

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 17th November 2015 **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 (Borough)
Cllr Tom Thacker (County)

Apologies:

1. Apologies

Not applicable.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Website – Cllr Cox commented that he had requested recommendations from people within the parish but to date had received nothing. Cllr Cox suggested that he compile a list of tradesman and then request feedback. The Clerk offered to send Cllr Cox a copy of the East Woodhay Spectrum magazine which contained the details for a number of local tradesmen.

**Cllr Cox
Clerk**

4. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

No outstanding applications.

b) Further applications received

Tree application, Ashmansworth House. No objections raised. Clerk to revert accordingly.

Clerk

c) Tree website

Cllr Falconer reported that he had spoken to the senior tree officer at BDBC and that TPOs would only apply to trees within conservation areas. He commented that the majority of farms and estates within the area would come under the AONB criteria and as such, would come under the remit of the Forestry Commission. Any applications to fell trees protected by AONB would need to be approved by the Forestry Commission. Cllr Falconer agreed to forward the website details that the BDBC Tree Officers use to check the Forestry Commission to Cllr Cox and the Clerk.

**Cllr
Falconer**

5. Council Business

- a) Clerk's Report – the Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Highclere clerk and asked whether it would be possible to circulate draft minutes prior to sign off. The clerk commented that the Highclere clerk was going to raise it at the next council meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the HALC AGM and that there had been an interesting presentation by Roy Perry in relation to the proposed combined authority. The Clerk further commented that there had been a vote to raise the affiliation fees for 2016/17 which would result in a £3 increase for Ashmansworth from £122 to £125.

The Clerk commented that she had attended a pensions training course in relation to auto enrolment. Ashmansworth as an employer will have an employee in the entitled worker category which means that the council will be required to provide a pension scheme for the employee if requested, but will not be required to pay any contributions. The council's staging date for auto enrolment is 1st May 2017.

- b) Recreation ground grass cutting tender - the Clerk presented a hard copy revised contract agreement. It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate this document to the council for greater scrutiny. Cllr Bays agreed to provide a detailed map of the area requiring cutting. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk should include a requirement within the contract for the contractor to have a £5 million indemnity insurance policy in place.

Clerk
Cllr Bays
Cllr Black

It was agreed that Cllr Black would finalise the tender document and circulate to the council for approval and that the Clerk would circulate the contract for approval.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send the tender offer to AA Wolfenden, the Parish Lengthsman, and AD Clark. It was further agreed that the Clerk should post the tender document on the website, on the noticeboards and in the Post Offices at Hurstbourne Tarrant and Woolton Hill.

- c) Crux Easton phone box - The Clerk apologised for failing to action this matter. Clerk to arrange for the phone box to be painted.

Clerk

- d) Lengthsman update - it was agreed that the Clerk should request that the Lengthsman move the seat within the recreation ground from under a tree to a more open space, and to clean the signposts within the parish. Cllr Burch to check with Mrs Gethin that this would be acceptable.

Clerk
Cllr Burch

6. Local Roads

- a) Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox commented that there were no new issues.

- b) A343 – Access - Cllr Cox expressed continued concerns at the poor visibility at the Yew Tree junction. He reported that he had discussed this with the chair of Highclere parish council and had requested a site visit only to be told that HCC were too busy. It had been relayed that changes would only be made to the highway in known accident black spots. Cllr Thacker further

added that the entire stretch of road between Penwood and the Yew Tree Inn required attention and re-planning.

Clerk

Due to the lack of HCC Highways budget, Cllr Cox again suggested installing independent signs for HGV drivers warning them not to venture up the road at the Yew Tree junction. Cllr Thacker suggested that this would not be possible but urged the council to investigate the increased powers that may be afforded by joining the accredited clerk scheme. The Clerk commented that this was an area that East Woodhay parish council were investigating and that she would report back following the next meeting.

7. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Cox commented that BT had published plans to bring broadband to Ashmansworth in June 2016/17.

