

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 12th November 2013 @ 7pm

in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

Members and Officers present: Cllrs Barnett (chair), Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Sanger-Davies, Cllr Moor, Cllr Cope & Cllr Hague

In attendance: District Councillor Derby, Clerk & 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence. Cllr Reese & CC Hardman

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Hague declared an interest in the planning application as the applicant is a customer.

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.

Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

The meeting opened @ 7 pm, two members of the public attended

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. **Progress reports:**

a. Social Centre

A swing seat has been replaced, the area under the swings is needing to be repaired, various options are being looked at. The tennis court flooring is in need of repair. Look into grants. The water leak has been discussed with Severn Trent

b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group – minutes attached

c. PACT

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d. Lengthsman

The Lengthsman went around all the areas making sure there were no leaves covering drains in Ashton on the 27th October. Most of the drains on the road (THE GROATEN) are blocked up. Clerk requested they be cleared by Wychavon. The area all around the war memorial was also cleared up very well. Thanks to the Lengthsman

e. Vehicle Activated Sign

The Lengthsman is now responsible for the VAS and a Risk assessment was completed by Cllr Fletcher. It was reported that there are on average 30000 cars tripping the sign every week. It has been observed that the majority of vehicles tripping the sign were those going to school. It was suggested the PC write to the school asking them to tell parents to please slow down.

The PC thanked Cllr Fletcher for his hard work on this project

f. Defibrillator

It was agreed to look at the possibility of purchasing this in the Budget meeting in January

g. Flooding & ditches

Clerk has reported blocked drains to Wychavon on instruction from the Lengthsmans report

h. Trees in the village are making good progress

5. The development in the Groaten was discussed and agreed the PC needed to find out what was going on
6. It was agreed that the Village Clean up / Litter pick was important for the village and councillors agreed to get involved in the next one. It was agreed that Cllr Moor would publicise the event closer to the time.
7. Water problems opposite the first school, letter from Mr King was read out and it was agreed the Clerk would write to the builders.
8. **District and County Councillors' reports:** for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.) attached

9. **Planning:**

It transpires that the Planning and Development company for the proposed housing development opposite the Middle School is responsible for the incorrect siting of the equipment in an endeavour to obtain an accurate measurement of traffic flow to and from the Middle School, in response to feed back at the Open Meeting, prior to the submission of detailed Planning Application. Katherine Else says a highway subcontractor was instructed to locate the device south of Cornfield Way but has obviously, for a second time, failed by placing it 100yds north of the school entrance! Katherine will remedy the situation.

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Villagers reactions to the proposed development opposite the Middle School are attached

Planning applications :

W/13/02157/PP & W/13/02158/LB Sherbourne House, Elmley Rd

Replacement of 19th & 20 Cent additions with single storey structure, utilizing existing materials, providing enlarged kitchen and service entrance facilities

There were no objections to this application

W/13/01684 The Croft, cottons Lane

Partial demolition and extension to for 5 bedroom house and realignment of driveway.

There were no objections to this application although it was mentioned that the planners need to make sure the foot path will not be changed.

10. Finance:

It was noted and agreed that a donation of £2500 to the Social Centre was agreed at the November 2012 meeting.

Precept will be agreed at the January meeting

The current account opened with a balance of	£10054.45
Income (Precept) received	£ 5250.00
Cheques written out to the value of	£ 2037.20
CH 706 (AUHSC) still outstanding	£ 14.00
Closing current account balance	£13267.25
Savings account balance	£ 5307.28
Total cash assets for the PC as at 21 st October	<u>£18,574.53</u>

Chq for £524.96 – donation was deposited on the 25th Oct, is not included in the above balance. This amount is from a donation the PC made to the Village Plan group which was not used. It was proposed the PC pass the money to the Social Centre to be used for a specific project.

Cheques for approval

Elmley Castle Scout Group	£ 100.00
M Woodhouse	£ 92.00
Wychavon Sport	£ 6.00
HMPs (bench x 2)	£ 480.00
Grant Thornton	£ 150.00

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M English	£ 519.51
OHL	£ 44.98
S Hague	£ 35.00
AUHSC	£2500.00

11. **Correspondence for Information:** To note the attached appendix of items which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting. (OR a list of items will be available at the meeting.) NONE

12. **Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting.**

Advert for "Heating Oil Campaign to reduce oil tank pollution" has been placed on the Notice Board and on the Website.

Clerk has been preparing policy documents for the PC and putting them onto the WCC Website. Will advise the PC once the site is completed

Clerk sent picture of bus mounting the pavement to Highways

13. **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:** Councillors may use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

Improvement of the Cross Junction

Broadband

Hedges overhanging

Hedges near the Memorial need to be cut right back

Footpath from the War Memorial to the pub needs repairing

Cheque for Social Centre

Precept

Defibrillator

14. Date of next meeting was confirmed for 14th January 2014 @ 7pm. The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

.....(chairman)

.....(date)

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Bredon Hill Conservation Group

Held at 1930hrs on 23rd April 2013 at the Village Hall, Little Comberton

In attendance; Paul Whitehead (Little Comberton PC - Chairman); Gary Whitcombe (Elmley Castle PC); Savakis Papacostantinou (Kemerton PC); Matt Darby (Bredon PC); Kate Collingwood (Great Comberton PC); Martin Spice (Beckford PC); Geoff Ranstead (Eckington PC); David Worley (Overbury PC); Gerry Barnett (Ashton under Hill PC (*from 2000hrs*)); Allan Scott (Secretary)

1) Handover of Chairmanship

It was determined that, in future, the handover of Chairmanship will take place at the end of each scheduled meeting so allowing each Chairman to chair a meeting where he has, in liaison with the Secretary, determined the content. The Secretary to amend the Administrative Procedures accordingly. Paul Whitehead was in the chair and agreed to relinquish Chairmanship at the end of the meeting to accommodate the new arrangement.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Wychavon Councillor Adrian Darby.

