

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 13th February 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) Jonty Gethin
2 members of the public

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 9th January 2014. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Planning

a) Update on previous applications

Steeles Farm – no formal decision as yet. Cllr Cox stated that the hold-up is due to negotiations on s.106 and other legal matters.

Cross Lane Cottage - Granted

b) Sidley Farm, Hurstbourne Tarrant – Erection of stable block following demolition of existing shed. Creation of associated concrete yard area, earthworks, muck heap and extension to existing drive. Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian.

Cllr Cox noted that this property is not Ashmansworth Parish, but borders it, and is in fact in St Mary Bourne.

No objections.

Clerk

c) Plough Cottage, Ashmansworth - Creation of new vehicle access and parking area to front of property

Jonty Gethin presented his planning application. He noted that the principal reason for the new vehicle access is safety. Two concerns were raised by the Council:

- It was observed that the new access is quite close to a hedge – Jonty confirmed that this would not be removed, although it will be pruned.
- It was noted that the new access is quite close to a junction. Jonty has consulted with the planning officer, and with the hedge being pruned there would be good visibility, and this should not cause any problems. Also, vehicles will not be reversed onto the highway as they are now, which is safer.

No objections. Clerk to reply to planning with the Council's active support for the application.

Clerk

d) Old School House, Ashmansworth – Notice of Intent to fell 1 Cherry Tree

No objections.

Clerk

e) Hallam, Cross Lane, Ashmansworth - Erection of replacement dwelling and demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. Creation of new access.

Cllr Cox gave some background to the application. The primary change requested from permission already granted is demolition of the present

house. The new building will be very similar to the existing building, but built to current regulations.

No objections.

Clerk

f) Further applications received – None.

4. Neighbourhood Watch/Policing

Cllr Cox updated the Council. He and Cllr O'Shaughnessy have met with PCSO Abbey Carpenter, who reports that PC Matt Deery is now on secondment in Winchester, and has been replaced by PC Richard Baldwin. It is hoped that there will be more communication in the future, particularly with PCSO Carpenter. Clerk to forward meeting information to PCSO Carpenter.

Clerk

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report

Village Hall - I have today received a grant request from Ashmansworth Village Hall. This will need to be considered for approval at the next meeting.

Jonty Gethin outlined the problems with the Hall, particularly with the roof, which needs some maintenance work. He noted that any help from the Parish Council would be gratefully received. Cllr Cox noted that he and Cllr Black are on the Village Hall Committee. Clerk and Cllr Cox to check finances and make a proposal for the next meeting. The Clerk noted that the Council has a power to give grants towards upkeep of public buildings.

**Clerk/Cllr
Cox**

Local Elections - I have been in touch with BDBC Electoral Services, who confirm that the next local elections are on 22nd May. Ashmansworth Parish Council is one of the parishes who are up for election this year. Paperwork and procedures will be issued in due course.

WW1 Commemorations - An email has been received from Reverend Christine Dale with regard to collecting any WW1 memorabilia for a commemorative display.

Cllr Cox is not aware of any memorabilia other than that relating to the War Memorial. There are some photos of what Ashmansworth was like before the war. He suggested contacting residents in the parish to see if they have anything that may be useful. Cllr Cox to action.

Cllr Cox

b) BDBC Parish Conference

Cllr Bays attended this event on 27th January, and took part in the Planning Workshop on agricultural determinations. He gave a report on the Planning Workshop, which was centred on permitted development rights for farming areas. He noted that redundant farm buildings can be converted without planning consent, except in Conservation Areas (such as Ashmansworth village). Renewable energy and planning consent was also discussed. He observed that BDBC's LDF cannot be considered from a legal point of view as it has not yet been formally adopted.

c) Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Cllr O'Shaughnessy and the Clerk have attended a meeting with other parishes in the cluster. Of those who tendered for the contract, Premier Grounds were selected. The scheme will run thus:

- Member councils will submit work orders to the Clerk at St Mary Bourne Parish Council (Derek Kane), who will then review and submit to the Lengthsman on a monthly basis.
- All member councils are to be provided with a copy of the Hampshire Street Atlas, which the Lengthsman will also use. This will ensure consistency on grid references when the Lengthsman is locating areas scheduled for work.
- Payment for the work will be arranged by Derek. Any issues with

- completed work should be addressed to Derek as the co-ordinator.
- If a member uses up their allocation of Lengthsman time and funding, then any extra work would be chargeable.
- Any unused funds will be carried over into the next financial year.

Derek has drawn up an agreement document between St. Mary Bourne Parish Council (as lead Council) and member councils. This will need to be signed and returned to him by the end of February. Clerk to email this to Councillors – if all are happy, then Clerk to sign and return to Derek.

Clerk

Liability – Councillors queried who is liable if faulty work leads to an accident – will it be the member Council, HCC or the Lengthsman? Clerk to verify this with Derek.

