

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 15th May 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) Annabelle Blossie-Lynch (part-time)
Virginia Bond (part-time)
Apologies: None

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 17th March 2014. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. **Planning**

a) Update on previous applications

Steeles Farm – no formal decision as yet.

Hallam – refused due to lack of bat survey. Expected to be re-submitted once survey completed.

Plough Cottage – no formal decision as yet on a re-submitted application.

b) Further applications received – None.

4. **Local Roads**

a) A343 Issues – Cllr Cox updated the Council. He continues to chase the relevant authorities. Cllr Tom Thacker will chase Highways, although he is currently in 'election purdah'.

b) Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox has chased this. HCC Highways are waiting until they have caught up on all the flooding repairs. Hopefully, this will be sometime in June.

c) Speeding in Ashmansworth Village – Concerns have been raised by residents about speeding traffic in the centre of Ashmansworth. The section by Plough Cottage and another section by Beech Tree Cottage are primary areas for speeding. The following points were made:

- Children often play in the road nearby the problem areas
- Farm traffic is a particular problem as it takes a long time for tractors to slow down one brakes are applied.
- The speed limit is 60mph, although traffic should drive safely.

The following measures were suggested:

- Notices asking traffic to slow down (although these are often ignored)
- Publicising the issue via the Annual Parish Meeting, the village calendar, and the Parish Council website
- A formal speed limit (may not be effective, HCC Highways have proved reluctant to implement in the past)
- Mock gates near problem areas (unlikely to affect local drivers)

HCC Highways have said that only authorised speed signs are allowed, so

local amateur signs would be frowned upon.

It was agreed to try an unofficial warning sign at the appropriate area – Mrs Blossie-Lynch and Mrs Bond will drive this forward – wording to be checked with Councillors.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Cox to place a polite reminder in the village newsletter, both about speeding, and getting children to use the recreation ground rather than the road.

It was also suggested to possibly put some play equipment on the recreation ground to make it more inviting to local children. Permission would need to be sought from the Faccombe Estate, and public liability insurance would need to be checked very carefully. Mrs Bond to investigate the issue in preparation for possible proposals.

5. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Cox has been in touch with Glenn Peacey of HCC. HCC hope to have published a list by this September of the next roll-out tranche, taking the area up to 95% coverage (this might not include Crux Easton, possibly just Ashmansworth). He said that if Ashmansworth was included in that, there would be no point in seeking alternative approaches since the upgrade would happen fairly early. If the village misses that, then alternative approaches could be explored which would cost more but might deliver earlier and possibly better service.

He has suggested meeting in September once the 95% coverage listing is available.

It was agreed to leave the issue until the autumn.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Carpenter is unfortunately unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 4th June, and is also unable to attend any of the proposed dates for Council meetings in the next few months. She has suggested a policing open evening in Ashmansworth Village Hall to which all residents would be invited. Cllr Cox proposed organising the event, with the Parish Council being responsible for the hall hire. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Cox to approach PCSO Carpenter to organise.

Cllr Cox

7. Council Business

a) Clerk's report

- Grass Cutting - Alan Wolfenden has been in touch, requesting that the Council authorise extra cuts on the recreation ground this year due to the rapid growth level of the grass. He suggests at least 3 extra cuts, plus one other for the Flower Show over the summer.

Cllr Cox highlighted that grass cuttings are being left. After some discussion it was agreed that extra cuts should be carried out as needed, but swarth must be cleared after cutting if necessary.

Clerk to contact Wolfendens.

Clerk

- b) Parish Council Elections** – the Clerk updated the Council. All nominations have now been received by BDBC. They confirm that all five Councillors for Ashmansworth have been nominated, and will be standing uncontested. Once the election date is past, the Clerk will distribute new Register of Member Interest forms for completion. These must be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days of election; so, return to the Clerk by Monday 16th June.

Clerk

All

- c) Revised Pre-Submission Local Plan Consultation** – the consultation is open for comments until 13th June 2014. Comments are invited on the new/changed information only. Cllr Bays to check through and put together a response.

Cllr Bays

- d) Crux Easton Phone Box – Cllr O’Shaughnessy. A sheet of metal has been obtained to fix the hole. A company called Strongbond about to be approached about painting and maintenance.

