

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date:	10th June 2015	Time:	7.30 pm
Place:	Ashmansworth Village Hall		
Present:	Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman)	Cllr Andrew Bays	
Councillors:	Cllr Angela Harris	Cllr Sally Burch	
In Attendance:	Maxta Thomas (Clerk)	2 members of the public	
	Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)	Sadie Owen	
Apologies:	Cllr Kieron Black	Cllr Tom Thacker (County)	

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd April and 20th May were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

BDBC Community Development Officer – Cllr Cox has met with Clive Fortune, who is the new post holder. Cllr Cox briefed him on Ashmansworth Parish. There does not appear to be much synergy, but Clive offered to help with items such as finding grants for the Village Hall.

Website – Cllr Cox is still awaiting input from residents for the Local Directory. This will be followed up over the summer months. Note to go into Parish Magazine to remind residents.

Cllr Cox

Ash Trees update – Ginny Bond gave an update. Prue Lane Fox called a meeting last Saturday of interested parties. This weekend they are going to plan what species and how many trees will be required, and then a tree party is planned for the autumn. Not just to replace ash trees, but to create diversity with smaller trees as well. Facombe Estate will also be consulted. Planting day is 7th November.

4. Appointment of new Clerk

Cllr Cox, Cllr Burch and the Clerk have interviewed for the new Clerk, and have offered the post to Sadie Owen, subject to ratification from the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Burch to formally approve the appointment, and was unanimously agreed.

Maxta Thomas will formally hand over to Sadie on Friday 12th June.

Cllr Cox formally welcomed Sadie to the Parish, and thanked Maxta Thomas for her work over the last two and half years.

5. Planning

a) T/00168/15/TCA – Beech Tree Cottage

Notice of Intent to Beech tree – reduce lower branch growing towards house by 2-3m leaving approximately 6-7m and raise canopy to 4m, cuts to be no greater than 75mm

No objections unanimously agreed.

b) Update on previous applications

The application for The Plough has been approved.

The application for Wood House is still pending. Awaiting tree survey and bat survey.

c) Further applications received

None.

d) Consultation – Local Plan amendments

The Clerk noted receipt of the recent consultation from BDBC. The closing date for comment is 22nd June. Details have been distributed to councillors.

Councillors noted that the amendments have little impact on Ashmansworth. No further comments unanimously agreed.

6. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report – nothing to report.

b) Footpaths – the owners of Wood Cottage have been in touch with Cllr Cox with proposals to re-route the footpath at the property. Mr Lynas gave background and current route of footpath. They have formally approached HCC about re-routing the path. The proposed route has been circulated to all councillors. Will provide a better, wider more open path, slightly closer to Wayfarers Walk. However, distance from Crux Easton would be slightly further. News signage would be provided as required. Spoken to locals, who are mostly supportive of the proposal. It was unanimously agreed to support the proposals. The owners will be going through the formal process for re-route the path, which will include a public consultation.

Two stiles are in need of repair, one behind Steeles Farm, and the other at the north end of Sidley Wood. Cllr Burch updated – Steeles Farm is done. Cllr Cox expressed gratitude to the Fishers on behalf of the council. Cllr Burch also contacted Faccombe estate re Sidley Wood stile – they will action in due course.

c) Electoral Review of Hampshire – the Clerk noted receipt of this consultation from the Boundaries Commission. Details have been distributed to councillors. The deadline for comments is 3rd August. The review is of the HCC wards. Councillors noted the consultation – no comments.

d) Recreation Ground update – inaugural football match was very successful, and very well attended.

Still issues with grass cutting and clippings not being collected. It was noted that the contract is due for renewal towards the end of the year. An invoice has been submitted for an extra cut and collection of clippings. The situation is being monitored by Cllr Black.

e) Crux Easton phone box – Cllr Harris has made enquiries in Crux Easton for suggestions for use of the phone box. All residents agree that it looks good, however, it is hard to justify spending a lot of money on it without a sensible use for it. It cannot be re-instated as a working phone box. Possible use as a history information point for the wind engine and the surrounding area. Pledge of a donation to cover half cost of renovation – other funding may be available. Quotes from other companies to be obtained. Other funding streams also to be investigated.

Cllr Harris

f) Lengthsman update – funding has not yet been received from HCC, although it is expected very soon.

Clerk

Cllr Cox noted that the Japanese Knotweed on Zell Hill is becoming much more prevalent. Clerk to check with Lengthsman on whether he is able to spray against this – spray certificate (note that this is Highclere, and may well fall under HCC Highways). Cllr Burch noted that eradication of Japanese Knotweed is a major task and needs to be tackled professionally. Ownership of the land needs to be established. Cllr Cox to contact the landowner, Chair at Highclere and HCC Highways.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Burch to check the stile worked on last year opposite Steeles Farm to

see if further work needs to be done.

