

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Date: | 11th March 2015 | Time: | 7.30 pm |
| Place: | Ashmansworth Village Hall | | |
| Present: | Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) | Cllr Kieron Black (Vice-Chairman) | |
| Councillors: | Cllr Andrew Bays | | |
| In Attendance: | Maxta Thomas (Clerk) | Angela Harris | |
| | Cllr Tom Thacker (County) | | |
| | Vic Gethin | 2 members of the public | |
| Apologies: | Cllr Carol O'Shaughnessy | Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough) | |

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th February 2015 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Cox noted that the dead tree by the Ashmansworth phone box has still to be replaced. Cllr Black confirmed that this would be planted imminently.

Cllr Black

4. Co-option of new councillor

Cllr Cox introduced Angela Harris to the Council. Angela expressed her willingness to stand as a councillor. Cllr Bays proposed that she be co-opted, Cllr Black seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed. After signing her Acceptance of Office form, Cllr Harris took her place on the Council.

5. Planning

a) 15/00425/LBC & 15/00424/HSE - The Old Cottage Bartletts Down Lane Ashmansworth

Insertion of new dormer window to north east elevation

Cllr Cox gave some background to the application. New dormer window will give extra space in the bathroom. No objections. Clerk to contact BDBC.

Clerk

d) Update on previous applications

Applications for Four Ashes and the Old Vicarage have been approved. Church Farm is still pending.

e) Further applications received

None.

The Clerk noted that the BDBC Local Plan is unlikely to be adopted until spring 2016. It will go out for consultation again later this year.

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report – the Clerk noted that the policy on carrying adverts for businesses on the website needs to be reviewed. Currently, local businesses can be featured in the directory section on the website for £10 per year. Cllr Cox questioned whether the PC should be encouraging more use of the local directory. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea, and that a directory entry should be free of charge for local businesses. Cllr Cox to take forward. It was also noted that the council needs to highlight the PC website to local users. This will be done via the village calendar and

Cllr Cox

the parish magazine (which will include Highclere).

b) 2014/15 Risk Assessment – the Clerk has reviewed the Council risk assessment, and this has been distributed to all councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Bays and seconded by Cllr Black to accept and adopt the 2014/15 risk assessment. Unanimously agreed.

c) Standing Orders Review – the Clerk has reviewed the Council's standing orders, and brought them into line with current legislation and best practice. These have been distributed to councillors, together with the draft protocol on broadcasting council meetings. Both documents should be adopted in tandem.

It was proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Bays to adopt the Standing Orders and meeting broadcast protocol. This was unanimously agreed.

d) Recreation Ground Update – Vic Gethin confirmed that the goalposts have now been installed at the recreation ground. The Clerk confirmed that all grant money has been received, and that the invoice is now due for payment. Vic noted that net pegs have been purchased for £22 – it was unanimously agreed that he council will pay for these.

Vic and the Parish Council formally thanked Cllr Thacker for the grant for the goalposts. Cllr Bays noted that he has also formally thanked the Facombe Estate for their permission for the goalposts. Cllr Cox formally thanked Vic Gethin and her team for their work on the project.

An official inaugural football match is planned for April – Vic to confirm the date once it has been set, and let Cllr Thacker and the press know.

Vic Gethin

Grass cutting – Vic noted that the ground is very rough at the moment, and may need some rolling out. Cllr Black to speak to contractor to address the issue. Cllr Black will also run his own heavy roller over the area. First cut of season will be by the end of March – Cllr Black to liaise with contractor. Possibility of white lines outlining a pitch – Cllr Black to investigate.

Cllr Black

e) Crux Easton phone box – Cllr O'Shaughnessy absent, so no formal update. Cllr Harris suggested that the phone box could be used as a newspaper delivery point. No other suggestions so far. Cllr Cox noted that the PC cannot necessarily pay the total bill for refurbishment. Cllr Harris to talk with locals re individual contributions and further suggestions for use.

Cllr Harris

f) Parish Lengthsman scheme – the Clerk has now received the final statement for the year from St Mary Bourne Parish Council. Ashmansworth PC has in fact very slightly overspent on their budget for the year, which has resulted in a final invoice from St Mary Bourne of £20.00.

Therefore, any future planned work for the Lengthsman will come out of the 2015/16 budget.

Cllr Thacker stated that he was very happy that the Lengthsman scheme is working well. Cllr Cox recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr Thacker and HCC for providing the scheme.

g) Parish Co-operation – the Clerk confirmed that she has been in touch with both East Woodhay PC and Highclere PC, and that the APMs for the three parishes do not clash. The Ashmansworth APM will be on 20th May 2015.

Cllr Cox has written to East Woodhay PC re the new yellow lines outside the doctors' surgery, which has reduced the parking available. Cllr Thacker noted that East Woodhay are trying to deal with this issue.

7. Local Roads

a) A343 – Access/White Lines/HGC signs –

- Cross lane junction warning sign was missing – this has now been replaced.
- Yew Tree junction warning sign is damaged and leans into the

hedge – this is still outstanding. Also comes under Highclere Parish Council, and may be covered by the Lengthsman.

