

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Tel 07896879414, email ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 1th May 2018@ 7.30pm in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

Members and Officers present: Cllr Smith (Chair), Cllr Cope, Cllr Hague, Cllr Rowley, Cllr Wood, Cllr Barker & Cllr McIntyre

In attendance: Clerk, no residents present

1. Introduction from Chairman
2. Apologies of Absence from Councillors and others
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Chairman's Report on the Past Year and going forward

We have had another busy year and following months of advertising, we are pleased to have co-opted another new member to the Parish Council. This is Jayne Barker of Cotton's Lane, and she is a welcome member.

Around the Village

- We started the year with agreement from Highways to repair the pavement from the The Star driveway to the Church. This is being funded in part by Worcestershire County Highways, and the Parish Council using the New Homes Bonus Grant from Wychavon. This has been completed and we are very pleased with the result.
- Trees and hedges around the village have been trimmed and cut back for the coming year or so.
- We have replaced the dead and dying Millennium Ash trees along The Groaten with a variety of historic UK species – Silver Birch, Midland Hawthorne and Worcester Black Pear. We look forward to seeing these develop in the next decades. We have put in place a care package to manage these trees development during their first 5 years.
- Outline planning permission was granted for 14 houses opposite the Middle School, in line with the South Worcestershire Development Plan. We are awaiting detailed plans to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to mitigate the impact on AONB and flooding. The Parish Council have requested that the plans include more smaller properties as starter homes and retirement homes, and that preference is given to those with village connections. We are expecting the Full Planning application in the next few months, and hope that our concerns have been listened to.
- We continue to receive complaints regarding dogs, and are hoping that community minded village support will help to overcome these issues.
- We have tried to improve communications with the village, adding Facebook, Emails and a new website is on the way, alongside the existing Noticeboard, Newsletter etc. A new Website for the village will be launched hopefully later this year. There will be a dedicated area for the Parish Council.

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Worcestershire Transport Plan

The Parish Council support improvements to the A46, which is becoming increasingly busy and dangerous for village residents trying to join it. We have submitted our feedback that we support the plan to build a new road (depending on route) but not for changing the existing stretch through Beckford to dual carriageway. We will have to wait (probably years) for the detailed proposals. This is a long term plan, so likely to be years before anything happens, assuming funding is found!

New Homes Bonus

The New Homes Bonus money this year was allocated to 2 projects voted for by the village; contribution to the repair to the second stage of the pavement repair and a contribution of £2500 to the upgrade of the Play area being undertaken by the ASC.

Lengthsman

Following a few years without an experienced Lengthsman, we are pleased to have engaged the services of Brian Arrowsmith in this role. He is responsible for maintaining verges and drainage systems in the village e.g. cutting back around drain tops, gullies and keeping culverts open. He is also there to support maintaining land under the responsibility of the Parish Council e.g. around the War Memorial and noticeboards. He also moves and maintains the Speeding Sign (VAS).

Smartwater

Following a variety of thefts around the village, the Parish Council have agreed to fund Smartwater sets for all village residents who want this. This is a scheme to invisibly mark your property, with a "unique to you" liquid. This can be seen under ultraviolet light, and any property recovered with these markings can be traced directly back to you. An important part of this being a deterrent is signage that will be placed around the village to warn would-be thieves that Smartwater is in use around the village. We can only get the signage if we can get at least 60% of households signed up. If you are interested and have not already expressed an interest, please let any member of the Parish Council know. We will be issuing the kits to those members already signed up in the next week or so, and coming round to all other houses during May to offer this product.

Budget

We have agreed the Budget for this next Financial Year, and we are looking at the following projects to be undertaken, where funds from the Precept allow and grants can support.

- Repair to the Stone Cross in front of the Church Lychgate
- Refurbishment to the steps by the War Memorial & potentially the area around the Memorial (using a grant)
- Continued support to Ashton Social Centre, Churchyard maintenance and Footpaths committee

VAS (Speed Sign)

Speeding on the Groaten continues to be an issue. We have met with Highways, and are unable to move the 30MPH limit further away from the village, to try and counter this. We have also requested a 20MPH limit, but this is also unlikely to happen. We do have agreement, however to move the VAS nearer to the start of the 30MPGH zone – this will mean that the VAS sign will light up as you pass the 30MPH sign if you are over the

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speed limit. We are hoping that this earlier warning will help to slow traffic down along the residential area of the Groaten.

6. County Councillors' Report
7. District Councillors' Report
8. Invites to address the meeting
 - a. Social club – no report
 - b. St Barbara's church – no report
 - c. Annual Police Report

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. With targeted patrols, attendance at village surgeries and numerous parish events, messaging via Twitter and the Community Messaging Service (CMS) the team have continued to be actively involved in the community. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

- d.
- e. This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 30/4/17 and 30/4/18 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2016/17.
- f.
- g. Overall the police recorded 103 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 105 incidents reported the previous year.
- h.
- i. Of the 103 incidents the Parish had 35 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 33 recordable crimes the previous year.
- j.
- k. The breakdown of offences is as follows:

l.

m. 2017/18	2016/17
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n.

o. Burglary Business	3	0
p. Burglary Residential	5	4
q. Theft from vehicle	5	3
r. Theft other	7	2
Motor vehicle interference	1	0
s. Criminal Damage	3	0
t. Other Offences	8	16

(Includes mostly concerns for welfare or domestic related incidents)

u. Make off without payment	3	8
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v. (relates to non-payment of fuel)

This year has seen an increase in crime for Ashton under Hill.

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The way burglaries are crimed is now split into business and residential. The residential burglaries also now include garages and sheds within the boundaries of the property. All victims of burglary have been given security advice and issued with Smartwater. Businesses have been given the opportunity to speak to our Crime Reduction officer. The local team have continued with targeted patrols of the area.

The increase in theft from vehicle took place over one evening when a number of cars were accessed and items of property were stolen from within them.

The theft other includes theft of metal items/batteries etc which have been stolen from outside properties and fields. We have recently seized a vehicle which was full of metal items and the driver is being dealt with for several offences.

Overall the figures still show that Ashton under Hill and the surrounding area is a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team

Non-emergency phone number: 101

FOOTPATH TEAM UPDATE

WITH THE BETTER WEATHER ARRIVING, THE CHAINGANG HAS A FULL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SUMMER. THIS WILL OF COURSE INCLUDE OUR MAINTENANCE TASKS, STRIMMING & CLEARING AND KEEPING STYLES IN ORDER.

WE INTEND COMPLETING THE UPGRADE TO THE STEPPED PATH DOWN FROM GORSE HILL AND KEEPING AN EYE ON THE WYCHAVON WAY OF COURSE. PLEASE CONTACT US ON ashtonpathwardens@gmail.com IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR ISSUES.

LASTLY, THE PLAQUE FOR RUSS COOK WAS UNVEILED BY PAM RECENTLY. IF YOU ARE PASSING BY, LOOK FOR MERLIN'S BRIDGE ON THE FIRST FOOTPATH HEADING BEHIND THE ACADEMY.



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Ashton under Hill Playgroup

2017 - 2018 has been a quieter year than preceding couple of years. September 2018 figures look healthy.

Ashton Open Gardens Report for 2017/2018

In 2017

- Over 1000 visitors
- 26 gardens open
- Over 120 volunteers supporting the event
- £8,500 raised and distributed within Ashton

For 2018

- Theme of 'Nature in the Garden'
- 24 gardens open, plus front gardens
- Publicity already well advanced with press and flyers

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed

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Sarah Smith Parish Council Chair