Cllr Burch

Round seat on green opposite The Plough in need of repair – clerk to obtain quote from Lengthsman for materials.

Cllr Harris to check Crux Easton and report back to next meeting.

Cllr Harris

Kerbing opposite the Plough – kerb stones are defective. Check whether Lengthsman can do the work – may need to be Highways.

Clerk

- g)** Parish Co-operation – Cllr Cox noted that the incoming Clerk is also Clerk at East Woodhay Parish Council. This will assist in parish co-operation.

Some communication with Highclere about Highways.

Noted gap in hedge at back of Yew Tree – may be a planned access for extra parking; however, no planning application. Cllr Falconer noted that a complaint has been raised to BDBC enforcement about the new beer garden at the Yew Tree. He will also email re car parking issues. Also rose growing up Yew Tree sign is obstructing the view onto the road.

6. Local Roads

- a)** A343 – Access//HGV signs – improved signage has been requested on the A343. Sign warning of junction at Yew Tree has now completely disappeared. Cllr Falconer to speak to Cllr Thacker.

Cllr Falconer

‘Unsuitable for HGVs’ notice at Yew Tree is in existence, but is not very obvious. We should request it to be made more visible.

- b)** Potholes/Road Repairs – reported potholes have now been passed to the contractors by HCC Highways. Action is still awaited.

Pothole at Yew Tree junction has now been repaired.

8. Telephones/Broadband

No further progress. A discussion exploring independent alternatives for Crux Easton and outlying properties particularly was held. Further action will be dependent on information being received about the Ashmansworth implementation. Crux Easton’s requirements will be highlighted when Ashmansworth is surveyed.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

- a)** Cllr Cox noted that a Crux Easton representative is still required. Cllr Harris stated that she would be taking on this role. Cllr Cox to confirm to PCSO Carpenter the reps for Ashmansworth and Crux Easton.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Falconer noted that the police still maintain a presence at Highclere Castle, and that the team for the area is mostly based in the area rather than at Tadley.

PCSO Abbey Carpenter has submitted the following report:

This is the crime summary for the month of May 2015 for the parishes of:

Ashmansworth, East Woodhay, Highclere, Burghclere, Newtown, Litchfield, Ecchinswell & Sydmonton and St Mary Bourne & Stoke.

Total Crimes reported - 25

House Burglary - 1

Criminal Damage - 2

Burglary other than a Dwelling - 5

Theft from Vehicles - 3

Theft of a Vehicle -1

Other Theft - 4

The current Neighbourhood Policing Priorities for the Basingstoke and Deane District are...

House Burglary

- We have received one report of a burglary this month, I am not at liberty to discuss the full circumstances however this is not a fully confirmed break at this time.

Non Dwelling Burglaries

- We continue to see a large number of non dwelling burglaries across the area, especially along the border with West Berkshire.
- Thames Valley police are experiencing similar problems and a joint force strategy is in place to target criminals. Patrols are targeted to specific locations, drivers of 4x4 vehicles, those towing trailers and driving work vans should anticipate that they may be stopped by officers patrolling in the area particularly outside of normal working hours.
- The primary targets for thieves are sheds and garages with some business premises also being targeted. Power tools remain the number one stolen item, along with trailers and vehicles including quad bikes, 4x4s and buggies.
- Ensure that your shed is locked and alarmed and please note serial numbers of all items and consider registering these on www.immobilise.com.

Traffic issues

- Officers have been targeting speeders in numerous locations across the rural area. This month PCs have issued 3 tickets on the Ball Hill road for excess speed and one for use of a mobile phone whilst operating a vehicle.
- Speedwatch continues in Woolton Hill and some members of East Woodhay parish have expressed an interest in extending this to Ball Hill, we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in volunteering in this area for one or two hours a month to enable this to happen. 3 volunteers must be present at each deployment.
- If you are concerned about speeding or traffic issues please address this with your local parish council. Parish councils can make us aware of places in need of speed enforcement and these can then be added to our approved list of sites for enforcement. They can also assist in the process of improving traffic calming measures, traffic calming is the responsibility of Hampshire Highways.

Incidents of note

- 04/05/2015 - Burghclere Sports and Social Club - Overnight the Sports and social club was entered by unknown offenders. They stole cash and targeted the cigarette machine. A vehicle used by offenders may have been a Subaru forester. Please call 101 with information quoting 44150149634
- 04/05/2015 - 05/05/2015 - Litchfield - A shed was entered on farm land, a quad bike was stolen from within.
- 08/05/2015 - 10/05/2015 - Lower Wyke - Offenders unknown have forced entry to a works van parked in Lower Wyke, they have carried out an untidy search of the vehicle but nothing appears to have been stolen.
- 13/05/2015 - Theft - Sydmonton - At approximately 12.10 a gardener placed his strimmer against a wall, leaving it unattended whilst using

a mower. An unknown person in a Silver Peugeot 307 or 308 has been seen to watch the area, shortly after a male has appeared from the direction of the Peugeot and stolen the strimmer.

