

## ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 **Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Place:** Ashmansworth Village Hall  
**Present:** Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black (Vice-Chairman)  
**Councillors:** Cllr Andrew Bays Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy  
**In Attendance:** Maxta Thomas (Clerk) Vic Gethin (part time)  
**Apologies:** Cllr Tom Thacker (County) Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)

#### 1. Apologies

As above. The Clerk noted the resignation of Cllr Wheeler from the Council. Cllr Cox noted her contribution to the Parish Council and recorded his thanks for her work.

#### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

#### 3. Planning

**a) 14/03913/HSE & 14/03914/LBC - Four Ashes Ashmansworth**

Erection of oak framed orangery following demolition of existing conservatory. Replace existing bedroom and bathroom windows above conservatory with hardwood frame windows to match existing  
No objections.

**Clerk**

**b) 15/00090/RET - The Old Vicarage Ashmansworth**

Construction of 2 no. dormer windows to the south east elevation  
Cllr Cox gave some background to this application. No objections.

**Clerk**

**c) T/00001/15/TCA – Ashmansworth House, Ashmansworth**

Notice of Intent to various tree works on schedule including felling and maintenance of trees

Cllr Bays gave background to this application. He noted that the work being applied for is long overdue, and will be a massive improvement when complete. No objections.

**Clerk**

**d) Update on previous applications - None**

**e) Further applications received**

**15/00204/HSE - Church Farm Church Lane Ashmansworth**

Erection of single storey extension following demolition of lean-to. Erection of single storey rear extension to the west elevation of main house to create link to barn

Cllr Bays gave some background – it is similar to the previous application, but takes into account the Conservation Officer's comments. Cllr Cox noted the bat survey, which is also being taken into account. Clerk to reply to BDDC stating that the application has been considered in detail with no objections.

**Clerk**

#### 4. Council Business

**a) Clerk's Report** – the Clerk again noted the resignation of Cllr Wheeler. A notice of casual vacancy has been sent to BDBC, and will be displayed in the Parish from 5<sup>th</sup> February. Once 14 days have passed the Council will be

**Clerk**

free to advertise and co-opt a new councillor.

The clerk noted the recent email correspondence from Prue Lane-Fox with regards to trees in the Parish. Prue has suggested a tree planting party in the autumn in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. The Clerk noted that it may be possible to look at putting together a Treescape Appraisal for the parish in conjunction with BDBC – this would need to be driven by someone in the Parish. However, it was felt by councillors that this was unnecessary. Cllr Cox and Clerk to write to Prue with thanks and general support for her suggestions and input.

**Clerk / Cllr  
Cox**

Cllr Cox also noted that Cllr Black was going to replace the dead walnut tree at the Council's expense. Cllr Black to action when the weather improves. Budget £100.

**Cllr Black**

The Clerk noted the new Taxi-Share service for Ashmansworth, which has replaced the bus service. Those who have used it so far are extremely happy with the service. Thanks to Cllr Falconer and officers at BDBC to be passed on by the Clerk.

**Clerk**

The Clerk finally noted that the Council Standing Orders will need to be reviewed very soon. These were last done in 2008, and there is a new template which will need to be incorporated. The Clerk will have a document ready for review by the March meeting.

**Clerk**

**b) Recreation Ground/play facilities – Vic Gethin has sent an update on the goal post purchase as follows:**

- County Council has provided a grant for the full amount of £793 (excl. VAT).
- The goals have been ordered and are due to be delivered by 13<sup>th</sup> February.
- Installation by 3 willing volunteers is scheduled for the half term w/c 16<sup>th</sup> February.
- An 'unveiling' event is to be organised to include our first village football match.

#### **Considerations**

- Grass cutting and mowing.

Cllr Black has spoken to contractors about extra grass clearance – this is no problem, but will cost an extra £15 per cut. Cuts will also be shorter. It was unanimously agreed to bear the extra cost until the end of the current contract period. Clerk to write to contractor.

**Clerk**

Cllr Cox formally thanked Vic and her team for their efforts. Clerk to write to Tom Thacker thanking him for the grant on behalf of the council, with Vic to sign on behalf of the residents. Cllr Bays to write to Faccombe with Council thanks for the permission.

**Clerk  
Cllr Bays**

**c) Footpaths – No further progress.**

**d) Crux Easton phone box – the Clerk noted that the Lengthsman is happy to paint the phone box if the Council are able to supply the materials. Cllr O'Shaughnessy has obtained a quote to professionally restore the phone box, although this is rather high. It was noted that the job is really a specialist job. Cllr Bays observed that residents of Crux Easton may like to contribute. Cllr Bays & Cllr O'Shaughnessy to carry out some local fundraising. It is also possible that a County Councillor grant and parish council funding. It was noted that suggestions are needed for a use for the phone box.**

**Cllr  
O'Shaughnessy/  
Cllr Bays**

**e) Update on Lengthsman Scheme – the Clerk gave an update. Ashmansworth have £280 left from their £1000 allocation for the year. She stated that if this is not used by the end of March 2015, then this will disappear, and the new year's allocation will take over.**

The Clerk noted the recent work on ditching at Crux Easton, and pond

clearance work on the East Woodhay Road pond, both of which have been very successful. Cllr Cox to draft text and photos of the pond for the website.

