

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 16th December 2014 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Cllr Andrew Bays
In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk) Jonty Gethin (part time)
Apologies: Cllr Sarah Wheeler Cllr Tom Thacker (County)
Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough) Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy
Vic Gethin

1. Apologies

As above

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 29th October 2014 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Steeles Farm – pending. Legal issues are still ongoing

Crux Easton House – granted

Thurston cottage – granted

Church Farm - refused

b) Further applications received

None

4. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report –the Clerk and the Chairman have facilitated a meeting between concerned residents and staff at BDBC re the Ashmansworth bus service. The current service for Ashmansworth will cease in the new year. BDBC have agreed to look at replacing it with a scheduled taxi service, and have gone out to tender. Further news is awaited.

East Woodhay Road Pond – the Chairman has been in touch with Mark Benzing with regards to a write up for the website, but has not had a reply to date. It was noted that the pond could do with clearing out, and that this could be covered by the Parish Lengthsman if necessary. He already has a mini digger hired for the weekend of 20th December for other work in the Parish, and may be able to do work on the pond if necessary. It was agreed that pruning and sludge removal as necessary could be carried out. Clerk to contact Lengthsman to organise.

Clerk

b) Recreation Ground/play facilities – Jonty Gethin gave an update in Vic Gethin's absence. The FA recommendation for goalposts for a pitch the size of our recreation ground is 12' by 6' (mini soccer goals). This is smaller than originally proposed. The three options open to the Council are:

1. Stick with 21' x 7' which will be over-sized for the size of the pitch
2. Go for the recommended smaller socketed goalposts of 12' x 6' which will be in proportion for the size of the pitch. These will be fixed, but removable if needed, eg for the flower show. Cost around £780.
3. Go for a compromise of 16' x 7' goals

- After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Bays and seconded by Cllr Black to select option 2. This was unanimously agreed. Vic Gethin to progress. **Vic Gethin**
- Cllr Cox further noted that Cllr Thacker may be able to provide some match funding for the goalposts – Vic Gethin and Clerk to liaise on applying for a HCC grant. **Vic Gethin / Clerk**
- Cllr Cox thanked Vic Gethin for her efforts on the project. **Cllr Black**
- Cllr Black noted the grass will need to be cut more often, and will therefore cost more. Cllr Black to speak with Alan Wolfenden with regards to cost of grass cutting. **Cllr Bays / Clerk**
- Cllr Bays/Clerk to write to Faccombe to confirm arrangements once finalised.
- c) Footpaths – Cllr Cox declared an interest in this item and handed the Chair of the meeting to Cllr Black.
- Footpath 3 – Cllr Black reported that he had hosted a site visit by Esther Smeardon, from the Hampshire Countryside Access Team. Cllr Black has met with Gerry Winston from Upper Church Farm re re-routing the path, who does not want the path re-routed through Upper Church Farm, as suggested by Ms Smeardon. Cllr Black to go back to Richard Skilbeck and HCC for further discussion; however, there is now not a great deal that can be done. Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Black for his efforts. **Cllr Black**
- Priority cutting list – HCC have issued the list for review, which includes hedge cutting for just two footpaths in Ashmansworth, paths 3 and 17, in August. It was unanimously agreed to make no changes.
- d) Crux Easton phone box – Clerk still to contact Lengthsman re painting the phone box if paint is supplied. Postponed to next meeting. **Clerk**
- e) Update on Lengthsman Scheme – the Clerk noted that the Lengthsman has hired a mini digger to properly address the ditching at Crux Easton. This will be carried out during the weekend of 20th December. There will be a charge of £200 for the digger, but as the Lengthsman plans to do some work at St Mary Bourne over the weekend, the cost will be shared by the two councils.
- The Clerk further noted that Ashmansworth PC have a balance of £480 in the Lengthsman budget to year end. The clerk at St Mary Bourne has urged all member councils to use as much of their budget as possible before year end, as it needs to be demonstrated that the parishes are making full use of the budget available. Therefore, more thought needs to be given to possible tasks around the parish. Suggestions include:
- The stile opposite Steeles Farm is still incomplete – do they need further materials?
 - Milestone on the A343 ½mile north east of Doiley Bottom to be checked, cleaned and tidied.
 - Layby opposite The Plough needs growth cutting back.
- The Lengthsman budget for 2015/16 remains at the same level overall, although HCC are attempting to bring more parishes into the scheme. Derek Kane is resisting any attempt to reduce the spend per council, hence the need to use as much of this year's allocated spend as possible. For 2016/17 and beyond HCC will be reviewing the Lengthsman model with a view to giving weighting on the grant based on length of highway with each parish.
- f) Community Emergency Plan – the Clerk noted that she has attended a recent HCC parish engagement event, which focussed on community resilience after severe weather events. She noted that community emergency plans need to be reviewed yearly. Cllr Cox stated that he has been in touch with East Woodhay and Highclere PC to review their parts of the joint plan for the area.

