

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 29th October 2014 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors: Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy Cllr Andrew Bays
In Attendance: Maxta Thomas (Clerk) 3 members of the public (part time)
Apologies: Cllr Tom Thacker (County) Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)
Cllr Sarah Wheeler

Action

1. Apologies

As above

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 25th September 2014 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Planning

a) 14/02798/HSE - Crux Easton House, Crux Easton

Erection of two pool side canopies including one chimney
No objections.

b) Update on previous applications

Steeles Farm – pending. Legal issues are still ongoing
Thurston Cottage – pending
Church Farm - pending

c) Further applications received

None

4. Council Business

a) Clerks Report – the Clerk noted the recent HCC public transport strategy consultation, and observed that it looks as though Ashmansworth will keep its bus service, although other routes may be merged into the 7 and 7A bus route. It is unknown at this stage what the timetable or routes are likely to be.

2015 meeting dates – the clerk proposed having set meeting dates for next year. Dates are to be distributed to all councillors for comment.

Clerk

b) Recreation Ground/play facilities – Cllr Bays has been in touch with the Facombe Estate to try clarify the terms of the lease, and to determine whether play equipment can legally be placed on the recreation ground. He has not yet had a reply.

The Clerk has been investigating possible grants – this is ongoing.

Grass cutting – need to keep an eye in the spring and ensure that grass is cut short enough for football, and also cuttings cleared. Diary note for Clerk to check early next March.

Clerk

Goalposts have been formally approved, at a cost of £918 inc VAT. Vic Gethin to progress as appropriate.

Vic Gethin

c) Council representative to the Ramblers Association – Cllr Cox proposed that David Boyles be appointed as the Parish Council representative to the Ramblers Association. This was seconded by Cllr Black and unanimously

agreed.

- d) Footpaths – Cllr Cox declared an interest in this item and handed the Chair of the meeting to Cllr Black.
- Cllr Black observed that a gate had been locked in recent weeks on the disputed footpath – Mr Skilbeck noted that he has placed a lock on the gate to ensure that it is kept closed (it does not close properly), but that this is easy to remove if needed. Mr Skilbeck put forward a suggestion of rerouting the path, and gave details of a possible route. Cllr Cox noted that the footpath signposting is poor, which can cause problems with people trying to find the path.
- Cllr Black proposed facilitating a meeting between HCC Rights of Way, Mr Fisher, Mrs Burch, Mr Poole, Mr Winston, Mr Boyles, Cllr Cox, and Mr Skilbeck. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to forward Rights of Way contact details to Cllr Black.
- Cllr Black/
Clerk**
- e) Crux Easton phone box – Cllr O’Shaughnessy has received a further suggestion for the phone box, for use as a shelter for walkers, as well as being used as a village notice area. It may be possible for the Lengthsman to paint the phone box if paint is supplied – Clerk to check. Cllr O’Shaughnessy to obtain a further professional quote.
- Clerk/Cllr
O’Shaughnessy**
- f) Replacement tree – near phone box – this will need to be actioned over the winter months (January) – Cllr Bays to obtain tree, and Cllr Black and Tim Poole to plant. Budget up to £100.
- Cllr Bays/
Cllr Black**
- g) Ponds – Cllr Cox noted that he has received communication from an ex resident of the village, who noted that the ponds article on the website is missing details of the pond on Woodhay Road. It was agreed that Cllr Cox will approach Mark Benzing for photos and written summary to place on the website.
- Cllr Black noted that some further maintenance work needs to be done on this pond, possibly by the Lengthsman. Clerk to investigate.
- Cllr Cox**
- Clerk**
- h) Trees Strategy – Cllr Cox has been liaising with Prue Lane-Fox, who has pointed out that there is a connection between the many Ash trees in the village and the name of the village. These may be under threat from Ash Dieback disease.
- Prue has been in touch with the Woodland Trust, who have sent a possible plan of action. A survey of Ash trees in the area is suggested, followed by a plan of planting another type of tree to replace any diseased ash trees. Prue’s concern with this approach is that it will take a long time for saplings to grow to full height.
- Cllr Black noted that he has already been replacing some hedging and trees with new trees, as are some other landowners in the area. It was also noted that HCC and BDBC are currently recommending a watching brief with regard to Ash Dieback.
- Cllr Cox to put the PC tree officer in touch with Prue to take further.
- Cllr Cox**
- i) Parish Lengthsman – the Clerk confirmed that various tasks have been successfully completed in the village, including sign cleaning, stile repairs and footpath clearance. The ditch at Crux Easton has had some work on clearance, but more is required in the near future and will be carried out using a mini digger. Clerk to organise, and let Cllr O’Shaughnessy know when work is to be done.
- It was further noted that some hedge growth needs cutting back at the Cross Lane junction with the A343. Highways should carry this out, but do not appear to have done so to date. Clerk to check if this work is booked, and if not, then speak to the Lengthsman.
- Clerk**
- j) Parish Co-operation – A request from the Clerk at East Woodhay has been

received for information on War Memorial maintenance – Cllr Cox has passed this on.

5. Local Roads

a) A343 – Access/White Lines/HGC signs – Cllr Cox has chased Cllr Thacker about this but has received no reply to date.

b) Potholes/Road Repairs – No issues.

6. Telephones/Broadband

Nothing to report – Cllr Cox to chase for an update in January 2015.

Cllr Cox

7. Neighbourhood Watch

There have been reports of a suspicious vehicle in the area. Cllr Cox noted that all residents should look at improving security and vigilance. Any issues should be reported to PCSO Abbey Carpenter via the 101 or 999 number.

8. BDAPTC/HALC – the Clerk reported that she has attended the HALC AGM. The keynote speaker was the new Chief Executive of NALC, who is keen to work more closely with the County associations, as well as expanding the number of parish councils in the country. Another focus of the AGM was the issue of councillor recruitment.

9. Financial Matters

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (appendix a). She noted the following points:

- A bill for grass cutting at the recreation ground. There may be one further bill for this year.
- The annual donation to the Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath.
- All other payments are as expected.

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

The Clerk also noted that she is in the process of pulling together the budget figures for this financial year, ready for discussion and agreement at the next meeting. The precept request for 2015/16 needs to be submitted to BDBC by 31st January 2015. She invited ideas for possible projects for the coming year.

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.00pm The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th December 2014.

Appendix A

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 29/10/2014

Balances:

Statement No: 353 (28/09/2014) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 29/10/2014
£3,726.53	2,891.49

Payments since last meeting date :

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100576	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting - Sept	78.00
100577	Royal British Legion	Wreath & Donation	20.00
100578	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Nov	96.48
TOTAL			194.48

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100570	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Sept	96.48
100571	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Oct	96.28
100572	HMRC	Tax/NICs Q2 2014/15	72.20
100573	A A Wolfenden	Grass Cutting	78.00
100574	Vision ICT	Domain fee	66.00
100575	Vision ICT	Website hosting	231.60
TOTAL			640.56