Cllr Bays reported that the point-to-point aerial wi-fi scheme that he had been investigating seemed to be developing rapidly, to the extent that the company were now publically offering information on the scheme on their website.

8. Village Hall refurbishments

Cllr Cox thanked Cllr Thacker for agreeing to a grant of £1,000 towards the village hall works. Cllr Cox relayed a donation request from the Chairman of the village hall committee for a donation from the parish council of £500 towards the works.

Cllr Bays proposed and Cllr Harris seconded an agreement to donate £500 to the Village Hall Committee.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Burch commented that there had been a number of crimes relating to horses recently. It was agreed by all that the Hampshire police alert emails were very useful and were working well.

10. Tree Planting Update

Cllr Cox reported that the recent tree planting event had been very successful. The Woodland Trust had provided over 700 saplings for the residents to plant. As a consequence new trees had been planted on East Woodhay Road and a new hedge planted in the recreation ground.

Cllr Burch commented that a family within the village had complained that a sapling had been planted on their land without their consent. Cllr Cox suggested that Mrs Lane-Fox would be the correct person to deal with such a complaint.

Cllr Burch

11. Local Walking Strategy

The Clerk had circulated a document produced by HCC. Cllr Cox commented that he felt that it was possibly targeted at more urban areas and would respond on behalf of the council as such, with a reminder to respect the countryside.

Cllr Cox

12. HCC & IOW Combined Authority update

Cllr Falconer commented that there was a large amount of debate still to be had in relation to the proposed combined authority and that any potential impact to parish councils would not occur for a number of years.

13. BDAPTC/HALC

The Clerk commented that she had attended a recent BDAPTC meeting and that there were a couple of other parishes that were looking into alternative superfast broadband providers. The Clerk agreed to report back with any progress.

Clerk

14. Financial Matters

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

b) Change of bank - the Clerk reported that due to problems with her computer and broadband she had not been able to complete the relevant forms but hoped to have them ready for the next meeting.

Clerk

c) Precept and budget planning 2016/17- the Clerk commented that the council's precept request needed to be finalised by 31st January 2016. The Clerk and Cllr Cox agreed to prepare a draft budget for 2016/17 to present to the council at the next meeting.

**Clerk
Cllr Cox**

15. AOB

Cllr Bays reported that SSE are looking into burying electricity lines in AONB. With the help of its customers in its operating region of central southern England, SSE wants to identify 42km of overhead lines only in recognised areas of natural beauty spots that could be buried, and improve the natural environment. To nominate an area, people need to complete a form on SEPD's website. Submissions will require a photograph of the suggested area to show the current aesthetic impact the overhead line is causing. Cllr Bays urged the councillors to have a look within the parish and see if there were any lines that fit the criteria.

All

16. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Thacker reported that there was a current Hampshire consultation in relation to the mobile library service, and that it appeared likely that crux Easton would lose their current service. Cllr Thacker commented that any current consultations were available on the Hampshire website. Cllr Cox agreed to send links to the consultations to the community email list.

Cllr Cox

17. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.15pm The next meeting will be on Monday 18th January at 7.30pm.

Appendix A – Finance

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 17/11/2015

Balances:

Statement No: 368 (28/10/2015) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 17/11/15
£3,795.33	2,873.25

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100609	Vision ICT	Website subscription	231.60
100610	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - July	96.00
100610	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - Aug	96.00
100611	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary - Aug/Sept	222.64
TOTAL			646.24

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100612	AA Wolfenden	Grass cutting	144.00
100613	British Legion	Poppy wreath	20.00
100614	Mrs S Owen	Clerk Salary - Oct/Nov	222.64
100615	Mrs S Owen	Expenses	35.44
100616	Village Hall Committee	Village Hall donation	500.00
TOTAL			922.08

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
28/09/2015	BDBC	2nd half of precept	1,500.00
TOTAL			1,500.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100605	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal Audit fee	155.00
100607	Andrew Barnes	Grass cutting	80.00
		N.B. Missing bank statement 29/06-28/07	
TOTAL			235.00