

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 22nd April 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) 2 members of the public
Apologies: Cllr Harris Cllr Tom Thacker (County)
Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)

1. Apologies

As above. Cllr Cox noted with regret the recent death of Cllr O'Shaughnessy, and expressed his condolences to the family on behalf of the Parish Council.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th March 2015 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. They were duly signed by Cllr Cox.

3. Matters Arising

Tree at phone box – Cllr Black has now planted a replacement walnut tree. The council thanked him for carrying out this task.

4. Planning

a) 15/00863/HSE - The Plough Inn Bartletts Down Lane Ashmansworth

Erection of single storey side extension to link house to garage and stores

Mr & Mrs Thomas gave background to the planning application. Cllr Cox questioned the structural soundness of the workshop – Mr Thomas confirmed that it is sound, and any repairs necessary to the roof would be carried out as part of the work. He also noted that the walls would not be weight bearing in any case. Minimal consultation with neighbours has been carried out, with no issues being raised. Councillors noted that provided the work is done sympathetically it will improve the property as a whole. Therefore no objections were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

b) 15/00748/HSE - Wood House Crux Easton

Demolition of garage and construction of two story extension

After some discussion, no objections were unanimously agreed.

Clerk

c) T/00107/15/TCA – Beech Tree Cottage, Ashmansworth

Notice of intent to roadside Beech Tree – Crown reduce by approx 2m all round leaving an approx. finished height of 18m and crown lift to 5m

No objections.

Clerk

d) Update on previous applications

The applications for Old Cottage have been granted. The application for Church Lane farm has been granted a time extension to enable full bat surveys to be carried out. A decision is not expected until at least late June.

e) Further applications received

None.

5. Council Business

a) Clerk's Report – the Clerk and Cllr Cox have received an email from Steve

Brown regarding the Wikipedia entry for Ashmansworth and its status as the highest village in Hampshire. Wiki was claiming that Bentworth was the highest, which is not the case. Also, Ashmansworth and Crux Easton were missing from Wiki's list of Hampshire villages. Steve has since updated the entries. Cllr Cox suggested that it could be worth expanding the Wiki entry for Ashmansworth, which is not very full at present.

Cllr Cox has received an introduction from the new BDBC Community Development Officer, Clive Fortune, who is keen to meet up to see how he can assist the Parish. He is particularly interested in village halls, and can offer assistance in obtaining grants. A meeting has been arranged for later this week.

Cllr Cox

The Clerk noted that she has been offered the post of Clerk to Mortimer West End Parish Council, and that she has accepted. Therefore she will be leaving Ashmansworth Parish Council. It has been agreed with Mortimer West End that she will stay on at Ashmansworth until after the APM and audit has been completed. The council thanked her warmly for her excellent contributions to the smooth running of our affairs.

b) Website updates – Cllr Cox has added a new 'police alerts' section to the PC website. This will be publicised through the village calendar. He has not yet updated the 'local directory' section, but will probably do this gradually over the next few months and will seek input from local residents.

Cllr Cox

c) Recreation Ground Update – Cllr Cox noted that the new goalposts are working well and seeing a lot of use. However, the nets have been recently damaged by a deer. The nets have been repaired. The PC need to find some way of protecting these. Cllr Cox to check the nets, and look at placing flags to keep wildlife away. An inaugural football match has been planned for the Whitsun bank holiday weekend.

Cllr Cox

Grass Cutting – Cllr Black has been in touch with the contractors for the Recreation Ground. The contractor has now said that he is unable to pick up grass cuttings – Cllr Black will investigate further and clear grass cuttings as necessary until the matter is resolved. Clerk to also investigate alternatives if necessary.

**Cllr Black
Clerk**

d) Crux Easton phone box – no further news, as Cllr Harris is absent. However, following the recent death of Cllr O'Shaughnessy, Cllr Harris wishes to make a donation towards the cost of refurbishing the phone box, in recognition of Cllr O'Shaughnessy's work for the PC over many years. It was noted that a use for the phone box still needs to be found.

Cllr Harris

e) Parish Lengthsman scheme – the new year's scheme has now begun, with a fresh £1000 for the Parish to spend. The Clerk requested ideas on tasks for the Lengthsman. Regular annual tasks were suggested, such as sign cleaning, pond clearance, possible footpath clearance. A request for suggestions to go in the village calendar.

Cllr Cox

f) Parish Co-operation – nothing to report.

6. Local Roads

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

- Yew Tree junction warning sign is damaged and leans into the hedge – this is still outstanding. Comes under Highclere Parish Council, and may be covered by the Lengthsman.
- Double white lines at approach to Cross Lane junction – these have now been re-painted and extended as requested, which the council welcomes.
- Undergrowth needs to be cut back at the Cross Lane junction to improve visibility.
- Cllr Cox to contact Cllr Tom Thacker to try to bring pressure to bear to improve the junction at the Yew Tree. Visibility is very poor, and

Cllr Cox

makes pulling out very dangerous at times.

