

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 13th September 2018 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black
Councillors: Cllr Sally Burch Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Angela Harris
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Graham Falconer

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2018 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Hedgehog friendly parish

Hattie Woodhouse provided an informative presentation highlighting the plight of hedgehogs and urging the village to seek to become accredited as 'hedgehog friendly'.

Key factors to help protect hedgehogs include the following:-

- Put out dry cat food and water, not milk.
- Check before mowing
- Provide escape routes to ponds
- Keep drain holes covered
- Be careful when laying rat poisoning or insecticide
- Be aware when driving at night

The council agreed to pursue 'hedgehog friendly' accreditation. Cllr Cox to email the village and publicise hedgehog awareness tips. Cllr Burch to liaise with Hattie and arrange a coffee morning to hand out publicity leaflets and display and possibly sell hedgehog houses.

***Cllrs
Cox &
Burch***

5. 'There but not there' sculpture

The council discussed the 'There but not There' campaign, the 2018 Armistice installation for the Charity Remembered. The campaign hopes to install Tommy silhouettes wherever there is a roll of honour and place life-size representation

of the Tommy figure in many public places for the Armistice Period 2018.

By so doing the charity aims to educate all generations about the soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice and to raise funds for a range of charities including Heads Together, Walking with the Wounded, Combat Stress, Help for Heroes and Project Equinox.

The council discussed purchasing a 6ft silhouette and two small perspex silhouettes. Cllr Cox agreed to send an email to the village to gauge opinion. Clerk to apply for a grant and purchase the silhouettes dependent on response.

Cllr Cox
Clerk

6. Planning applications

a) Update on previous applications

No updates.

b) Applications received

18/02395 Keepers Bungalow: the councillors welcomed the application as an improvement to the site. No objections.

18/02223/HSE 6 Highfield: no objections.

7. Council Business

a) Clerk's report – the Clerk reported that the borough's new waste collection contract with Serco would commence on 1st October. The new contractors had promised increased garden waste services, tougher performance targets and revised collection routes.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk to forward HCC's email in relation to ditch and culvert responsibility to Cllr Cox for further distribution.

b) Lengthsman – it was reported that one drain at Crux Easton had been cleared but that the lengthsman had been unable to gain access to another. Clerk to request prior notice to ensure that drain cover is removed in preparation for the lengthsman's visit.

Clerk

Further, the lengthsman had been asked to repair two stiles on footpath 5 and two on footpath 9. This had not been actioned to date.

Cllr Cox reported that he had been asked by the PCC whether the lengthsman would be able to clear a substantial heap of rubbish that had accumulated in the churchyard. Councillors discussed the request. It was felt that the lengthsman would be better utilised mending stiles and clearing the drain.

c) HCC Proposed cuts to bus/taxi service – proposed cuts to the local taxi service utilised by two villagers were discussed. The service was perceived to be a lifeline to the two residents. Cllr Falconer had agreed to keep the Chairman updated with any developments.

8. Local Roads

a) Potholes/Roads – Cllr Cox commented that whilst some had been repaired on the minor roads there were still a large number on the main road into the village. The potholes had been reported to Steve Goodall at HCC, but he was

unable to indicate when they would be dealt with.

b) Litter problems - councillors felt that the situation had improved. Clerk to remove the item from the Agenda.

c) Emergency Plan - Cllr Cox reported that the Chairman of Highclere PC was liaising with BDBC to ensure dissemination, and that the plan would be reviewed and updated by the end of the year.

Cllr Cox

9. **Footpaths**

It was noted that a footpath still remained unlawfully locked.

It was further noted that Footpath 20 was particularly overgrown and should be added to the lengthsman's work order.

Clerk

10. **Ward change proposals**

The Clerk reported that the proposed ward changes would reduce the number of borough councillors from 60 to 54. Each new ward will then be represented by three councillors.

Current proposals created a ward named 'Western Parishes' which included Burghclere, Ashmansworth, East Woodhay, Highclere, St Mary Bourne and Hurstbourne Priors. The name was perceived to be lacking imagination. A borough councillor had undertaken some research and discovered that the 'hundred of Evingar' was fairly similar to the proposed new ward boundary (with the exception of Whitchurch).

'Hundreds' as a form of land division date back to Saxon times. They became redundant with the creation of the Local Government Act, but it was suggested that the name would clearly offer a proposal based on historical fact. The councillors supported this name and requested that the clerk respond to the consultation accordingly.

Clerk

11. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Burch mentioned an incident that had occurred between a van of threatening individuals and her brother. The matter had been reported to the police.

12. **BDAPTC/HALC**

HALC – the Clerk informed the councillors that sadly the head of HALC Steven Lugg had died.

It was further noted that the council's auditor was no longer affiliated or employed by HALC. It was agreed that the council would remain with the auditor.

Clerk

13. **Financial Matters**

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix A). The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

b) Budget- Clerk to prepare a budget for 2018-19 for discussion at the next meeting.

Clerk

14. AOB

Cllr Cox informed the councillors of an invite to attend the licensing service for the new assistant priest on 4th October. Cllr Cox to attend.

Clerk

15. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm. Next meeting, 7th November at 7.30pm.

Appendix A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 13/09/2018

Balances:

Statement No: 12/09/18 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 13/09/18
£7,584.33	£6,683.77

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00

New Items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
13/09/2018	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary July	115.68
13/09/2018	HMRC	Month 4 Tax/NIC	28.80
13/09/2018	A D Clark	Invoice 222	190.00
13/09/2018	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary Aug	115.48
13/09/2018	HMRC	Month 5 Tax/NIC	29.00
13/09/2018	A D Clark	Invoice 230	95.00
13/09/2018	Vision ICT	Web hosting Oct18-Sep 20	231.60
13/09/2018	A D Clark	Invoice 237	95.00
TOTAL			900.56

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
21/08/2018	BDBC	Precept	2,061.50
TOTAL			2,061.50

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00