

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 16th November 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

1 resident
Apologies: N/A

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

Not applicable.

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Hallam Cross Lane application was awaiting a decision.
The Old School House was recorded as registered.

Clerk to check the reason for the differing status of the two applications.

Clerk

b) Further applications received

No further applications had been received.

Cllr Burch commented that a number of residents had expressed concern in relation to roofing work that had been undertaken recently at Ashmansworth House.

Clerk to contact BDBC duty planning officer to ensure that a planning application had not been missed.

Clerk

5. Council Business

a) Parish Grant and Precept consultation – the Clerk referred to a consultation document that had been received from BDBC detailing how the borough council was having to look at ways to cut its costs. The council had circulated

savings proposals that outlined a scheme where ultimately all parish councils within the borough would end up losing the £1,100 general grant and the council tax support grant.

Cllr Falconer reported that he had attended a finance meeting at BDBC the previous evening and that the proposed cuts were likely to be approved. He commented that the limited grant was a discretionary grant and that BDBC were one of the few councils that still contributed, but that due to budget constraints it was likely to be cut.

The Clerk commented that due to the size of Ashmansworth's precept the grants will be phased out over two years. The impact for the following year would be as follows:

£367 reduction to the General Limited grant;
£8 reduction to the Council Tax Support grant;
£3 addition to the Grass cutting grant.

This will result in a £372 reduction to the council's income for 2017/18 as compared to 2016/17.

It was agreed that the council should compose a robust defence to the proposed cuts, particularly given the large impact it will have to the income of the council. Loss of the limited grant will result in a 27% reduction in the council's annual income.

Cllr Cox
Clerk

- b)** Defibrillator – Cllr Burch commented that she had been raising funds to purchase a defibrillator. Cllr Burch reported that a parishioner had also expressed a desire to make a donation towards the cost. It was confirmed that the desire was to purchase an externally mounted defibrillator potentially situated outside the village hall.

The Clerk commented that she had recently been involved in the purchase of two externally mounted defibrillators from Heartstart Thatcham for the parish of East Woodhay and offered to forward costs and details to Cllr Burch.

Clerk

Cllr Bays proposed and Cllr Cox seconded agreement to purchase the defibrillator via the parish council.

- c)** Clerk's report – the Clerk commented that it had been a very quiet time and that there was nothing new to report.

- d)** Update on Lengthsman Scheme – the Clerk agreed to report back with the current account balance for the lengthsman, and to ascertain what jobs had been actioned this year.

Clerk

6. Local Roads

Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox commented that some reported potholes had been repaired but there were still a large number outstanding.

Cllr Cox reported that a resident had notified him that a friend had hit a pothole outside the Yew Tree Inn and suffered £400 damage to their car. The driver

wanted to commence a claim against HCC but had been informed that in order to claim successfully, it would need to be proven that the pothole had been reported previously.

Cllr Cox commented that the pothole had been reported previously and then filled in but had recently re-appeared. It was not known whether the pothole had recently been reported but Cllr Cox was making enquiries.

A resident mentioned that there was a large pothole near to Keeper's bungalow.

Cllr Cox encouraged all councillors and residents to report any potholes as and when they see them.

7. Crux Easton phone box

Cllr Harris confirmed that a notice board and shelf had now been installed in the phone box.

Item to be removed from Agenda.

Clerk

8. Broadband

Cllr Cox reported that there were currently 52 residents that had registered interest in the scheme.

It was reported that Gigabeam would be investigating a valid halfway relay location the following week and that if all tests were successful then there was the potential that the first residents may have superfast broadband by Christmas or soon after.

Cllr Cox stated that he had spoken to an HCC representative who had confirmed that Ashmansworth residents should be entitled to a grant of £350 per household which was available to all those whose current service is less than 2Mb/s and for whom there are no plans published by BT to supply superfast within 12 months.

