

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Andy Robinson

Tel: 01386 710205 Email. AshtonunderHill@yahoo.co.uk

MINUTES

From the Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 14th January 2020

in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

PRESENT - Cllr Rowley (Chair), Cllr Barker, Cllr McIntyre, Cllr Wood, Cllr Cope, Clerk Andy Robinson.

1. WELCOME - The Chair welcomed Cllrs, there were no members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Hewitt.

3. 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.
- 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.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - No public present.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was resolved to approve the minutes from the November 2019 Parish Council Meeting.
Proposed by Cllr Rowley, seconded by Cllr McIntyre, all in favour.

6. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS - No reports.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) SOCIAL CENTRE

- It was reported by Cllr Cope that fees have been increased for the use of the Hall to £10.00 / hour. It was also reported that the Soap Box races had gone well, it was well attended but there were no financial figures to report as of yet.

(b) BREDON HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

- There was a presentation given by Gloucestershire County Council on "The Future of Tewkesbury's Road Network" on the 8th January, but unfortunately Cllr Wood was not given notice of the meeting. A copy of the presentation is going to be sought to see what (if any) impacts it has on the Parish.
- Cllr Wood also reported that a letter had been submitted to Highways requesting they consider a lower speed limit between villages around Bredon Hill. This is in line with a request from BHCG.

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- The possibility of reapplying for a 20mph speed limit through the village was discussed, or at least one that would be in force during school times. Cllr Barker reported seeing this elsewhere. **Action KR.**

(c) PACT

- Cllr Rowley reported that a PACT meeting still needed to be booked but the Council is now getting more information from the Police. Unfortunately a lot of this information is concerning other areas as it covers all of West Mercia force area but information relevant to the Parish is posted.

(d) LENGTHSMAN

- Cllr Rowley explained Cllr Hewitt had submitted information prior to the meeting that the drains had been cleared following the storms in November and December. It had also been reported that the Lengthsman had completed a litter pick in December.

(e) VAS

- Cllr Rowley stated the sign has arrived, however the existing pole is not tall enough nor a wide enough circumference. An application has been made to Highways for a new post to be fitted. The sign will need to be re-sited on the verge as the current position is too narrow and there is a risk of the sign being damaged by wider vehicles. **Action SH.**

(f) Flooding

- It was reported by Cllr Cope that flooding is still causing an issue outside the Chapel. A broken drain pipe under the path past Manor Farm has been reported. A blocked drain has also been reported near Little Thatch which may be related. The blocked drain near Moat House has been chased but there are no further updates to report. **SH to follow up.**

(g) Highways and Byways

- An application for a dropped kerb by Cornfield Way has been rejected by Highways. Discussions with Cllr Hardman will continue in efforts to further this request by possible self funding. **SH to chase.**
- Kier have been chased regarding planned works to Long Carrant, no responses as of yet. **Action SH.**
- An issue with Parking on Cottons Lane seems to be a one off from a visitor to a house with no parking. The agent to the vacant property has been contacted and will be contacted again should the issue reoccur.
- A request has been made to Highways regarding the introduction of traffic calming at the entrances to the Village - rumble strips / narrow entrance etc. Awaiting response. Other attempts to reduce speeding in the Village are being carried out by Cllr Rowley. The School are being liaised with for the production of posters / banners in an appeal to motorists to slow down **Action KR.**
- Cllr Wood reported there had been further accidents outside Long Carrant.

(h) Trees

- New trees on The Groaten were planted on 9th December and a maintenance plan will be in place.

