

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 29th June 2016 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Andrew Bays
Councillors: Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Sally Burch
Cllr Angela Harris
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk) Cllr Graham Falconer

Apologies: N/A

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

The Clerk suggested that as the General Meeting had been held in conjunction with the Annual Parish meeting the minutes should be signed off at the next meeting, rather than the following year as was normal practice with Annual Parish meeting minutes.

Clerk

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Harris queried whether the rest of the council agreed to putting a noticeboard and shelf in the phone box at Crux Easton. It was suggested and agreed that the noticeboard would contain historical information relating to Crux Easton.

Cllr Harris agreed to contact Carol Davies to obtain some historical information, and to invite Chris Lambden to install the board in the phone box.

Cllr Harris

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Cllr Burch commented that the outstanding planning issue relating to Astley Lodge had been resolved. Cllr Cox queried whether this had been reflected on the council's planning website. The Clerk agreed to chase this up.

Clerk

b) Further applications received

The council had received revised plans concerning Footpath no. 7. Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Burch seconded agreement that the revised route was an improvement and that the council was very happy with the proposed changes.

Clerk

Clerk to notify BDBC Planning.

5. Council Business

- a) Clerk's Report – the council expressed its dissatisfaction at the proposed changes to use at the Newbury recycling centre and potential banning of Hampshire residents.

Cllr Falconer reported that the situation was presently a bit of a fiasco but that there were ongoing discussions between West Berkshire County Council and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Cllr Cox stated that Ashmansworth Parish Council were very dissatisfied with the current proposals.

- d) Lengthsman update – Cllr Cox reported that there had been a complaint from a parishioner in relation to the overgrown foliage on bridleway 21, which had led to a potential accident involving two horses. The Clerk reported that she had sent a request to the lengthsman to deal with this issue as a matter of urgency.

Clerk

It was suggested that further jobs for the lengthsman should include cleaning village signposts, cutting back the overgrown foliage and vegetation at Three Legged Cross and at Cross Lane.

Cllr Cox proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Black for his help in assisting the lengthsman with work in the village hall car park and entrance to the recreation ground.

6. Local Roads

Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox commented that the culvert at the side of the road when entering Highclere was very blocked and required clearing. He suggested that it may be a job for the lengthsman.

Cllr Falconer suggested that it may be an issue for Hampshire County Council to tackle due to the danger posed to anyone contracted to do the work.

The Clerk agreed to speak to the Highclere Parish Clerk in relation to the issue.

Clerk

7. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Bays reported that he had been in further contact with Gigabeam, who had invited Cllr Bays and Cllr Cox to attend a meeting to view equipment and discuss Ashmansworth's requirements.

**Cllr Bays
& Cllr Cox**

Gigabeam have estimated that the set up costs would be in the region of £10,000 and so are keen to have an idea of the likely take up in Ashmansworth.

Cllr Cox commented that he and Cllr Bays would need to obtain an approximate idea of costs and would then canvass the parish to ascertain likely take up.

Cllr Harris queried whether weather would affect the service provided from Gigabeam. Cllr Bays promised to report back in relation to the proposed service on offer at the next meeting.

8. Village Hall refurbishments

Cllr Cox reported that renovations to the store room and car park had now been completed. Item to be removed from Agenda.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk had not received a recent update from PCSO Damon Hope.

'Nottingham Knockers'

Cllr Cox commented that after a spate of door to door salesmen in the village he had proposed in an email that Ashmansworth be designated a cold calling zone. Cllr Cox reported that he had received only 3 responses to the proposal, with 2 residents agreeing and 1 rejecting the idea. Cllr Cox commented that he would not pursue the suggestion. This was agreed by the council.

Police Alerts

There was general comment that the police email alerts have reduced lately both in number and relevance to the parish. The Clerk agreed to raise this with PCSO Hope.

Clerk

10. BDAPTC/HALC

The Clerk had attended the 2016 Parish Conference and BDAPTC AGM on 7th June. The presentations had included general updates relating to the Local Plan, and the planned rejuvenation of Basingstoke. There was also a discussion about speedwatch and widespread dissatisfaction that councils were not receiving enough support from the police.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Cox volunteered to send an email to parishioners requesting photos of the parish for the HALC Annual Review.

11. Financial Matters

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

Clerk

b) Internal audit findings – the Clerk presented an overview of the recent internal audit findings. The main findings concerned the following:-

- Annual review of Standing Orders and financial regulations;
- Bank recs to be initialled back to the original statement;
- Council to adopt a transparent system for making grants;
- Good practice to arrange periodic inspection of the football goals;
- The total value of the grass tender should be minuted.

Clerk

The Clerk commented that she had contacted BDBC to arrange an annual play area inspection, but had not heard back.

c) Queen's birthday celebrations – the council had offered to donate some money towards the event, however Cllr Cox reported that he had been

informed that as the organisers had broken even financially, there was no need for a donation.

The council expressed its gratitude to the organisers for arranging such a successful and enjoyable event.

d) Change of bank – the Clerk reported that she was in the process of arranging a meeting with the bank in order to fulfil identification requirements. **Clerk**

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.00pm The next meeting will be on 27th September at 7.30pm. **Clerk**

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 29/06/2016

Balances:

Statement No: 375 (28/05/2016) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 29/06/16
3,667.49	3,092.61

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100630	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary April	139.24
100630	Mrs S Owen	Stationery	26.00
100629	Strongbond Painting Specialists	Crux Easton phone box	970.20
100631	Came & Company	Insurance	276.49
100623	HALC	HR Consultancy fee	180.00
100624	HALC	NALC levy 2016/17	12.00
100627	HALC	Affiliation fees 2016/17	123.00
100625	GLEAM	Annual subscription	15.00
100626	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Initial & April cut	171.00
TOTAL			1,912.93

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100632	K Black	Road planings	276.00
100633	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary May	139.24
100633	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary June	139.24
100634	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	May cut	114.00
100635	Premier Grounds Maintenance	Roller hire	85.00
100635	Premier Grounds Maintenance	VAT	17.00
100636	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal audit	155.00
TOTAL			925.48

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
08/05/2016	Harris	Crux Easton phone box	770.20
27/05/2016	HMRC	VAT repayment	186.60
15/06/2016	Ashmansworth Horticultural Society	For planings	200.00
TOTAL			1,156.80

Included within initial balance

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100628	CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00
TOTAL			36.00