- 14/05/2015 - Highclere - Unknown offender has attempted to drive off with a mini digger in Westridge, by loading it on to a trailer, the offender was driving a 4x4 in blue.

- 20/05/2015 - Burghclere Crime Series

Overnight a Burglary occurred from a garage on Harts Lane, Burghclere. Several power tools were taken from the garage, this is likely to have happened at approximately 03.45.

Several hours later a known male was seen removing items from skips and loading them in to a Blue VW Golf. Officers located the male and searched his vehicle. Unfortunately the officers were unable to confirm any offences at that time and were unable to arrest the male. Following this two more incidents of theft have been reported from the area.

Enquiries are ongoing to gather witness statements and CCTV etc. We would still be interested to hear from anyone with information relating to these incidents. Call 101 and quote 44150169102.

- 31/05/2015 - Unknown offender has stolen two strimmers from a trailer attached to vehicle parked in Echinswell Village hall car park. This occurred between 10:00 and 11:00. If anyone has witnessed this event please contact police and quote 44150183162.

Hampshire constabulary appeals

There are current appeals throughout the force area that may be of interest to you. They are updated regularly. Please take a look via the following link.

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/news-and-appeals/>

If you have any information regarding any of the incidents detailed in this update please contact us either by email or calling 101

If you know someone who is involved in criminal activity, have information relating to crimes that have occurred, but you do not want to call police directly. Then please visit <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or call 0800 555 111. This is a free and anonymous service.

10. **BDAPTC/HALC** – Cllr Cox has attended the recent Chair/Clerks meeting and BDAPTC AGM at BDBC. He has met with the new CEO of BDBC, Mel Barrett. There were presentations on broadband, planning obligations (s.106 and CIL), and local transport. He also noted widespread concern at HALC's possible intention to cease affiliation with NALC.

11. **Financial Matters**

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

- The Clerk's salary is slightly higher than usual as it covers all of May and the first two weeks of June.
- Cllr Black has submitted an invoice of £80 from Andrew Barnes for extra grass cutting at the Recreation Ground (not on the Financial Statement).
- All other payments are as expected.

Clerk

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

It was noted that the bank mandate still needs to be updated – it also needs to include the details of the incoming Clerk. To be completed as soon as possible.

Clerk

- b) Parish Council insurance – the Clerk noted that the PC insurance is now due for payment. The rate is still very competitive, particularly as it now includes cover at no extra cost for the recently installed goalposts. Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Bays seconded accepting the insurance quote for 2015/16. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

The Clerk finally noted that this will be the final year of a three year Long Term Agreement with Came & Co. Therefore, a major review of Council insurance should be completed in the spring of 2016.

- c) Internal Audit – the Clerk confirmed that the Council's internal audit was successfully completed on 2nd June. Only two advisories were noted:

- The staging date has only just been received for pension auto-enrolment. This is 1st May 2017. The Council must ensure that it has a scheme in place by that date, even though it is unlikely to ever have a contributing member.
- The Council is required to comply with the Transparency Code by 1st July 2015. The PC is largely compliant already, but needs to ensure that a copy of the asset register and the agreed budget is published on the website annually.

Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Harris seconded a motion to approve the 2014/15 internal audit. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

The Clerk finally noted that Ashmansworth PC has been selected for an intermediate audit for 2014/15. This consists of several extra questions, and the submission of documentation to support the answers. None of the questions are problematic, and supporting documentation is already in place.

Online banking was considered desirable and our new clerk will examine possibilities.

12. **Date of next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th July at 7.30pm.

Appendix A – Finance

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 10/06/2015

Balances:

Statement No: 363 (28/05/2015) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 10/06/2015
£3,740.40	2,883.21

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100596	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - April	104.08
100597	HALC	HR Subscription Svce	120.00
100598	HALC	Affiliation Fees	132.00
100599	Mr K Black	Walnut Tree	35.00
TOTAL			391.08

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
10-Jun	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary-May/Jun	156.12
10-Jun	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk expenses	60.12
10-Jun	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - April	48.00
10-Jun	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - May	144.00
10-Jun	GLEAM	GLEAM Membership	15.00
10-Jun	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal audit fee	155.00
10-Jun	Broker Network Ltd	PC Insurance	278.95
TOTAL			857.19

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
27/04/2015	BDBC	Council Tax Support Grant	10.00
27/04/2015	BDBC	Limited General Grant	1,100.00
27/04/2015	BDBC	Grass Cutting Grant	270.00
27/04/2015	BDBC	Precept - Apr-Sept	1,500.00
TOTAL			2,880.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00