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2012 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

5) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6) Correspondence

The secretary reported on the limited correspondence received and transmitted. Following this a discussion ensued which determined that the BHCG should re-establish the receipt (*from Wychavon DC*) in weekly email form of all Planning Applications in order to maintain its Consultee status. These will be forwarded to members of the group for reference. The Secretary to arrange this.

7) Deadline for Agenda Items

After discussion it was determined that no change was to be made. Further discussion determined that the Secretary should indicate the "degree of urgency" alongside the "subject" at the head of any email requiring a reply.

8) Prejudicial Interest

After discussion it was determined that any representative believing that they had a personal interest in any agenda item should i) ask their Parish Clerk to circulate their

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respective Councils to obtain an overall view ii) the Parish Clerk to then provide a written instruction which becomes a proxy vote.

9) AOB

The meeting was informed by Kate Collingwood of a recent planning application for the installation of solar panels in a field at Great Comberton. The application was initially for a double bank height of 18 which became, on amendment, two single banks of 9. This application was approved by Wychavon District Council planning department before a revised date for consultation was agreed. The explanation was that the "date" was wrong so it had been disregarded.

It was determined that the Chairman's, a key archive document in the history of BHCG, File was still needed and that the secretary should update and maintain such.

10) Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October, 2013, Overbury Village Hall, 1930hrs

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Comments from Residents regarding proposed development opposite the Middle School

I live in Ashton under Hill on the Elmley Road opposite the village post office and wish to object most strongly to this development.

My reasons are these.

1. The village is already at an optimum community size. Any significant enlargement will seriously dilute the sense of community that is one of the attractions of this ancient village.
2. The extra traffic from the 25 new homes will have to pass through the village down the Elmley Road that is narrow and already seriously congested at peak periods. The Elmley Road outside my house is very narrow and cannot be widened. If a car stops on the road to visit the post office or another house, then any other traffic has to mount the pavement or drive very close to my front wall. I have had three instances of my wall being hit and damaged by passing traffic in the last month alone. School children and elderly pedestrians are endangered by cars and vans parked on the pavement. Previous efforts to have a new road from the north of the village through to the A46 for school buses and other traffic have not been agreed.
3. The nearest shops are in Beckford or in Evesham.
4. There is no employment in the village.
5. Leisure facilities, other than on the sports fields and walks on the adjacent Bredon Hill are lacking. This is a serious problem for teenagers and young adults.

Two or three new affordable houses would be acceptable, but the present proposal for 25 is totally out of proportion to the needs or the capacity of the village.

Sincerely,

Julian Alington

Pennfields, Elmley Road

Ashton under Hill, WR11 7SW

The major issue in this village is traffic. Where we might support say six houses (mixed including some affordable) on the field opposite the middle school, to ease traffic any larger development should be undertaken on the Groaten (Station Rd) on the site identified by the council in the village plan.

If further building is required to meet local need and national strategy, then this should be located on the Groaten. This means that traffic is not driving through the narrow village street and past the first school. This should also be a mix including affordable housing. We will give this feedback to local council representatives also.

Regards

Kate and Leo Enright

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Report by Councillor Adrian Darby to Ashton under Hill Parish Council

Once more I have been concerned with planning policy.

Gloucester Cheltenham Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.

I told you last time that the consultation on the Preferred Approach was open to 26 November. This deadline has now been extended to Friday 13 December. I am urging all parish councils and Wychavon to make submissions on this strategy.

Development at Bredon

There is a new application for 107 houses on the Tewkesbury Road just round the bend as you leave the village. Bredon PC is objecting to this and would like other parish councils to support them. This development would be likely to increase traffic through Overbury and Beckford although I don't suppose much of that will leak through into Ashton.

South Worcestershire Development Plan.

The plan is now with the Planning Inspectorate, and the Examination in Public started on 1 October at Worcester. The inspector has now produced his interim report and has indicated that he is looking for a substantial increase in housing numbers. The three councils have been asked to produce further evidence and it is not likely that the numbers will be fixed before the end of March. This is likely to stimulate further applications in Category Two villages like Ashton, because of the difficulty in showing that we have a five-year housing land supply (see below).

Five-year Housing Land supply

You will recall that for some time Wychavon had been unable to show that it had a five-year housing land supply judged against the numbers in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The consequence of this is that the saved housing policies in the old Wychavon District plan were regarded as no longer valid.

At its July meeting the Wychavon Planning Committee was told that we had given so many consents that we could now show a five year housing land supply so long as our SWDP allocations were counted, and, therefore, that our existing policy GD1 (no development outside development boundaries) was once again relevant. However we only just met the target and our calculations might be challenged at appeal by developers. Therefore we were advised to pass planning applications outside the GD1 development boundaries where such development could be regarded as sustainable and where the harm did not outweigh the benefit

At the November planning meeting we were told that the advice was the same as it had been in July. In particular, we were advised to give permission for any sites that were included in the SWDP, and one such site at Oak Lane Bredon was passed at that meeting. It is against this background that any site in Aston will be judged.

AMGD

9 Nov. 2013