Clerk

The Clerk outlined the scope of work to be carried out by the Lengthsman (see appendix A). Councillors to pass initial thoughts on work to be carried out to the Clerk. Residents in the Parish should also be consulted.

All

The Clerk noted that the scheme is due to go live on 1st April 2014.

d) BDBC Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

Cllr Bays has now reviewed this consultation. His report is attached (appendix B).

In principle, Ashmansworth Parish Council does not have overarching view, though the Council were concerned that rural areas appeared to be charged more than urban ones, despite receiving fewer services. It was agreed that Cllr Bays will draft a response, which Clerk will send to BDBC.

**Cllr Bays/
Clerk**

e) Fallen tree on Green - update

The remains of the fallen tree on the village green have now been removed. Cllr Cox formally thanked Cllr Black for his work on this.

Cllr Cox has now consulted with the immediate neighbours to this tree (that is, Central Ashmansworth village) re replacing it. Of the responses received, two were against replanting, some were neutral, and some were in support of planting a new tree.

Specifically, *Cretaegus Prunifolia* has been suggested. This tree has blossom in the spring, red fruit and red/orange foliage in the autumn, and does not grow to too large a size (5 or 6 metres high maximum).

Cllr Cox noted that Johnnie Johnson has offered to pay for purchase, planting and maintenance of a new tree. He suggested that the Council pay for the tree, with Johnnie paying for planting and maintenance.

After some discussion on whether the tree should be replaced, and on the placement if it is, Cllr Cox formally proposed planting the suggested tree, with the Council paying for tree and Johnnie paying for planting and maintenance. Cllr Bays seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Cox to follow up.

Cllr Cox

f) Mobile Library Service

The Clerk has received communication from HCC stating that mobile library services across the county will need to cut, as user numbers have fallen substantially in recent years. Crux Easton is one of the stops that will be withdrawn at the end of 2014.

Cllr Wheeler observed that it was a shame that service did not come after 3.30pm, as she felt it would be better attended by parents with school age children. However, it was felt that the Council could do nothing but accept with regret.

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.49pm The next meeting is to be held on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm, with the meeting and AGM to held on 3rd June (although this is subject to approval from BDBC). Cllr Cox thanked councillors for a very productive meeting.

Appendix A

Parish Lengthsman (Duties and scope of works)

This schedule lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may undertake

1 Drainage

- Clearing existing drainage grips
- Maintaining ditches
- Cleaning channels
- Clearing outfalls
- Rodding pipes (off highway)

2 Signage

- Cleaning (non-illuminated)
- Minor repairs

3 Other Minor Works

- Remove soil/detritus and leaves
- Cutting back vegetation overhanging the road or footway
- Clearing footways of weeds/moss and leaves
- Removing vegetation from parapets or fences
- Grass strimming
- Reporting defects
- Sweeping
- Litter picking
- Removing fly posters
- Unauthorised sign and graffiti removal
- Cleaning street name plates
- Cleaning bus shelters
- Minor repairs to street furniture
- 'Village upkeep' to include: painting/staining of bus shelters, parish owned notice boards, benches, fences, pavilions
- Replenishment of salt bins from a central point (by parish – salt provided by HCC) and spreading on public minor footways).
- Spreading of salt from roadside bins on footways

Parish Lengthsman (Excluded works)

This schedule lists the duties the Parish Lengthsman may not undertake.

1 Cleaning, repair or any work on:

- Street Lighting
- Illuminated signs and bollards (i.e. any street furniture with an electrical connection)
- The live road
- Patching and structural repairs (no excavation due to possibility of underground apparatus), and

Emergency call-outs to highway incidents

Appendix B

Report on BDBC Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

My opinion is that much of this is borough wide concern and I expect there is little we (as a particularly small Parish Council within the borough) can add to it.

However, I do note that CIL will not completely do away with Section 106 contributions. The Government's approach will allow CIL to fund the provision of infrastructure. Section 106 obligations thereafter will be restricted to site specific impact (roads and provision of affordable housing). Obviously you will need to read this to satisfy yourselves with the content. I believe it is not of great import to the Parish Council. That said, I am not sure I can get my head around the geographical CIL charges – you will see they have allocated three zones – Ashmansworth will fall into the “rest of the borough” zone and this carries the highest infrastructure charge of any of the areas. This is based on a viability assessment in terms of what developed land values are and therefore how much a developer or builder can in theory afford to pay for CIL. I have an issue with this generally, insofar as it is my belief that the matters for which CIL contributes to are used far more by those in central conurbations like Basingstoke than they are in small villages like Ashmansworth.

The CIL levy being proposed comes into pretty significant levels. If one was looking at building a 250 square metre house (3 – 4 bedroom house) you would have include a contribution to CIL of £37,500. In addition to this, you will still be asked to make Section 106 contributions.

From a personal point of view, I think where tied housing is being provided to serve an existing need on site (e.g. a farmhouse) and the use has been restricted as such, then the CIL should be either waived or reduced. The value of the house is less because it can only be used for a farmer but the CIL could potentially be the same.