**Cllr Cox**

Further work – completion of footboard on stile work carried out earlier in the year. Kerbstones opposite The Plough need overgrowth clearance. Andover Road milestone could do with clearance – it is currently not visible from road. Clerk to check whether Lengthsman is able to do this due to proximity of highway.

**Clerk**

- f) Parish Co-operation – Cllr Cox has been liaising with Highclere PC and Highways regarding the replacement salt bin at Zell Hill. The road is being salted by Highways in the meantime.

The Clerk has been in touch with Highclere and East Woodhay clerks regarding the dates of their APM. They have not yet set the date for theirs. The Clerk proposed the Ashmansworth APM for 20<sup>th</sup> May. This was unanimously agreed.

## 5. Local Roads

- a) A343 – Access/White Lines/HGC signs – the extended white lines on the A343 approaching the Cross Lane junction were due to be completed two weeks ago. However, this does not yet appear to have been carried out. Cllr Cox is chasing.

Vegetation at Cross Lane junction – Cllr Cox asked if the Council wants this cut back further. It has improved, but is still not good. It was particularly noted that clearing the ivy covered tree limb that has fallen 100m south of the junction would be useful. It would also be helpful to continue the cut back vegetation further along main road. Cllr Cox to contact Highways with Council queries.

**Cllr Cox**

Signs – there is a missing sign on A343 near the Cross Lane junction, indicating that the junction is coming up. A new sign is on order. At the Yew Tree junction a sign warning of junction and slippery road is in the ditch. This has been reported. Cllr Cox noted that it is possible that Highclere may get the Lengthsman to deal with this.

- b) Potholes/Road Repairs – Cllr Cox has been in touch with HCC Highways about various potholes in the parish. Steve Goodall is processing these, and they are scheduled for repair. Zell Farm House & Yew Tree stretch – the work is not done yet, but is on the list. Cllr O'Shaughnessy to check Crux Easton for potholes.

**Cllr  
O'Shaughnessy**

## 6. Telephones/Broadband

Cllr Cox gave an update. Ashmansworth is on the list for wave 2, although the timetable will not be finalised until autumn 2015. He noted that Crux Easton is not on the same list. Other options for Crux Easton were discussed. It was noted that the process does seem to be very slow. Cllr Cox to contact Glenn Peacey noting the omission of Crux Easton from wave 2.

**Cllr Cox**

## 7. Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Abbey Carpenter has sent the following report:

This is the crime summary for the month of January 2015 for the parishes of Ashmansworth, East Woodhay, Highclere, Burghclere, Newtown, Litchfield, Echinswell & Sydmonton.

- Total Crimes reported - 19
- House Burglary - 0
- Criminal Damage - 4
- Burglary other than a Dwelling - 1
- Theft from Vehicles - 5
- Theft of a Vehicle -1

- Other Theft - 1
- Other Crime - 7

January 2014 - Total crimes reported - 15

The community Policing priorities for this area are :

- Thefts from sheds & outbuildings (including theft of metal)
- Anti - Social Behaviour
- Speeding

**Prevent thefts from garages, sheds and outbuildings (including theft of metal)**

- We had one attempted burglary from a barn in Highclere between the 13th and 16th January. Offenders entered the garden, supposedly on foot leaving their vehicle well out of sight. They have used items within the garden to force entry to the barn. Nothing taken.
- Please remove all items from your garden which could be used by offenders to force entry to any premises.
- Remove any scrap ASAP, by means of transporting household waste to a tip, or, using a reputable licensed scrap collector.

**Reduce anti-social behaviour across the beat area**

**Reduce speeding across the beat**

- Woolton Hill Community Speedwatch have now received their Speedwatch kit, we will begin training volunteers very soon and then the team can begin checking for speeders across the area.
- Officers are planning additional speed enforcement across the beat and will advise me of these results, I intend to publish statistics in monthly updates throughout the year.
- If you are concerned about speeding please address this with your local parish council or directly with me. Parish councils can make us aware of places in need of speed enforcement and these can then be added to our approved list of sites for enforcement.

