

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 14th May 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: Sarah Wheeler

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Johnson

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 23rd April were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Co-option of New Councillor

Cllr Cox confirmed that Cllr Benzing has resigned from the Council. After following due procedure, the Council is now in a position to co-opt a new councillor. The Clerk has received one expression of interest in writing, from Sarah Wheeler of Crux Easton. The Council voted on the matter. The Council unanimously agreed that Mrs Wheeler should stand on the Council as a co-opted Councillor. Mrs Wheeler then took her place on the Council.

4. Planning Matters

a) Red Roses, Cross Lane - BDB/77809 & BDB/77810

Still awaiting consideration by BDBC

b) New House - T/00264/13/TCA

Granted

c) Hallam - BDB/77677

Pending a decision by BDBC. Tree work has been approved.

d) Harwood Paddock – East Woodhay

Cllr Cox noted the Council's concern about the size of this development (70 houses). The Clerk noted that Ashmansworth Parish Council may be consulted as a neighbouring parish. Clerk to check.

Clerk

e) Cllr Cox noted a possible planning application Steeles Farm. He observed that this is likely to be smaller than previous applications.

5. Local Roads

a) Crux Easton signpost The Clerk has been in touch with Steve Goodall of HCC Highways. He has said that they have requested an up to date quote from the manufacturer, and, provided that it is not too expensive, expects to sign an order very soon.

b) Potholes The Clerk has been in touch with Steve Goodall of HCC Highways about the numerous potholes in Crux Easton, and also the crack in the road in Cross Lane. He will investigate and raise instructions as necessary.

6. Telephones/Broadband

Need to set date for meeting to include Dan Fearnley.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report.

8. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report

We have had a successful internal audit – more on this in the finance section.

The clerk attended a Clerk's Day run by HALC, covering Neighbourhood Plans. It was an extremely interesting session, but her ultimate conclusion is that Ashmansworth does not need a Neighbourhood Plan. They are best suited to larger parishes (or clusters) where some new building is planned in any case.

b) Hedge at Recreation Ground

Cllr Black has now planted the hedge at the recreation ground. Cllr Cox thanked him for his efforts on this. Cllr Black will pass invoice for plants to the clerk when he receives it. A sign will be erected in due course.

Cllr Black

9. Finance Matters

a) Financial Report & Internal Audit

Please see appendix A for the financial statement. See Appendix B for the audit report.

The Clerk updated the Council on the recent internal audit. The audit went well on the whole. The auditor noted that the Standing Orders need to be reviewed soon, and that the work on the Asset Register and Risk Assessment needs to be completed. She also noted that the Council reserves were very low, and that these need to be built up to an approximate level of £1000.

Internal audit unanimously approved, and report duly noted. Action to be taken in the next few months to address issues.

b) Renewal of Council Insurance

The Council Insurance is due for renewal on 1st June 2013. The renewal fee is £272, but will drop to £265 if the Council signs a three year long term agreement with Came & Co. The Clerk advised the Council that this quote is extremely competitive. She has also taken advice from Came & Co on whether to insure Council assets against theft or wilful damage. The advice is that most of the assets (benches, noticeboards etc) are low cost enough that they are probably not worth insuring. The War Memorial is unlikely to be stolen, so the principal risk would be vandalism. The Council's public liability insurance would cover any accidents involving Council assets.

It was unanimously agreed to self-insure Council assets, and to proceed with the three year long term agreement.

c) Invoices for Payment

These were unanimously agreed.

10. Date of Next Meetings

17th July 2013 – may need an extra meeting in between, depending on new planning applications.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm. 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
TOTAL			0.00

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
TOTAL			342.18

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
TOTAL			2,971.83

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
TOTAL			313.65