that BDBC have confirmed that parish council precepts will not be capped for 2013/14. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

b) Payments Approval

Please see appendix A for the financial statement. Unanimously approved. The clerk noted that she is not expecting much more in the way of payments for the remainder of the tax year, aside from her salary and expenses. She also noted that the VAT claim has yet to be paid. Unanimously approved.

10. Date of Next Meetings

Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 7.30pm, Ashmansworth Village Hall

Tuesday 26th March 2013 at 7.30pm, Ashmansworth Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.18pm. Cllr Cox thanked the councillors for a productive, busy meeting.

Appendix A – Financial Statement

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 08/01/2013

Total all balances :

Balances at date : 28/12/2012

Current
647.47

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100496	Staples	Stationery	34.97
100497	AuditCommission	External Audit	90.00
100498	VisionICT	Website Fees	510.00
100500	Ruth Kent	Clerk Salary	300.00
100501	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary	92.09
100502	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary	92.09
TOTAL			1,119.15

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100504	SLCC	Membership	25.40
100505	E M Christian	Grass Cutting	98.00
100506	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary	92.09
100507	HMRC	Tax/NICS	69.00
100508	Vision ICT	Domain Fee	66.00
TOTAL			350.49

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
03/01/2013	BDBC	Grant for Website	375.00
TOTAL			375.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100499	Crux Easton Church	Hire for Meetings	35.00
100503	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary	92.09
TOTAL			127.09