- Double white lines at approach to Cross Lane junction – these are still not in place, despite Highways saying that it had been done. Cllr Thacker to chase. It was noted that there has been recent resurfacing work in the area, and that white lines should be repainted as a result. *[post meeting note: this work has now been done.]*
- Cross Lane junction – fallen tree covered in ivy – Highways are planning to remove 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 – work not done yet, but is on the list for the new financial year.
- Crux Easton – potholes between Three Legged Cross and Crux Easton turning. These need to be reported either via the HCC website or the Clerk. Cllr Thacker noted that grid references and photos are useful in reporting potholes.
- Cllr O’ Shaughnessy has noted via Cllr Cox about a lack of passing places on same section of road at Crux Easton – is it possible to get passing places put in? Cllr Thacker noted that this would be very low priority, but he would try and get it in to the schedule of works. It was noted by the PC that the Zell Farm work should take priority.
- Cllr Cox noted that the PC has asked Highways about maintenance of milestones, and whether Highways will do this, or if they are prepared to devolve it out to the Lengthsman.

c) County Councillor report – Cllr Thacker gave a verbal report to the Parish Council.

- “HCC voted on 19th February to freeze its part of the Council Tax, which is the largest portion of the total council tax bill. I understand that BDBC has done the same, so most residents in the borough should see little change in the council tax bill. For Hampshire, Band D remains at £1,037.88 for the sixth year running; this despite HCC having to accept a 51% central government grant cut since 2010/11, and total savings of £240 million since 2008. A further £100 million of savings are expected to be required by 2017/18. In 2014/15 and 2015/16 we will have used £135 million of reserves on one-off spending to fund out budget. Out expenditure in 2015/16 will be £1900 million.
- The salt bin on Ashmansworth Hill was replaced last month.
- There is a continual follow of water down the hill from Zell House to the Yew Tree, and despite the fact that there is some positive drainage, the edge of the carriageway is being eroded. The road has been submitted to Operation Resilience for drainage improvements and haunching repairs and hopefully this will be in their 2015/16 programme.
- I am in the very early stages of discussion with Highways teams as to what can be done to improve traffic management around the Yew Tree junction area.”

8. 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. Crux Easton is not included in this list. There is also one postcode in Ashmansworth that is not on the list, although this seems to be an oversight. Cllr Thacker asked to be included in on any correspondence re Crux Easton.

Cllr Harris noted that a good percentage of residents in Crux Easton work from home, and find the lack of a good broadband service very difficult. Cllr Thacker noted that the best time for residents and the PC to comment and lobby will be at the consultation stage for the next wave.

9. Neighbourhood Watch

- a) Policing Priorities questionnaire – Cllr Cox noted the recent questionnaire from BDBC on policing priorities. Cllr Cox asked councillors what the top three priorities for the parish were. After some discussion, priorities identified are :

- Lack of visible police presence in the parish
- Thefts from outbuildings
- Speeding traffic (although this is difficult due to the lack of a speed limit in the village).

Clerk to respond to questionnaire

Clerk

- b) Handling police alerts – Cllr Cox noted that the system has changed for police alerts, which has resulted in more targeted alerts. It was suggested that some of these could be put onto the website.

Cllr Cox

10. **BDAPTC/HALC** – BDAPTC held a meeting on 10th March, which Cllr Cox was unable to attend.

The Clerk has attended the recent HALC Clerk's update, which gave some very useful information on the upcoming audit process.

11. Financial Matters

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

- A bill from the from St Mary Bourne PC for overspend on the Lengthsman budget
- Invoices for the goalposts at the recreation ground. She also noted that the grant from HCC had been received for this item.
- Hall hire for meetings for 2014/15
- All other payments are as expected.

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

- b) s.137 Expenditure – a formal grant request has been received from Ashmansworth Village Hall Committee. Cllr Cox and Cllr Black noted that they are both members of Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Cox proposed grant of £500 towards the Village Hall. Cllr Bays seconded. Unanimously agreed.

It was noted that the entrance to the Recreation Ground needs work – Cllr Black suggested purchasing planings to help even out the surface. This will come from the finance for the new financial year. Cllr Black to investigate.

Cllr Black

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015, with the APM being held on 20th May 2015.

Appendix A – Finance

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 11/03/2015

Balances:

| | |
|---|--|
| Statement No: 359 (28/02/2015) Balance | Balance after reconciliation - 11/03/2015 |
| £3,040.46 | 1,762.98 |

Payments since last meeting date :

| Cheque No | Payee | Details | TOTAL COST |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 100583 | SLCC | Membership | 12.60 |
| 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 |
| TOTAL | | | 329.12 |

New Items for payment

| Cheque No | Payee | Details | TOTAL COST |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 100587 | Mrs M J Thomas | Clerk's Salary - Mar | 98.16 |
| 100588 | HMRC | Tax/Nics Q4 2014/15 | 73.60 |
| 100589 | Mrs M J Thomas | Clerk's expenses | 44.10 |
| 100590 | It's a Goal Post Ltd | Goalposts for rec. | 886.50 |
| 100591 | Mrs V Gethin | Cement for goal posts | 57.12 |
| 100592 | Ashmansworth Village Hall | Hall hire 2014/15 | 98.00 |
| 100593 | St Mary Bourne Parish Council | Lengthsman overspend | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | | | 1,277.48 |

Receipts since last meeting date :

| Receipt Date | Payer | Details | TOTAL AMOUNT |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 10/02/2015 | HCC | Grant for Goalposts | 793.00 |
| TOTAL | | | 793.00 |

Payments not yet presented

| Cheque No | Payee | Details | TOTAL COST |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | | 0.00 |