

Ashton under Hill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11 May 2010 at 7.30pm in the Green Room.

DRAFT

Present

Cllr Barnett	Chairman	GB
Cllr Satchell	Vice Chairman	RS
Cllr Mrs Cope		DC
Cllr Hague		SH
Cllr Fletcher		JF
Cllr Sanger-Davies		AS-D
In attendance		
Jane Hopkins	Clerk	JH
PC Gary Shephard	Community Police Officer	GS
2 members of the public		

Action

1	Election of Chairman. SH asked for nominations and informed the meeting that he would not be standing again for the chairmanship. RS nominated GB, DC seconded. All agreed. GB took the chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk. GB thanked SH for all his work as Chairman and particularly all that he had done for the village behind the scenes.	
2	Apologies. The apologies received from Cllr Williams were accepted. District Cllr Darby had also sent his apologies as he was at a WDC meeting.	
3	Election of Vice Chairman. It was unanimously agreed to appoint RS as Vice Chairman. RS signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Clerk.	
4	Declaration of Interest. None declared.	
5	Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	
6	<p>Appointment of Representatives.</p> <p>6.1 Social Centre. All agreed DC.</p> <p>6.2 Police and Community Consultative Group. All agreed Cllr Williams.</p> <p>6.3 Parish Transport. Vacant. DC to approach a resident.</p> <p>6.4 Parish Footpath Warden. All agreed Mr Joe Aspey.</p> <p>6.5 Bredon Hill Conservation Group. All agreed GB.</p> <p>6.6 Snow Warden. SH volunteered. All agreed.</p> <p>6.6 Tree Warden. JF volunteered. All agreed. JH to inform WCC.</p> <p>6.7 Flood Warden. All agreed SH.</p>	<p>DC</p> <p>JH</p>
7	District Councillor's report. As D Cllr Darby was unable to attend the meeting he had emailed the following report. "There is not a great deal to report since all our energies recently have been devoted to the General Election. The consultation events on the Site Allocations in villages for South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy, held at	

	<p>Bredon and Beckford were well attended with each attracting over 200 people – the highest response in any of the Wychavon villages. I hope that Ashton under Hill Parish Council has submitted its comments. If you haven't, it's not too late to do it now. The Annual Meeting of Wychavon District Council is being held this evening and I hope to be re-appointed to the Development Control Committee and to the Joint Advisory Panel for the SWJCS (as alternate member). The planning application for Accacia Cottage is coming to the next meeting of the Development Control Committee and I have asked for a site visit.”</p>	
8	<p>County Councillor's report. None available.</p>	
9	<p>PC Gary Shephard. GS reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It had been a very good year for getting to know te community better. • The next mobile unit in Ashton is to be on Thursday 10 June 2010 from 10 – 1200hrs at the bottom of Wood Lane. Details to be in the next Ashton News. • He was to approach the coach companies and schools in an effort to resolve the problem of damage to the kerbs and footways by buses mounting them. • All current policing information could be seen on the West Mercia website. • Crime figures for the first 3 months of this year were down (Elmley Castle & Aston Somerville Ward) 29% from the same period last year. Reported crimes were down from 20 to 17 for the same period. There had been no violent crimes. <p>JF asked how residents could more quickly become aware of crimes. GS recommended an increase in Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators so there would be an increased email network for the distributing and reporting of information. He asked anybody interested in becoming a co-ordinator to contact him with their details. GS said that he was always willing to hold crime awareness days in the village and emphasised the imortance of reporting anything suspicious to the police. He Chairman thanked GS before he left the meeting.</p>	
10	<p>Planning.</p> <p>10.1.1 Application W/10/00773/LB & W/10/00774/PP – The Coppice, Cottons Lane. Alteration of existing, modern, outshot extension to provide further 1st floor accommodation. No objection.</p> <p>10.1.2 Application W/10/00861/PN & W/10/00862/CA – The Star Inn, Elmley Road. Replacement, after demolition, of timber building providing , as existing, kitchen and dining facilities. Also provision of external patio area. No ojection.</p> <p>10.1.3 Further application receivede after publication of the agenda. None.</p> <p>10.2 Applications considered out of meeting. W/10/00597/PP – 27 Gorse Hill. Proposed two story side extension. No objection.</p> <p>10.3 Decisions.</p> <p>Approvals W/10/00278/PP – 16 Cornfield Way. Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. W/10/00120/PP – 5 Gorse Hill. Proposed two storey side extension.</p> <p>Refusal</p>	JH

W/10/00244/PP – Camley Cottage, Chandlers End. Alteration to dormer windows and first floor extension over garage and extension to front of property.

