

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 28th July 2015 **Time:** 7.30 pm

Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall

Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bays

Councillors: Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Sally Burch

In

Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Angela Harris Cllr Tom Thacker (County)
Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)

1. Apologies

As above.

On behalf of the council, Cllr Cox expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy to the family of Ruth Kent at the very sad news of her passing. Her dedication for more than twenty years as a former Clerk to Ashmansworth Parish Council (APC) was appreciated by many people throughout the community, and she would be widely missed.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 10th June were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

Website – Cllr Cox is still awaiting input from residents for the Local Directory. This will be followed up over the summer months.

Cllr Cox

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

The application for Wood House and Church farm are still pending. Awaiting tree survey for Wood House and bat surveys for both.

b) Further applications received

None.

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report – the Clerk reported on a joint parish initiative between East Woodhay and Highclere to which Ashmansworth had also been consulted in relation to applying for s106 monies from the Bloor Homes development to be put towards installing a roundabout at the Penwood crossroads.

Clerk

The Clerk further commented that she had received a letter from HCC asking for council input in relation to the impact which would be caused by potentially cutting some funding to the Lengthsman scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter in support of the scheme encouraging

HCC to provide as much funding as possible, but acknowledging that as a smaller parish any excess left unused could be transferred to a larger, needier parish within our group.

The Clerk further reported that she had received and answered a couple of more queries from the external auditors but had heard nothing further.

- b)** Recreation ground update/grass cutting - it was noted that the grass had been cut well prior to erecting the marquee for the village Flower Show. Cllr Cox commented that the council would have to start planning a new tender for grass cutting in the Autumn. **Cllr Cox**

The Clerk reported that she had received a complaint about persistent dog fouling on the recreation ground. Cllr Burch agreed with this and commented that the forthcoming flower show organisers had put temporary signs up to warn against dog fouling.

Cllr Cox agreed to include a reminder in a forthcoming email.

- c)** Crux Easton phone box - Cllr Harris was actively fundraising in Crux Easton with a pledge of a donation to cover half cost of renovation. Cllr Cox suggested that APC may be able to make a small donation.

- d)** Lengthsman update - Funding has now been received by the scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk should request the following jobs from the lengthsman:- **Clerk**

Clean all signs.

Clean, treat and potentially move the seat in the recreation ground (cleaning materials to be provided by Cllr Cox).

Repair round seat on green opposite plough in need of repair.

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

Clear any footpaths, as required.

Review last year's jobs and add to the list.

6. Local Roads

- a)** Potholes/Road Repairs – Pothole at Yew Tree junction has now been repaired. Email confirmation received that the large part of missing road at Crux Easton has also been repaired but this is yet to be verified. The potholes approximately 250m up from Zell Farm still await repair.

- b)** A343 – Access//HGV signs – improved signage in relation to 'Unsuitable for HGV's' has been requested on the A343, and also to direct HGV's to Facombe via Hurstbourne Tarrant rather than through Ashmansworth.

7. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Cox reported that he had attended a meeting the previous Friday hosted by MP Kit Malthouse. He commented that he had learnt little new, but confirmed that Ashmansworth would be in the second wave of the rollout which was in its initial planning stages and with an anticipated completion date of 2017/18. He confirmed that Crux Easton were not included within these plans, and that he intended to meet with Cllr Harris in September to see what financial package the village were prepared to come up with to negotiate with BT. **Cllr Bays**

Cllr Bays mentioned that he was currently investigating a potential alternative to BT in the form of an aerial wi-fi scheme. He commented that he would keep the council updated with any developments.

8. Village Hall refurbishments

Cllr Cox commented that the current store room was too small and that there were plans to double its current size. The quote received is £2,600 + VAT and Cllr Cox is currently awaiting a response from Cllr Thacker in relation to a grant of £1,000 towards the works. Cllr Bays proposed and Cllr Cox seconded a proposal in principle to donate £500 towards the works dependent on obtaining all other funding sources.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

There had been no further crime summary since the May update.

10. BDAPTC/HALC

The Clerk commented that she was intending to attend the HALC AGM on 10th October.

Clerk

11. Financial Matters

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

It was noted that the bank were still sending statements to the previous Clerk. Cllr Cox and Cllr Black signed a letter authorising change of address and contact details.

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.00pm The next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.30pm.

Clerk

Appendix A – Finance

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council
Meeting date : 28/07/2015

Balances:

Statement No: 364 (28/06/2015) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 28/07/2015
£3,343.64	3,021.57

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100600	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary-May/Jun	156.12
100601	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk expenses	60.12
100602	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - April	48.00
100603	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - May	144.00
100604	GLEAM	GLEAM Membership	15.00
100606	Broker Network Ltd	PC Insurance	278.95
TOTAL			702.19

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100608	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary - June/July	167.07
TOTAL			167.07

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
16/06/2015	HMRC		305.54
TOTAL			305.54

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100605	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal Audit fee	155.00
TOTAL			155.00