

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 22nd July 2014 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Andrew Bays
In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk) Mark Benzing (part time)
Apologies: Cllr Sarah Wheeler Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)

Action

1. Apologies

As above

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 15th May and 4th June (AGM) were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Hallam – decision still awaited.

Plough Cottage – granted.

b) Further applications received

14/02076/HSE - Red Roses Cross Lane, Ashmansworth

Modification of existing property to roof to include first floor accommodation with dormer windows and roof lights. Erection of a two storey front/side/rear extension and rear balcony. Erection of attached garage/store to side/rear elevation. Erection of front porch

Mark Benzing went over the plans on behalf of the neighbouring property owners. He observed that the new owner has consulted extensively with neighbours, who now have no major objections to the new plans. Mark noted that plans are at early stage and materials for finishing have not yet been put forward, and that full measurements are not in place (they should be available in the next week or so). Mark also noted his concern about the big windows at the back – he feels that this should not be a big sheet of glass, but broken up by mullions as necessary (this would be more in keeping with the rest of the village. He felt that window frames should be painted white rather than brown. Cllr Cox asked if the footprint is increasing – Mark believes that the new plans are within the previously approved footprint. The proposed plans do not have a major impact on the distant view from the road, although it is reduced slightly. There is no height increase from the existing building.

Clerk to contact BDBC planning asking for more information when available. No objections unanimously agreed in principle, pending further information on measurements, materials and finishes. The Parish Council is keen to enhance the Conservation Area, and feels that the current building does not fit very well with this. Therefore, the proposed plans should enhance the building to fit better with the CA. Final decision by email. Unanimously agreed.

Clerk

4. Local Roads

a) A343 Issues – Cross Lane junction – Mark Benzing complained that the junction is still a problem, with work needing to be done to tidy the junction up to make it safer. Cllr Cox noted that improving the sightlines and white

lines and speed limit would make the junction easier for HGVs, who the Council are trying to discourage from using the Yew Tree junction. Cllr Cox noted that pressure needs to be put on HCC via Tom Thacker. It was strongly felt by the Council that double white lines at the Cross Lane junction would be an important step forward. Full proposals from the Parish Council are:

- sight lines to be widened further in both directions on Cross Lane side of A343
- double white lines to be extended about 100 metres past junction
- speed limit of 50mph to be implemented

Yew Tree junction – the sight lines are not good. A copy of Ashmansworth's AGM report was sent to Highclere and East Woodhay Councils. Highclere are keen to extend the 30mph limit all the way out to the Yew Tree. Cllr Cox suggested instead a 50mph limit from the present 40mph at Highclere to the Cross Lane junction. This proposal has support from residents in the area.

Tom Thacker to be contacted about both issues, with copies to Borough Councillors. Cllr Cox to action.

Cllr Cox

Woodcote Crossroads traffic priority – Cllr Cox noted that the turn coming from Whitchurch is very blind – Cllr O'Shaughnessy observed that the priority used to be going towards Whitchurch, and not to Egbury. It was suggested that the priorities be restored as they were - unanimously agreed. Clerk/Cllr Cox to contact HCC Highways and Cllr Thacker.

**Clerk/Cllr
Cox**

- b) Potholes/Road Repairs – Some minor repairs are required. Cllr Black noted the potholes 150 metres south of Wychpits. Clerk to report to HCC.

Clerk to add link to HCC highways website to the PC website.

**Clerk
Clerk**

- c) Speeding in Ashmansworth Village – no further issues at present. A small sign has been erected.

5. **Telephones/Broadband**

No further progress. Highclere to be upgraded in the 6 month period from September 2014 – Ashmansworth may be upgraded after that. Issue to be revisited in the autumn.

Cllr Cox has notified residents that 4G mobile data is now available in the parish.

6. **Neighbourhood Watch**

The Old Chapel has had some garden furniture taken.

7. **Council Business**

- a) Clerk's report

Very quiet since AGM. All Register of Member Interest Forms have been received and filed with BDBC.

- b) Stiles on Footpaths – Stiles on footpaths 2 and 5 are in urgent need of maintenance as they are now unsafe. There was some discussion on which stiles needs maintenance between the Fisher's and the Black's land and what the ownership is. This needs to be clarified. The lengthsman could possibly do these – clerk to check if this is possible. Cllr Cox to talk to Fishers. Also need to check with HCC.

**Clerk
Cllr Cox**

Cllr Cox has been trying to obtain an electronic copy of the footpaths map for the whole parish (rather than split into three as it currently is). He has obtained a contact from the Paths to Partnership workshop he attended in June and has chased this.

- c) Recreation Ground Access – Flower show is on 2nd August. Clerk has been liaising with Wolfendens re grass cutting. Cllr Black to cut grass in the other half of the field prior to the flower show.

Cllr Black

- Improved facilities for children – there have been no proposals

received from residents thus far. Cllr Black suggested mobile goal posts – however, the Council would need to be careful about maintenance and storage.

- Cllr Cox noted that feedback is needed from residents with children.
- Cllr Black noted that the hedging that was planted last year has been damaged by footballs being kicked against it – Cllr Cox to make enquiries.
- Cllr Cox noted that track into ground is not level – Cllr Black will try to improve the situation – he will check with Faccombe Estate first.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Black

d) Parish Lengthsman – the Clerk updated the Council.

Nothing to report. No further suggestions for work have been received. Work list to be prioritised and orders sent to St Mary Bourne PC. Cllr Cox and Clerk to action.

**Cllr Cox
Clerk**

Crux Easton phone box – Cllr O’Shaughnessy presented the quote she has received for refurbishing the phone box, which will cost approximately £800. She noted that it does need professional specialist attention. Cllr Cox asked what the box would be used for once it is refurbished – if it has a specific use, then the full refurbishment can be justified. The clerk pointed out that grant funding may be available for refurbishment if a specific usage is proposed. History of Crux Easton was suggested. Cllr O’Shaughnessy to consult with residents and return to council with proposals. Clerk to investigate possible grants.

**Cllr
O’Shaughnessy
Clerk**

f) Parish Co-operation – nothing to report.

8. BDAPTC/HALC – nothing to report.

9. Financial Matters

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix A). She noted the receipt from HMRC for last year’s VAT claim. All payments are in line with what is expected, and include the payroll for August. Unanimously agreed to authorise. Clerk to process.

Clerk

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th September. Cllr Cox thanked councillors for a very productive meeting.

Appendix A - Finance

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 22/07/2014

Balances:

Statement No: 350 (28/06/2014) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 22/07/2014
£2,974.89	2,226.53

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100553	HALC	Affiliation Fees	105.20
100554	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - April	96.48
100555	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - May	96.48
100556	Broker Network Ltd	Council Insurance 2014/15	272.95
100557	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - April	78.00
100558	Staples	Stationery	39.36
100559	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal Audit fee	155.00
100560	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Hall Hire - 2013/14	126.00
TOTAL			969.47

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100561	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - June	96.28
100562	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - July	77.08
100563	HMRC	Tax/Nics Q1 2014/15	72.20
100564	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's expenses	60.12
100565	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - May	117.00
100566	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - June	78.00
100567	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - July	117.00
100568	GLEAM	Annual Membership	15.00
100569	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Aug	115.68
TOTAL			748.36

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
19/06/2014	HMRC	VAT repayment 2013/14	177.61
TOTAL			177.61

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00