**Other incidents of note**

- Attempted theft - Oxdrove, BURGHCLERE - between the 4th and 7th January, unknown offenders have entered the garden of a property on Oxdrove, they have forced a bronze statue from its concrete plinth. They have moved the statue but discarded it elsewhere in the garden.
- Criminal Damage - There have been two reports of damage caused to a fence along a footpath in Ecchinswell. Unknown offender has cut barbed wire to gain access to private land. The footpath is located along the Ecchinswell - Kingsclere road. Signs have been placed along this footpath appealing for witnesses and have been removed on several occasions, we suspect the offender is removing these also and this could amount to theft. I urge all members of the public to respect Private Land and stay on designated footpaths. Anyone who feels they should have access to land should discuss this with the landowner/s and gain permission.
- Criminal Damage - Knights Lane - Between the 15th and 16th of January an offender has caused damage to a parked vehicle. It appears as though the damage has been caused by a key or similar implement.
- Theft from a vehicle - A vehicle parked at Beacon Hill on the 25th January was targeted by thieves. The rear window was smashed and a bag removed.

- Thefts from vehicles - 28TH - 29TH - 4 vehicles were targeted by thieves in the Woolton Hill area - 2 vehicles had windows smashed to gain entry as items were left on display and subsequently taken. 2 other vehicles show no sign of forced entry and were searched. Black Fat Face coat stolen from within one vehicle.
- Theft of a vehicle - 29th - 30th - BMW 530 stolen from the driveway of a property in Douglas Ride, Woolton Hill. The vehicle was stolen without keys and there were no signs of damage left at the scene. The vehicle has since been located by Thames Valley Police and will now be assessed for evidence.

### **Reporting to police**

There have been a number of suspicious incidents reported to police by local residents recently. This is fantastic and the information that it can provide us with can help to assist in solving crime.

Unfortunately I must ask that those reporting incidents of any sort do so via our main Enquiry Centre. Please do not email Richard or I directly as this can lead to a delay in investigation of the incident.

Remember if you think something is suspicious, there is good reason to report it to police. Always use the 101 number for non emergencies. Please think, what makes it suspicious? What may the people/vehicles be in the area for? Can you provide a description or vehicle registration number? Have you spoken with the people? Did they make you more or less suspicious?

If you believe a crime is in progress, offenders are on scene or there is serious threat to person or property, dial 999.

I thank you all for your continuing support and the reports that you make.

### **Hampshire constabulary appeals**

There are current appeals throughout the force area that may be of interest to you. They are updated regularly. Please take a look via the following link.

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/news-and-appeals/>

If you have any information regarding any of the incidents detailed in this update please contact us either by email or calling 101

If you know someone who is involved in criminal activity, have information relating to crimes that have occurred, but you do not want to call police directly. Then please visit <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or call 0800 555 111. This is a free and anonymous service.

**8. BDAPTC/HALC** – no update on BDAPTC. The Clerk is due to attend the Clerk’s Update with HALC, which will focus on the upcoming elections and audit issues.

**9. Financial Matters**

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

- A bill from the Lengthsman for the hire of a digger to carry out the work on ditching at Crux Easton, and on the East Woodhay Road pond.
- All other payments are as expected.

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

**Clerk**

**b) s.137 Expenditure** – the Clerk noted that there is some £500 left in the budget for possible grant expenditure by year end. Decision to be made at March meeting – councillors to think about possible projects in the meantime.

**All**

**10. Resolution** – to exclude press and public from items that may require

discussion of possible legal and financial proceedings i.a.w. Public Meetings – Admission to Public Meetings Act 1960

Cllr Bays proposed and Cllr Black seconded the motion. Unanimously agreed. The public left the meeting.

11. Clerk's Annual Review – Cllr Cox stated that he has met with the Clerk and carried out her annual review. It was generally felt that all was going well. Cllr Cox proposed raising the Clerk's payscale to SCP 23, effective from April 2015. This was seconded by Cllr Bays and unanimously agreed.

12. **Date of next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.21pm The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Some discussion was held on meeting dates for April and May, with 22<sup>nd</sup> April being agreed, and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for the APM.

Appendix A – Finance

**Financial statement :** Ashmansworth Parish Council

**Meeting date :** 04/02/2015

**Balances:**

Statement No: 358 (28/01/2015) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 16/12/2014
£2,576.58	2,247.46

**Payments since last meeting date :**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100579	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's Salary - Dec	102.79
100580	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerks expenses	60.12
100581	HMRC	Tax/Nics Q3	74.00
100582	A A Wolfenden	Grass cutting - Oct	78.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>314.91</b>

**New Items for payment**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100584	Premier Grounds Maintenance	Digger Hire	120.00
100585	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's salary - Jan	98.16
100586	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk's salary - Feb	98.36
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>316.52</b>

**Receipts since last meeting date :**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>

**Payments not yet presented**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100583	SLCC	Membership	12.60
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12.60</b>