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(i) Communication

- Further quotes for the acrylic speeding posters are being sought **Action KR.**

(j) Neighbourhood Plan

- An update on progress was given by Cllr Barker, it is believed the PC were provided with a Neighbourhood area in 2015. It was agreed the Clerk would investigate this further with Wychavon to establish if this is the case and if it is still live. **Action Clerk.**
- It was agreed a Councillor workshop was required to progress the Neighbourhood Plan, this was provisionally arranged for 12th February. The Clerk will also investigate the criteria for applying for Community Assets to protect key community buildings / areas. **Action Clerk.**

(k) Broadband gaps

- Cllr McIntyre had no update and will continue with investigations. **Action NM.**

(l) Footpaths

- Cllr McIntyre reported that the County Council has agreed to pay for a new gate at the top of Shaw Green Farm track leading towards Hughes' Land - this gate will be a 'horse rider friendly' gate. It was also reported that a number of 'fingerpost' signs were missing in the Parish which is being addressed by the County Council in conjunction with the footpath committee.
- Cllr McIntyre also raised the matter of Chandler's End footpath that needs some attention. **Action NM.**

(m) Telephone Box Use

- Cllr Rowley reported that she is beginning to obtain quotes for shelving to be installed inside the telephone box for the possible of use of a book swap / borrow system. **Action KR.**

(n) Speeding Signs - already discussed.

8. PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS AND DECISIONS

19/02465/HP	15 Gorse Hill	Replacement of conservatory with garden room extension	Approved
19/02214/RM	Land Off Elmley Road Ashton Under Hill	Reserved matters application for Landscaping following outline approval W/16/02188.	Approved with amendments
19/02057/FUL	Former Garden Of Middle Farm Back Lane Ashton Under Hill	Construction of a new dwelling with a detached garage and improved access way.	Approved
19/02689/ADV	The Pig Barn, The Groaten	Identification sign for existing business.	Approved
19/02578/FUL	Mitha Dara Conversion	Subdivision of plot / minor alterations to the exterior of the building.	Approved

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9. FINANCES / BUDGET FORECAST

Bank balances as at **12th January 2020**:

Current account - £ 20,460.21

Savings account - £ 0

Payment Schedule

Nov /Dec

Ref	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total
1	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman- Nov	£168.00		£168.00
2	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman- Dec	£168.00		£168.00
3	Beckford Group Parish Magazine	Newletter Printing 2019	£210.00		£210.00
4	Webbees Dec 19-Jun 20	Website hosting	£107.40		£107.40
5	Wychavon Council	Dog Waste Bins	£90.97		£90.97
6	BHCG	Ashton Support to costs	£30.00		£30.00
7	Gardens by Jenny	Trees & Maintenance on Groaten	£750.00		£750.00
	TOTALS		£1524.37	£ -	£1524.37

- Cllr Rowley proposed to approve the financial statements, Cllr McIntyre seconded and all voted in favour.
- Cllr Rowley also proposed to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Forecast which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and it was agreed the Precept would be increased in line with inflation. Cllr McIntyre Seconded and all voted in favour.

10. Correspondence for Information:

An appendix of items which have been circulated was available for inspection at the meeting.

11. Employment of new Parish Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Rowley and seconded by Cllr McIntyre to offer the position of Parish Clerk (encompassing the role of Responsible Financial Officer) to Andrew Robinson. All agreed.

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12. Councillors Reports -

No reports.

- (a) Dog Mess - Cllr Rowley reported that there had been an increase in the number of reports of Dog Poo in the Parish - the problem has been shared on Social Media. Cllr Rowley will monitor the situation but she and the rest of the Council appreciate this is a problem being caused by a minority of the community.
- (b) National Homes Bonus (NHB) - Two items were identified as being appropriate items for the distribution of funds from the NHB Scheme. It is reported that maintenance is required on the Village Cross. It is also reported that the War memorial and steps are in need of maintenance. Cllr Rowley will undertake a Survey. **Action KR.**
The Clerk agreed to investigate whether English Heritage have any involvement in the Village Cross. **Action Clerk.**

13. Date of next meeting

It was resolved to agree the date of next meeting to be **10th March 2020.**

The meeting was concluded at 2032 hours.

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Signed
Chair

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Date