

## ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 **Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Place:** Ashmansworth Village Hall  
**Present:** Alan Cox (Chairman) Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)  
**Councillors:** Kieron Black  
**In Attendance:** Maxta Thomas (Clerk)  
**Visitors:** Nigel Flawith David Bryden  
2 members of the public

### *Action*

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Johnson

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minutes of the special meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**3. Planning Matters**

**a) Red Roses, Cross Lane - [BDB/77809](#)**

**b) Red Roses, Cross Lane - [BDB/77810](#)**

Both the applications for Red Roses were discussed at the same time.

Demolition (BDB/77810) – this application is the same as that submitted previously. This was discussed and supported by the Council at that time. The Council unanimously endorsed the previous decision of no objections.

New Building (BDB/77809) - this is the third application for new building work at this site. Nigel Flawith presented the plans. He explained that the cost of extending the existing building was prohibitively expensive, due to the unusual Swedish design used for construction. Demolition and rebuild has proved to be the most cost effective option for the site.

Mr Flawith noted that the current application has been put in with villagers' comments taken into account, with reference to four points in particular:

- The large glass frontage to the building has been replaced by just one small window
- The first floor will now be the width of the current house, which is narrower than previous designs.
- The garage height has been reduced, which means it cannot now be used as loft space, or easily converted later in living space.
- The plot coverage of the new design is now smaller than those submitted previously– new plan is less than older plans

Sight lines to the view south of the building have also been taken

into account, although the view is not mentioned in the Conservation Area document. The building will be moving east by one meter, which will change view lines slightly. The garage will now be built now on the right of the plot (if facing it from Cross Lane), which will not obscure the view as it would have before on the left.

Cllr Cox noted previous concerns about the views, and the size of the house relative to the plot on previous applications. Another concern that was raised was about the amount of glass in the previous design, but this has been addressed in the new application.

Comments were invited from the public. Mr Haig noted that he has objected to the new application. He welcomes the redevelopment of the site, but he is concerned about the upper floor dormer windows overlooking his property, and particularly his patio, and has asked that this issue be addressed. Mr Flawith responded that similar comments were given in objection to previous applications for Hallam, and that the overlook to Hallam will be minimal due to the hedge obscuring the properties. He noted that it is difficult to live in a village without a degree of overlooking other properties. Mr Haig replied that the recent photos taken show exactly how much dormer windows would affect the privacy of his patio; he feels this shows demonstrable harm to his property.

Cllr Cox observed that the recent Hallam applications also have windows that overlook other properties. Mr Haig said that this is less damaging to his neighbours than the proposed dormers for Red Roses would be to his property, as Hallam's windows overlook the front of other properties, and not private garden areas, which he feels the Red Roses dormers would. Mr Haig observed that the critical factor was where the windows overlook.

Cllr Cox noted that a property with dormer windows would be far more in keeping with the rest of the village than the existing building. He also noted that there are plenty of properties in the village that overlook other properties.

Cllr Cox then invited comments from the council. Cllr Black asked what Mr Flawith's response was on the possibility of changing the height of the dormer windows, and whether obscured glass would be appropriate. Mr Flawith noted that there is an element of overlooking in the current plan, but that the house is designed to take advantage of the view in the other direction. The new plans are designed to take account of this, and small windows facing Hallam are designed to minimise Hallam being overlooked. Mr Flawith further noted that he felt that very high or very low windows would make the property look very strange. He also did not feel that obscured glass would work well.

Cllr O'Shaughnessy observed that an element of overlooking is expected with village life.

Cllr Cox asked which rooms would have the dormer windows under discussion – Mr Flawith replied that one is the window on the stairs, and the side windows are bedrooms, which are likely to be unoccupied most of the time.

The Council then made its decision. It was unanimously agreed to make no objections. Clerk to respond to BDBC for both planning applications for Red Roses accordingly.

**Clerk**

**c) New House - T/00264/13/TCA**

Notice of Intent to fell one beech tree.

David Bryden gave background to application – the tree is interfering with the power lines, despite being trimmed regularly. His tree surgeon has recommended felling the tree as its roots will affect the foundations of the property, and is already affecting power lines. There are plans in place to replace the tree with a smaller tree that will be less overwhelming to the property. Mr Bryden plans to also consult with his direct neighbours.

Cllr Black observed that he felt it would be better to fell and replant.

Cllr O'Shaughnessy feels the current tree is in the wrong place and is an eyesore.

It was unanimously agreed to make no objections. Clerk to contact BDBC.