Appeal decision

APP/H1840/A/10/2119918 – Rookery Nook. Appeal allowed.

11 Reports

11.1 Social Centre. DC reported that:

- the money from the Open Gardens is to be spent on removing the concrete at the playing field and the purchase of a climbing frame for older children.
- The football pitch had been sprayed.
- The side of the tennis courts next to the public footpath is to be cleared and lined and gravelled.
- The Village Hall floor and kitchen was on hold during discussions about alterations.

Minutes of the Social Centre meeting on 29.04.10 are attached.

11.2 Footpaths. The Parish Footpath Warden, Joe Aspey, had sent the following report.

“In the year 2009/10, at my request, Ashton was awarded a grant from WCC of £100 for the maintenance of our footpaths, this amount being necessary to cover the modest costs of the volunteer group, safety equipment (gloves and safety glasses), fuel for strimmers and maintenance of same. Since, we had an unspent grant of £186.52 from previous years sitting with the PC, this amount and any 2010/11 was to be drawn from PC funds until the unspent grant is exhausted. When that happens, a new system will take over whereby volunteer groups claim their expenses direct from WCC rather than via their local PC. I will therefore shortly be submitting my claim to you for the 2009/10 expenses and have submitted a similar grant application for 2010/11 which will definitely use up the residue with the PC.

During the past year, the volunteer group has carried out 10 work parties, roughly half of which were to keep the paths clear and cut back overgrowth.

Improvements to furniture include:

- Repair to the bridge in the field adjoining the A46 (to the right of the Groaten as you approach the A46)
- Installation of a new ditch-crossing on the path leading to the right from the road to Elmley just beyond Bredon Hill Middle School
- Replacement of a stile on the path to Kersoe and repair to boggy track adjacent to it

We have also carried out an array of improvements and installed new way-mark posts in preparation for the re-routing of the Wychavon Way which will approach Ashton on the footpath from Sedgeberrow instead of from Winchcombe. That said, the new route has not been officially launched and the whole project has been very slow. When it happens I don't think it will have any significant impact on the village.

The Countryside Service at WCC has been trimmed as part of their cost-cutting exercise but they remain much committed to the Parish Paths Partnership scheme and I see no problem with the supply of replacement stiles, gates and bridges as and when we need them. However, there is a project under way to categorise rights of way according to their importance and level of use and they will no doubt ration their resources accordingly. I see this being based in logic and having minimal impact on Ashton.

Relationships with landowners remain generally good and it is pleasing to note that Mr Hughes has recently sprayed off the vegetation on some paths which cross his fields. This is something all landowners are required to do when managing arable land but often proves difficult to enforce. I am in regular discussion with all our landowners as maintenance issues arise and there issues stand out presently:

1. Mr John Satchell has padlocked the bottom gate which leads into his garden connecting the footpath from Mr Archer's field with the extension of Baker's Lane at Paris. This path has been a bone of contention for decades stemming from the perpetration of a fraud by a WCC official and Mr Satchell's apparently erroneous belief that the right of way had been extinguished. WCC tell me that this is not the case but nor do they propose to challenge the closure when the path is of little significance and there are better alternative routes.
2. Mr and Mrs Nicklin have created a ditch-crossing connecting Back Lane with the footpath near the end of their garden. This footpath starts at their driveway, winds its way past the sewage works, across the old railway line and emerges at the far end of Back Lane near the A46. I believe their intention is to make the ditch-crossing a permissive path thereby making the route more user-friendly as it would avoid the necessity to walk through their garden but it would not extinguish that part as a right of way and they are fully aware of this. I am waiting on a call from Mr Nicklin to discuss the plan and the need for signage. In any event, this looks a positive step which is to be encouraged.
3. Construction of 2 new houses opposite the school has been completed and the footpath to the left remains marked out pending fencing it off at some stage. This is a matter for the landowners to attend to but the path remains unobstructed.

