

# ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Tel 0749369333, email ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 @ 7pm in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

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

In attendance: Clerk & Cllr Darby

Apologies: Cllrs McIntyre & Hardman

### 1. 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.
- 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.

### 2. The meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time – no public present

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

3. Minutes of the January Parish Council Meeting were approved as true and accurate
4. District and County Councillor's reports: for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.)

There was a change of leader and executive board in November, which I failed to note in my January report. Cllr Bradley Thomas took over from Cllr Linda Robinson who had held the post since May 2015. The new team brought forward the budget for the 2019/2020 year and so set the pattern of activity for the new council which is to be elected in May. There were two principle elements. Firstly a freeze on the Wychavon element of council tax and secondly eleven new promises of extra activity/expenditure. This will result in a deficit if all the forecasts prove accurate, but the deficit may not materialise as the council's financial performance is usually better than budget. Since this sometimes results from a delay or failure to replace vacant posts, and hence a worsening of service, it is not necessarily a good thing. As heritage champion I have been agitating for more posts in the heritage team and I am glad to say that I have

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succeeded in getting a new dedicated officer to make good the backlog in conservation area appraisals. I supported the new promises, in particular one relating to improving social mobility through spending money on free school meal children and their families. As you might expect, I was also in favour of support for the Worcestershire Pollinator Strategy

Willow Cottage. There are two issues here. The first is the illegal demolition of a property in a conservation area I am still waiting to hear from the legal team what action they are proposing to take. I have been pressing the enforcement officer to hurry this up.

The second is the planning application to erect a copy of Willow Cottage on the site of the original. This is down as a decision which is delegated to officers. I note the comments of the Parish Council and the Conservation Officer. (Cllr Adrian Darby)

Neighbourhood Plan. At the last meeting of the Joint Advisory Panel of the three South Worcestershire Districts preparing the Revision of the SW Development Plan we agreed how the average village preparing a neighbourhood plan should calculate its housing requirement over the period from 2031 to 2041. The actual requirement will vary depending on a number of factors such as local need, the impact of protected areas, e.g. Green Belt or AONB, etc, but it seems that a village of 1500 residents will need to plan for some 26 houses over that ten year period.

Lastly I should say that I am proposing to stand again as your councillor. I had hoped that the major planning issues which have so exercised me during the past eight years would have been settled for the next ten years or so. However the government keeps changing the goalposts. It has revised the National Planning Policy Framework twice in the last year, and has now insisted that the South Worcestershire Development Plan be revised. At the same time the plans for Tewkesbury have not been finalised and two of the parishes in my ward are engaged in neighbourhood plans. I therefore feel that the planning expertise, which I have built up over the last twenty one years, is still needed, and that I can continue to make a contribution to safeguarding a very special piece of Worcestershire.

**Ashton PC agreed to support Cllr Darby in his application for this role.**

## 5. Progress Reports

- a. Social Centre – Work going ahead, The chair advised again that the Social Centre needs to complete a grant application form.  
It was reported that there is a car parked illegally by the Social Centre / behind the tennis courts, this is not something that the Parish Council can get involved in, as they do not own, nor are responsible for, this land.  
The Village Hall booking for Polling Station in May has been confirmed.
- b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group, next meeting 17/4 in the Green Room, Ashton Under Hill. Cllr Rowley will be the Parish Council representative
- c. PACT  
Encouraging Facebook and email users to follow Pershore Cops and West Mercia Police Facebook pages. Looking into getting live feeds on the website

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In light of recent burglaries, it was agreed to put an advert in the parish magazine, Facebook and the website asking for a resident to set up Neighbourhood Watch.

There will be a meeting with the police at Elmley Castle (Awaiting date)

- d. Lengthsman  
Cut back overhanging trees along the Groaten and the bushes etc around the War Memorial.  
New Contract received from WCC, budget for the financial year is £1687.13
- e. Vehicle Activated Sign - Chair has contacted quite a few companies. It was agreed that the best one for the Parish is one where the speed limit is shown, however they are expensive. Clerk to inquire how Fladbury Parish Council have had theirs installed, as it runs on mains electric which would be much cheaper.
- f. Flooding, the drain opposite the Moat House needs unblocking, and also a drain on Chandlers End. It was agreed that the Chair would report this. There is still an ongoing issue with flooding by the Chapel. It was agreed to get the Chapel and its user groups to write to the County Councillor, to put pressure on this repair, which is low priority to WCC.
- g. Highways, the duplicate grit bins been removed by Highways contractor and not been replaced. Clerk to follow up. No response has been received regarding the changes to the road outside Long Carrant Park, Chair to follow up with Kier. Hedge by no 22 Elmley Road has been cut back but not sufficiently, Chair to follow up with Wychavon
- h. Trees in the Parish, no report
- i. Communication  
Waiting to hear back from AOG regarding possible annual contribution towards website annual fee
- j. NHB - Need to send further information for the draw down - Chair to send to Clerk

### 8.a Planning application notifications

- Hollymount - submit same comments as previously. Chair to forward to Clerk

8.b Willow Cottage update, the Parish Council have submitted their objection to Wychavon

8.c Caravans at Truck Stop, Clerk to follow up with Enforcement

### 9. Finance

#### 9.a Bank balances as at February 2019

Current Account	-	£15,408.22
Savings Account	-	£ 3,322.61

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9.b The following cheques were approved

Ref	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total	Cheque no
	Web Bees	Website	£ 107.40		£ 107.40	1050
1	PATA	PAYE	£ 18.00		£ 18.00	1051
2	HMRC	PAYE	£ 97.20		£ 97.20	1052
3	M English	Wages	£ 526.53		£ 526.53	1053
4	Brian Arrowsmith	Lengthsman	£ 342.00		£ 342.00	1054
5.	John Kenrick	Footpath Committee	£ 446.50		£ 465.50	1057
6.	Beckford Magazine	Ashton Newsletter	£ 200.00		£ 200.00	1056
7.	Gardens by Jenny	Parish Trees	£ 1,060.00		£1,060.00	1055

9.c It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate a new bank account where internet banking can be done.

10. 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.)

- Sewerage works on Back Lane, agreed to write a letter to the contractors requesting that they make good. Action ME
- Election – applications to be completed and handed in by 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- Lost & Found for the Village it was agreed that Cllr Cope would be the responsible person. Cllr Rowley to advertise on Facebook, website and noticeboards
- A piece of land that may be suitable for village community use may become for sale in the near future. Defer till May meeting
- Climbing in Evesham funding; it was agreed that the Parish Council needed to spend the money in the village instead of Evesham
- The wooden posts on the verge outside Hollymount need to be replaced. Cllr Hague to action

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

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12. Neighbourhood Development Plan, defer till May. Cllr Rowley to put in newsletter and to try and garner interest with some interested parties.
  
13. Councillor's 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.
  
14. With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.40pm Date of next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

.....(chair)  
DRAFT  
.....(date)