It was noted that the work is something that the Parish Lengthsman could carry out.

- e) Parish Lengthsman – the Clerk updated the Council.

The Clerk and Cllr Cox have met with the Lengthsman to discuss the requirements of the Parish. Areas of work discussed were:

- Signpost cleaning
- Litter picking and ditch work
- Maintenance work on parish noticeboards
- Some possible hedge cutting around footpaths – stile near Lower Manor Farmhouse needs attention, although this may be covered by the Faccombe estate
- Anti-lichen treatment of War Memorial
- Crux Easton Phone Box

Clerk

The Clerk will place a work order for the most urgent items ready for June.

If anyone has any requests for work for the Lengthsman, please contact the Clerk or Cllr Cox.

Cllr Cox

Cllr Cox to place an item in the village newsletter.

- f) Parish Co-operation – working well, although minutes are still coming through very late from Highclere Parish Council. Clerk to contact Highclere Clerk to request that minutes are sent through more promptly.

Clerk

8. **BDAPTC/HALC** – Cllr Cox has chased the Chairman of BDAPTC for minutes of the last year’s meetings, but these have still not been forthcoming.

9. **Financial Matters**

- a) Parish Council Insurance – the Clerk has received the renewal notice for the Parish Council insurance. The cost of £272 remains competitive, and Came & Co provide excellent support to Parish Councils. Cllr Wheeler proposed and Cllr Bays seconded accepting the renewal. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

- b) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement. She noted the receipt from BDBC of the precept and associated grants. All payments are in line with what is expected, and include the Council insurance premium and the internal audit fee. Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr O’Shaughnessy seconded authorising all payments. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

- c) Internal Audit – the Council’s internal audit for 2013/14 has now been completed, resulting in just three advisory notes:

- The Standing Orders will be reviewed over the course of the next six months, and Financial Regulations will be put in place at the same time.
- It was noted that bank statements should be initialled by Councillors to show that the financial statement agrees with the bank statement. This will be implemented from this meeting.
- It was noted that on Member Interest forms, where a member has no entry against a category, then they should enter ‘none’ to prove that they have not omitted to answer the question. This will be addressed when Councillors complete their forms after the forthcoming elections.

Clerk

Clerk

All

With regards to the accounts, the auditor found them to be in good order, and was happy with the explanations provided for any large variances from

last year. These included:

- an increase in precept to pay for the Clerk
- The increase in Clerk's salary as a result of formalising the Clerk's role
- Raising the Council's reserves to a prudent level.
- Raising the value of the asset register to include the War Memorial

It was proposed by Cllr Bays and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to formally approve the accounting and governance statements, and therefore to approve internal audit for the accounting year 2013/14. Clerk to forward audit documents to the external auditor.

Clerk

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55pm The next meeting and AGM is to be held on Wednesday 4th June. Regular meetings are planned for 19th June, 24th July (all Thursdays). Cllr Cox thanked councillors for a very productive meeting.

Appendix A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 15/05/2014

Balances:

Statement No: 347 (28/04/2014) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 15/05/2014
£3,766.75	2,797.28

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100546	M V Sarson	Newsletter Stationery	57.18
100548	Royal British Legion	Donation in lieu of Poppy Wreath	20.00
100549	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - March	113.26
100550	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Travel Expenses Oct-Mar	93.51
100551	HMRC	Tax/NICs	75.00
100552	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Grant towards upkeep	500.00
TOTAL			858.95

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100553	HALC	Affiliation Fees	105.20
100554	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - April	96.48
100555	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - May	96.48
100556	Broker Network Ltd	Council Insurance 2014/15	272.95
100557	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - April	78.00
100558	Staples	Stationery	39.36
100559	Do the Numbers Ltd	Internal Audit fee	155.00
100560	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Hall Hire - 2013/14	126.00
TOTAL			969.47

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
28/04/2014	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Limited General Grant	1,100.00
28/04/2014	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Precept Apr-Sept	1,500.00
28/04/2014	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Council Tax Support Grant	15.00
28/04/2014	Basingstoke & Deane BC	Grass Cutting Grant	240.00
TOTAL			2,855.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00