Cllr Cox was awaiting details of the claim procedure to then forward to all interested residents.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Harris expressed thanks to Cllrs Cox and Bays for all of their work in relation to achieving a viable broadband solution.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk commented that she had requested that Cllr Burch be added to PCSO Hope's email distribution list.

The Clerk presented the following update from PCSO Damon Hope.

Burglaries (3)

There were 3 non-dwelling burglaries in October:

A garage in Highclere had a padlock broken and various gardening machinery stolen.

A property in Adbury had a chainsaw and leafblower stolen from the front of the property.

A property in Ashmansworth had 4 bikes stolen from the shed which were ultimately recovered and returned thanks to a vigilant resident

Criminal Damage (2)

Highclere – glass panel to front door smashed.

Penwood – damage caused to a door and a window smashed following an argument.

Theft (2)

Tothill Travelodge– theft of a mobile phone from behind reception.

Washwater – theft of a credit card and withdrawal of substantial amount of money.

Assaults (2)

St Mary Bourne – argument with partner, no charges made.

Penwood – adult male had an altercation with son. No injury caused, no charges made.

Theft from Vehicle (7)

Washwater – theft from back of truck and various power tools taken.

Beacon Hill Car Park – car broken into. Various items taken

Beacon Hill Car Park – car broken into. Overnight bag taken.

Burghclere Sports & Social Club – Rear of van broken into. Nothing taken.

Beacon Hill Car Park – car broken into. iPad, mobiles and passports taken, which have since been recovered.

Highclere – car broken into. Handbag and clothing taken.

Beacon Hill Car Park – back windscreen smashed and computer and luggage stolen.

Summary

There has been a rise in the number of theft from vehicles recently. Residents advised to leave non-essential items at home and to hide away essential items in the boot of the car.

Please also keep an eye out for vulnerable residents within the community particularly now that winter is drawing in. If you think that anyone may require assistance or a check on the security of their property please contact PCSO Hope at damon.hope@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

Cllr Burch commented that she had received feedback in relation to increased dog fouling in the recreation ground. Cllr Cox agreed to send out a note to the village email distribution list.

10. BDAPTC/HALC

The Clerk commented that there was nothing to report other than the precept consultation as discussed under item 5.

11. Financial Matters

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

b) Precept approval for 2017/18 – Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Bays seconded agreement to raise the current precept by the proposed reduction of £372 following cuts to the general limited grant. This would equate to a 12.4% increase to the current precept and lead to a proposed precept of £3,372, compared with £3,000 in the current year.

Clerk

Clerk to process the precept documentation.

c) Change of bank– the Clerk reported that the new bank account had been successfully set up with online access. Unfortunately Barclays Bank had failed to transfer the council's account from HSBC, despite a written request, The Clerk agreed to rectify this prior to the next meeting. **Clerk**

12. Newtown Road recycling centre update

Cllr Falconer reported that residents were still unable to use the Newtown road recycling facility. It was hoped that permits to residents within a 10 mile radius of the centre would be distributed prior to Christmas.

Cllr Harris commented that a fridge had been dumped on the roadside in Crux Easton. Cllr Falconer stated that Jane Meredith at the Newbury Weekly News had requested any photos of fly tipping and encouraged all residents to send in any evidence of such action.

13. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm The next meeting will be on 10th January at 7.30pm. **Clerk**

APPENDIX A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 16/11/2016

Balances:

Statement No: 380 (28/10/2016) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 16/11/16
£3,535.19	2,885.71

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100637	Vision Ict	Website hosting	231.60
100638	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting - July	114.00
100639	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting - June	171.00
100640	A D Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting - August	171.00
100641	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary July	139.24
100641	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary August	139.24
100641	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary September	139.24
100641	Mrs S Owen	Stationery	9.10
TOTAL			1,114.42

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100642	AD Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Sept	171.00
100642	AD Clark Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting Oct	114.00
100643	Vision ict - email fee	Email hosting fee	66.00
100644	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Oct	139.24
100644	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary Nov	139.24
100645	Royal British Legion	Remembrance poppy wreath	20.00
TOTAL			649.48

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