**Clerk**

**d)** No further applications received

**4. Local Roads**

**a) A343** No further progress.

**b) Crux Easton signpost** No news. Clerk to chase Steve Goodall of Hampshire Highways for progress.

**Clerk**

**c) Ditch Clearance** Cllr O'Shaughnessy has not been able to contact anyone as yet. She will action in due course.

**Cllr O  
Shaughnessy**

**d) Potholes** Cllr Cox updated the Council – the potholes in Ashmansworth are now mostly filled. Crux Easton – Cllr O'Shaughnessy has made a note of the major potholes; Clerk to report these to Steve Goodall, together with thanks for work on Ashmansworth potholes. David Bryden noted a big crack and a pothole on Cross Lane. Cllr Cox to check and report to Clerk, who will report to Highways.

**Clerk  
Cllr Cox**

**5. Telephones/Broadband**

Andrew Bays has suggested talking to landowners about putting in a trench to lay a fibre from Highclere to the Ashmansworth telephone exchange using local resources. Councillor Cox noted that this could make a big difference to the cost. Dan Fearnley is following this project through with HCC. Another possibility is a microwave link, and this is also being explored.

**6. Neighbourhood Watch**

No report.

**7. Council Business**

**a) Clerk's Report** A consultation document has been received from BDBC about the development of a Community Building Strategy. One of the buildings listed for possible inclusion in this is Ashmansworth Village Hall. The strategy is intended to ensure that there is a network of community buildings in the right place, and that they are fit for purpose and provide value for money. The Council observed that Ashmansworth is well served. Clerk to respond accordingly.

**Clerk**

The annual internal audit for the council is booked for 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Mark Benzing has resigned as councillor, which has resulted in a casual vacancy. This has been publicised, and BDBC are aware. If an election is not requested by residents in the Parish, then the Council will be free to co-opt a new councillor at the next full meeting in May. Currently, there are two people interested in standing.

The AGM/APM is on 14<sup>th</sup> May – the agenda for this will be published shortly.

**b) Yearly communal skip**

A resident has suggested that the Council could provide a village skip, perhaps once a year, placed somewhere central where villagers without cars or large cars to get to the dump, could put garden and other refuse too large for the wheelie bins.

After some discussion, it was unanimously felt that this was not a workable idea.

**c) Award of Grass Cutting Contract**

As agreed at the last full meeting, the grass cutting contract has been awarded to AA Wolfenden. The contracts have now been fully signed, and the Clerk and Wolfenden's have a signed copy. Cllr Cox recorded his thanks to Cllr Black and the Clerk for their work on this.

**d) Hedge at Recreation Ground**

No further progress. Cllr Black to see if a hedge can be planted in next week or so. Cost will be around £120, which will be covered by the Parish Council. Unanimously agreed.

*Cllr Black*

**e) Parish Co-operation**

Nothing to report.

**8. BDAPTC, HALC**

Cllr Cox attended that last BDAPTC meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013. There was a major presentation on council standards and the code of conduct, which highlighted some areas which Ashmansworth PC need to work on (particularly with regard to planning issues). These have been taken into account for future meetings.

**9. Finance Matters**

**a) Payments Approval**

Please see appendix A for the financial statement. Unanimously approved. The Clerk noted that the original cheque for hire of Crux Easton Church was never received, and so a new cheque has been issued. The accounts have been updated accordingly. She also noted that, whilst the March payments do not show on the most recent bank statement, they will now have been processed.

The precept and grant payments from BDBC are due this week, and this is shown in the financial statement.

The clerk finally noted her claim for overtime for March. Unanimously approved.

**10. Date of Next Meetings**

AGM/APM - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30 pm, Ashmansworth Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.54pm. Cllr Cox thanked the councillors for a productive, busy meeting.

**Financial statement :** Ashmansworth Parish Council

**Meeting date :** 23/04/2013

**Balances:**

Bank Statement 332 - 28/03/2013	Balance after reconciliation-23/04/2013
669.13	2,985.13

**Payments since last meeting date**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>

**New Items for payment**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100515	Crux Easton PCC	Hall Hire - 2011	35.00
100516	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - April 2013	92.09
100517	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Overtime - March 2013	92.09
100518	HALC	Affiliation Fees	123.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>342.18</b>

**Receipts since last meeting date :**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
18/04/2013	HMRC	VAT refund Dec 12-Mar 13	116.83
26/04/2013	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Limited General Grant	1,100.00
26/04/2013	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Precept Apri-Sept 13	1,500.00
26/04/2013	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Council Tax Support	15.00
26/04/2013	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Grass Cutting Grant	240.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,971.83</b>

**Payments not yet presented**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100511	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - March 2013	92.09
100512	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Expenses Feb-Mar 2013	30.06
100513	HMRC	Tax/NICS	69.00
100514	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Hall Hire 2012/13	122.50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>313.65</b>