- b) Potholes/Road Repairs – work on potholes is still awaited. Cllr Cox to chase HCC Highways. Potholes at Crux Easton also to be reported. **Cllr Cox**

7. **Telephones/Broadband**

No further progress. A meeting is planned with Cllr Cox, Cllr Harris and Glenn Morgan.

**Cllr Cox /
Cllr Harris**

8. **Neighbourhood Watch**

- a) Cllr Cox noted that police alerts are now placed on the PC website. PCSO Carpenter and her colleagues are to be invited to the APM.

Clerk

PCSO Abbey Carpenter has submitted the following report:

We have had a few changes over the past few months and things are beginning to settle in here in our new team structure.

There are some changes to the areas which it is important to tell you about.

Whereas previously you would have had a dedicated PCSO and Police Officer for your area, there is now a dedicated PCSO and two officers shared across a larger Ward. The officers' role is to deal primarily with crime and offender management. PCSOs will be your local point of contact for community engagement, dealing with low level crime and Anti-Social behaviour.

The police officers covering this area are Richard Baldwin and Barbara Bradley.

We are now all based at Tadley and working in two larger teams, each team having one sergeant.

It is hoped that this will allow good contact with the beat team to continue, as well as crimes to be dealt with an expedient manner.

We ask that all reports to police are made via the 101 non emergency number unless it is a relevant 999 call. Please do not send email reports to the beat officer as this can lead to incorrect allocation of crimes and a delay in this report being made on our system due to days off or leave etc.

Policing priorities – the survey results are in and are as follows:

1. Speeding/Traffic issues - The local community speedwatch has been very active and over 100 offenders have been sent letters notifying them of their excess speed in the area of Woolton Hill. Highclere Speedwatch have now approved sites and will be starting training and carrying out speed observations in the very near future. This includes along the Penwood Road, A343 and the Cross road on the A343 between Penwood and Woolton Hill.
2. Burglary (Non Dwelling) - We have received some reports of non dwelling burglaries. We urge all residents to be aware at this time of year, take note of strange vehicles or people in the area who may be looking for targets. Ensure that your shed or garage is fully secured and alarmed. Register all serial numbers for garden machinery on Immobilise.com or make a note of them to keep in a safe place.
3. Burglary (Dwelling) - We did have one report of a dwelling burglary this month, this was to take car keys possibly with the intention of stealing the car, the car was not taken but was entered and searched by offenders. Please keep car keys in a location which is out of reach of windows and doors, also ensure that they are out of sight of offenders. Keep spares in a non obvious location such as locked cabinet or upstairs in your property.

Please be aware - A large number of 4X4 thefts or attempted thefts have taken place in the rural area and neighbouring areas across the past 6 weeks.

This includes high value, high performance vehicles where keys are stolen

first with the intention of taking vehicles - Please consider a tracking device. There are also a number of Landrover Defenders and older 4X4 vehicles which have been stolen and have since been found dumped or burnt out, sometimes used in crime. Take extra steps to secure your vehicles, some are removed despite having disconnected batteries etc. Close gates, use garages or consider steering locks etc to slow down offenders.

Report anyone paying attention to your vehicle or stopping to ask if it is for sale to police via the 101 number.

9. **BDAPTC/HALC** – HALC have launched a new HR subscription service, which is in recognition of the fact that employment matters are becoming more difficult for Parish Councils to negotiate, particularly with the new pension rules coming in. The service costs £120 per year. The Clerk strongly recommended subscribing to the new service. Unanimously agreed.

10. **Financial Matters**

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

- The HALC affiliation fees and HR subscription service fees are due for payment now.
- Cllr Black noted the invoice of £35 for the new Walnut tree – this will be paid immediately, as the spend was agreed by council at our meeting in October 2014.
- All other payments are as expected.

Clerk

The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

The Clerk noted that the 2014/15 audit is set for 2nd June.

The Clerk noted that the bank mandate needs to be updated urgently, as there are currently only two signatories to the account. Cllr Bays and Cllr Harris to be added to the mandate as a matter of urgency – unanimously agreed.

Clerk

11. **Date of next meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.38pm The next meeting will be the APM on 20th May 2015. The next ordinary meeting will be on 10th June.

Appendix A – Finance

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 22/04/2015

Balances:

Statement No: 260 (28/03/2015) Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 22/04/2015
£1,320.10	895.40

Payments since last meeting date :

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
100592	Ashmansworth Village Hall	Hall hire 2014/15	98.00
100593	St Mary Bourne Parish Council	Lengthsman overspend	20.00
100595	Ashmansworth Village Hall	s.137 Grant	500.00
TOTAL			1,720.36

New Items for payment

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100596	Mrs M J Thomas	Clerk Salary - April	104.08
100597	HALC	HR Subscription Svce	120.00
100598	HALC	Affiliation Fees	132.00
TOTAL			356.08

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
100591	Mrs V Gethin	Cement for goal posts	57.12
100594	Mr M Sarson	Calender stationery	11.50
TOTAL			68.62