Lastly, members of the PC will know that Gilly, James and I hope to move to Broadway this year. However, I have no wish to give up the footpath work so, provided the notion has general support, I am happy to continue as Ashton's Parish Paths Warden for the foreseeable future and certainly until a more suitable successor emerges. The volunteer team are very keen that I should carry on running it and I don't think there are any practical obstacles to my doing so. This year's work has already started of course. I hope that this has the support of the PC but I am happy to address any concerns or indeed to step aside if member felt that the post should be filled by a resident of the parish.

I will, of course, be happy to deal with any other points from members concerning Ashton's rights of way."

All agreed that they were happy for Mr Aspey to continue as Parish Paths Warden and asked for their thanks to be sent to him and his team for all they do to keep the paths in the village in such good order.

11.3 Bredon Hill Conservation Group. Arm. GB reported that there had been a meeting in April to discuss the large allocation of houses in the Strategic Review at Mitton Farm. BHCG to register objection. The group was aiming for more regular meetings. The group encouraged individuals to make comments.

11.4 Policing matters. No report available.

11.5 Adoption of telephone kiosk. He Clerk reported that the process was now complete.

11.6 Grit bin in Cornfield Way. JH reported that this was subject to

JH

	assessment by WCC. 11.7 Damage to footways by buses mounting the kerb. See item 9 above. 11.8 Lengthsman. The allocation of £1650 had been received for 2010/11. JH asked to be informed of any projects from the Lengthsman.	
12	Finance 12.1 Rur5al Rate Relief. All agreed to support the application from Ashton Post Office. 12.2 Annual Insurance renewal. It was agreed to ad 2 benches to the insurance and increase the Fidelity Guarantee to £21,000 as recommended in the Internal Auditor's report. 12.3 Wychavon Citizens Advice Bureau. It was agreed to donate £500. 12.4 Payments. All payments, totalling £1264.52 were agreed. Detailed financial report attached. 12.5 Bank balances. These were accepted. 12.6 Internal Auditor's report. The report recommended that the total of agreed payments were included in the finance minute and that the Fidelity Guarantee be increased to £21,000. 12.7 Annual Accounts 2009/10. These were agreed and signed by the Chairmanreed and signed by the Chairman and RFO. 12.8 Annual return 2009/10 Sections 1 & 2. Both sections were agreed and signed by the Chairman and RFO. 12.9 Litter bin by bus shelter. It was agreed to replace the bin. JH to order and JF to install.	JH JH JH JH JH JH JF
13	Documents returned from the County Records Office. It was agreed JH could dispose of the items at her discretion.	
14	Bench by the Chapel. GB informed the meeting that the bench had originally been purchased by the PC.	
15	Speed monitoring in the Groaten. It was agreed to place the monitoring device 100 yds the village side of the 30 mph speed limit sign, by The Glades.	JH
16	Correspondence for information. Email from Simon Sellick – asking the PC's opinion on the construction of a digester plant. JH to request further information. Agenda item July. Mr and Mrs Moore, Acacia Cottage. The Clerk advised the PC that it would be unable to take a decision, as requested in the letter, as this was not an agenda item.	JH JH
17	Councillor's reports and items for future agenda. DC – surface of Millennium notice board needed replacing. JH to contact suppliers. RS – Jane Dunn Charity. RS had identified a possible recipient. GB to contact the Church Wardens. JF had been approached by a governor of the First School about purchasing a cycle rack for outside the school/Village Hall. Agenda item July. AS-D – wall outside Rockland unsafe. Owner aware. SH – Mr & Mrs Groom, Gorse Hill, had approached him about the size of the ash tree outside their house. JF to follow up.	JH GB JH JF
18	Dates of meetings for the next 12 months. 13 July 2010 14 September 2010 9 November 2010	

13 January 2011 8 March 2011 (Annual Parish Meeting) 10 May 2011 (Annual Parish Council Meeting)	
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The meeting ended at 9.17pm.