

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 9th January 2014 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Cllr Kieron Black Cllr Andrew Bays
Cllr Sarah Wheeler
In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk) Mark Benzing (part time)

Action

1. Apologies

None.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 21st November 2013. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Steeles Farm – no formal decision as yet.

Flint House – granted.

b) Notice of Intent - Hughbourne House – fell 2 yew trees

No objections

c) Notice of Intent – Plough Inn – fell 5 conifers, 1 hornbeam and reduce 1 beech and 1 ash.

No objections. Clerk noted planning application for driveway. This appears to be under the permitted development rules.

d) Cross Lane Cottage, Cross Lane – Construction of dormer window.

Mark Benzing presented his plans. No objections. Clerk to respond to BDBC.

Clerk

e) Village Hall Extension – Cllr Cox gave a brief outline of the early proposals for an extension to the village hall to provide more storage. He noted that the current plans probably would not need planning permission, as it would likely be allowed under the permitted development rules, provided certain conditions are met.

f) Further applications received – None.

4. Local Roads

a) **Access to A343**

Cllr Cox has written to Hampshire County Council outlining the concerns voiced by Ashmansworth PC concerning issues such as access to the A343, extending double solid white lines on the A343, and more visible HGV signs entering Ashmansworth. Cllr Tom Thacker to progress further.

Mark Benzing asked if the Cross Lane exit onto A343 was still under review by the Council, as he feels that there are still major problems with this junction. Cllr Cox assured him that it was as part of the Council's ongoing campaign on the A343. Cllr Cox also noted that the Parish Council has received formal complaints about people meeting large lorries on the approaches to Ashmansworth, which have been passed on to HCC.

b) Ditch Clearance at Crux Easton

No further progress. Cllr O'Shaughnessy to take further when the weather improves. She did note that the recent bad weather has not caused any major flooding, although that is partly because householders in Crux Easton have cleared some of the drains in the village.

*Cllr O'
Shaughnessy*

c) Potholes/Road Repairs

Cllr Cox proposed that he chase this issue in the early spring, as there are no urgent issues and HCC Highways are extremely busy at the moment after the recent weather conditions. He observed that there is a road closure notice in for the road past Zell Farm, but that this has not happened yet. It was noted that some potholes are beginning to re-appear, but it was felt that this was not urgent in the light of recent weather conditions – other areas have much more pressing problems with road conditions.

Cllr Cox

5. Telephones/Broadband

No progress. Cllr Cox stated that HCC have published a map of areas that will be included in the second release of fast broadband. However, he observed that this map appears to be incorrect. It was noted that there is likely to be little that Ashmansworth PC can do until Highclere has been upgraded, but we should try to get included at the time of that upgrade.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Cox has written to PC Matt Deery to obtain clarification on the current status of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Ashmansworth and to update our contact details, but has not received a response as yet.

Cllr Cox noted that a suspicious vehicle had been observed by several people in the village, and was duly reported to the police.

7. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report

I have written to Steve Goodall at HCC Highways to thank him for re-instating the Crux Easton signpost.

I will be contacting Unity Trust Bank in the new financial year with a view moving the Council bank account to them. This will enable the Council to use online banking.

I have received consultation documents concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy, which is a new charge that local authorities can choose to apply to new development in their area (similar to the current s.106 scheme). The first stage of this is the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule., which outlines the rates that BDBC is proposing to charge across different development types and areas of the Borough. The deadline for comments is 17th February. Cllr Bays to review and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Bays

b) BDBC Parish Conference

The Clerk has received notice of the Parish Conference, to be held at BDBC offices on Monday 27th January. Workshops will be held on Highways issues, WW1 Commemorations, and Planning issues surrounding agricultural determinations. It was agreed that Cllr Bays would attend and report back to Council at the next meeting. Clerk to let BDBC know.

*Cllr Bays/
Clerk*

c) Recreation Ground Sign

Cllr Cox has now erected the sign.

d) Crux Easton Phone Box

Cllr Cox proposed leaving any work on this until the early spring, once the weather improves. Unanimously agreed. Cllr O'Shaughnessy is

- investigating what materials will be needed to refurbish the phone box, and will report back to the next meeting. **Cllr O' Shaughnessy**
- e) Fallen tree removal**
 The remains of the fallen tree on the village green have not yet been removed. Cllr Cox has been in touch with Penwood Nurseries with regards to replacing the tree. They have provided a list of possible replacements, and Cllr Cox observed that a smaller tree would be a good idea. However, he also noted that any replacement should be pruned regularly, which is problematic with it being in the middle of the Conservation Area (planning permission is required every time major work is required). After reviewing the list of possibilities, the consensus was for a lilac tree. However, this cannot be planted until after the old tree has been removed. Cllr Cox also suggested that the newly planted tree could be used to commemorate WW1.
- f) Parish Lengthsman Scheme**
 The Clerk updated the Council. Details of local contractors were passed to the Clerk at St Mary Bourne Parish Council, and the invitations to tender were sent out before Christmas. A meeting for participating Councils is to be held on Tuesday 21st January, which the Clerk and Cllr O'Shaughnessy plan to attend. They will report back at the next meeting. It will be debated at the next meeting which tasks will be most useful for Ashmansworth. **Clerk/Cllr O' Shaughnessy**
- g) Parish Co-operation**
 Highclere Parish Council has taken on the task of championing the cause to downgrade the A343 to a B road.
- h) BDBC Draft Climate Change Strategy**
 The Clerk has distributed details of this consultation to Council members. No comments. All councillors to re-read and pass any comments to Clerk to report back to BDBC. **All**
- 8. BDAPTC/HALC**
 Nothing to report.
- 9. Finance**
- a) 2014/15 Precept**
 It was proposed by Cllr Bays and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to submit a precept request of £3,000 for 2014/15, and limited general grant request for £1,100. This is unchanged from 2013/14. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to action. **Clerk**
- B) To approve payments and note receipts**
 The clerk ran briefly through the financial statement (appendix A). The payments were unanimously approved.
- 10. Date of next meeting**
 The meeting closed at 8.55pm The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm, with the March meeting to be held on 24th March. Cllr Cox thanked councillors for a very productive meeting.

Appendix A – Accounts

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 09/01/2014

Balances:

343	Balance after reconciliation - 9/1/2014
2054.98	1,693.52

Payments since last meeting date

:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100537	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - October	93.04
100539	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - Sept	78.00
100540	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - Oct	78.00
100541	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - Nov	93.04
100542	HMRC	Tax/NICs - Jul-Sept	69.40
100543	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - Dec	93.04
TOTAL			504.52

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100544	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - January	92.84
100545	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - February	93.04
100546	M V Sarson	Newletter Stationery	57.18
100547	HMRC	Tax/NICs - Oct-Dec	69.60
100548	Royal British Legion	Donation in lieu of Poppy Wreath	20.00
TOTAL			332.66

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100538	SLCC	SLCC Membership	28.80
TOTAL			28.80