g) CIL Draft Charging Schedule – the clerk noted receipt of this consultation, which further expands on the consultation carried out earlier in the year. She noted that this is likely to have little impact on Ashmansworth as there are no plans for medium to large scale development for the Parish. The deadline for comments is 19th December. It was agreed that the PC had no further comments.

h) Parish Co-operation – Cllr Cox has been in touch with the Chair at Highclere Parish Council with regards to the replacement salt bin on Zell Hill.

5. Local Roads

a) A343 – Access/White Lines/HGC signs – Cllr Cox has been in contact with Cllr Tom Thacker, who is chasing further.

b) Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox has been in touch with HCC Highways about various potholes in the parish. Steve Goodall is processing these.

The section of road between Zell Farm and the Yew Tree has been passed to Operation Resilience for haunching works and drainage improvements, but these will not be carried out until 2015/16. However, Steve Goodall is aiming for some temporary repairs with tarmac in the near future. He will also ensure that Zell Hill salt bin will be replaced.

6. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Cox has spoken to Glenn Peacey – HCC hope to publish the list for phase 2 of super-fast broadband before Christmas. Glenn is hoping that Ashmansworth will be on this list.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

There has been some activity in the area recently, particularly thefts from cars in Highclere and from property in our parish. There has also been a break in at the Tot Hill services. Police have requested a list of horses and donkeys in the area, so that owners can be traced if they stray.

8. **BDAPTC/HALC** – Cllr Cox has attended a BDAPTC meeting, which focused on policing in the Borough. He noted his satisfaction that police staffing levels are to remain steady locally, and that the police presence at Highclere Castle will remain.

9. Financial Matters

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix a). She noted the following points:

- A bill for grass cutting at the recreation ground for October. This should be the final bill for the year, although there might be one in March if the weather is mild.
- SLCC membership. The fee for this is split across the three councils that the Clerk works for, with Ashmansworth PC paying the smallest percentage. Therefore, the SLCC membership for this year has fallen slightly.
- All other payments are as expected.

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

b) 2015/16 budget – the Clerk presented the budget for 2015/15 (appendix b). She particularly noted that the s.137 spend is well below budget at the present time. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the 2015/16 budget.

c) 2015/16 precept – the Clerk noted the small deficit budget for 2015/16. She also observed that BDBC have kept their Council Tax frozen again for 2015/16. Therefore, she recommended no increase to the precept, particularly as the PC reserve figure is at recommended levels. It was proposed by Cllr Bays and seconded by Cllr Black to keep the precept level at £3000 for 2015/16. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

10. Resolution – to exclude press and public from items that may require discussion of possible legal and financial proceedings i.a.w. Public Meetings – Admission to Public Meetings Act 1960
Cllr Bays proposed and Cllr Black seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed. The public left the meeting.
11. 2014 Local Government Pay Consultation – the Clerk noted that this consultation has now been completed, and a national award for all LG staff has been agreed. The award is for a 2.2% increase on salary from January 2015, with a non-consolidated payment of £100 (pro-rated) to be made in December 2014.
It was unanimously agreed to ratify the national agreement.
12. **Date of next meeting**
The meeting closed at 8.36pm The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February 2015. 25th March is proposed as the March date, however this may need to be changed.

Appendix A - Accounts

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 16/12/2014

Balances:

Statement No: 356 (28/11/2014) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 16/12/2014
£2,891.49	2,563.98

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100570	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Sept	96.48
100571	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Oct	96.28
100572	HMRC	Tax/NICs Q2 2014/15	72.20
100573	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting	78.00
100574	Vision ICT	Domain fee	66.00
100575	Vision ICT	Website hosting	231.60
100576	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - Sept	78.00
100577	Royal British Legion	Wreath & Donation	20.00
100578	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Nov	96.48
TOTAL			835.04

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100579	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Dec	102.79
100580	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerks expenses	60.12
100581	HMRC	Tax/Nics Q3	74.00
100582	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - Oct	78.00
100583	SLCC	Membership	12.60
TOTAL			327.51

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00