

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Delamere House, Hill Furze, Fladbury, Pershore, WR10 2NB
Tel: 01386 860502, email ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th March 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 Rees & DC Darby

In attendance: Clerk, & 6 members of the public

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

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. None

b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None

c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None

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.

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2013 were approved.

4. **Progress reports:** for information / discussion and comments if necessary

a. Social Centre – no meeting to report on

b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group – no meeting to report on

c. PACT – no meeting to report on

d. Lengthsman – Footway from the Groaten to the Bus Stop needs clearing

ACTION ME

e. Verge outside Rookery Nook

Roy Fullee managed to have a look at the wooden posts a few weeks ago and although the specification of the final items differed from what was originally proposed, the robustness of the posts did appear satisfactory. He also enquired about the specification of the posts and was informed that they are suitable for highway use. The PC Stated that they were disappointed.

ACTION ME

f. Footway to Willow Close

Cllr Hardman along with Head of Highways met the landowner on site & continues to press for action on this, no start date at present. Follow up.

ACTION ME/AH

g. Vehicle Activated Sign

Payment has been received and the sign ordered. The PC discussed the locations and agreed that Cllr J Fletcher would take responsibility of the sign.

ACTION JF

h. Allotments

Refer to report from Sara Banks under notes

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- i. Community First Responder
Defib could be purchased via the New Homes Bonus
- j. Flooding.
CC Hardman reported that they have cleared the root growth & it is now on the regular list. He will be using his member's budget to reset the curb higher at Larkspur in the summer. It was agreed that the PC would speak to the owners of Down Yonder advising them the curb would be raised. **ACTION DC**

5. To discuss the possibility of Yellow Lines outside the Church

The root cause of this problem is the size of buses travelling through the village. They are unable to pass other vehicles or manoeuvre around the corners without mounting the verge. On our corner, outside Rookery Nook, people often park in such a position that the buses have little option but to mount the verge. It has been proposed to paint yellow lines on the road outside the church, this may help protect our verge, but would do little to protect the other verges being damaged. Yellow lines may also look unsightly outside the church and would probably only result in people parking on the other side of the road unless yellow lines were painted there too.

It was agreed to write to County requesting that they repair the verges and get the bus companies to comply with driving regulations and use the A46. It was also suggested the bus company use smaller busses.

As for parking outside the church and blocking the junction, it was agreed to purchase 4 signs saying (No parking)

6. To consider banning dogs from certain areas in the village

The idea of forbidding dog owners from exercising their dogs on the playing fields is a tough call for many villagers when there's such a lot of dog faecies on the pathways throughout the village.

It was agreed to order 12 signs as per Attached and ask the Social Centre to request people keep dogs under control.

7. To discuss the vandalism of the bench by the War Memorial

£313.25 will be paid out by Zurich. Clerk has identified a similar bench for £668.43 + vat. This bench was given to the village by the relatives of the late postman. Look for alternative quotations and report to next meeting.

8. To discuss the speed situation on the A46

Cllr Hardman got the figures for the A46 and supplied them to Mr Weatman and has written to the minister who has not replied as yet. The County will be putting in a new culvert by the Grafton turn to help with the flooding, and Mr Hughes has agreed to create a ditch. It was agreed to wait for a response from CC Hardman.

9. To consider ways in which to spend the New Homes Bonus.

The PC has £3384.00 us use for an approved project. It was agreed to use this money to fund the difference of the Vehicle Activated sign, new seat and a defibrillator.

10. To discuss the condition of the ditches in the village

11. District and County Councillors' reports: for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.)

DC Adrian Darby

Since the last PC meeting there have been two very full planning committee meetings each with an agenda of several hundred pages. Developers have been trying to cash in on the fact that Wychavon has been unable to show a five-year housing land supply before the new plan is adopted. As a result of this deficit we have been obliged to pass several applications which would not qualify under the new South Worcestershire Local Plan and which did not under the old

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Wychavon Local Plan, (including two in Beckford).

At the Council Meeting on 19th February we approved the Wychavon budget for 2013/2014 which left the council tax unchanged from 2012/2013. We were compensated for this freezing of the tax by a government grant which compensated us for one year only, at the cost of permanently lowering our tax base in the face of inflation. This means that we will run into considerable difficulty in future years unless we can cut spending further or raise additional revenue. The obvious source of future funding is the new homes bonus which is now paid for each new house for six years after it is occupied. So far 40% of Wychavon's share of this (20% goes to the County Council) has been pledged to the villages under its New Homes Bonus Protocol, but it seems likely that Wychavon will have to take an increasing share in the future.

The meeting was adjourned for the Annual Parish Meeting. See separate minutes

12. Planning:

13. Finance:

The current account opened with a balance of £6,939.65

Income to the value of £1,449.21 was received. Cheques to the value of £2,309.35 were written out £0 is still to be presented. This left a closing balance of £6,079.51 in the current account.

The savings account opened with £5,303.55 received £1.87. Interest, giving a closing balance of £5,303.42

As at 20th February 2013 the cash assets for the PC stand at £11,384.93

Cheques for payment approved

CH100701	-	M Woodhouse	£105.00	Lengthsman
CH 100702	-	Social Centre	£ 7.00	Meetings
CH100703	-	M English	£464.12	Wages

The clerks wages for February & March £356.40 were approved

Computer allowance	£25.00	(12.50pm)
Phone allowance	£10.00	(£ 5.00pm)
Expenses	£8.50	
Mileage	£64.22	
Total	<u>£464.12</u>	

14. **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.)
Parrish Matters

15. **Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since 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.

1. Rabbits are causing damage to trees in the Groaten. It was agreed to aske Simon Hague to have a look and advise on protection. He has been unable to find tree guards big enough but has suggested green plastic bags, which he can provide and fit at an estimated cost of £30. This was approved

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2. Resignation of Ray Satchell. The Chairman read out Cllr Satchell's resignation which was accepted and it was agreed the Chairman would personally write to him. The Council recorded its thanks to him for his long and valued service.
3. Two application for Co-Option were received from Janet Becket & Simon Hague. Both applicants were felt to be of outstanding quality and it was unanimously voted to elect Simon Hague onto the PC.
4. Since the tree on Gorse Hill was Pollarded it does not seem to be making much progress, JF to keep and eye on it. Clerk to report to Highways that the footpath in Gorse Hill is raising due to tree roots as well as causing a crack in the wall.
5. Vehicles are parking on the verge at Willow Close, it was agreed to write a letter to the residents.

16. The next meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held @ 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th May 2013 in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

.....(chairman)

.....(date)

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PUBLIC NOTES

Sara Banks reported on the Allotments as follows :

I firmly believe that a community growing space would be beneficial to the community of Ashton under Hill and am optimistic about continuing our search for a suitable location. Ideally such a space would be easily accessible for everyone in the village and at a

very reasonable rate so that all interested can afford to take part. The benefits to our communities both as a social space and the healthy lifestyle offered by the effort required and the resulting produce consumed are too good to lose heart at the first hurdle. We need to have the patience required to find the perfect site for this project to succeed as a long term addition to enhance our village life. As a community I know that we have the knowledge, enthusiasm and spirit to make this work and look forward to the day when a new social space has grown from these ideals.

The speculative option being a portion of David Eaton's land opposite the Middle School sounds promising and could be perfect for our requirements as we know the land is good for growing ,can be made accessible and would extend our project to the middle school community who have already benefited hugely from their own small community garden.