

# ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Andy Robinson  
Tel. 01386 710205 Email [ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk)

## MINUTES

From the Parish Council meeting held remotely at 7pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.  
The meeting was conducted on video conference platform Zoom.  
It was fully accessible to the public and press.

Present – Cllr Hewitt (Chair), Cllr Rowley (Vice Chair), Cllr Wood, Cllr Barker, Cllr McIntyre, Cllr Hardman, Cllr Darby, Andy Robinson (Clerk).

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The Chair welcomed all Cllrs, there were no members of the public. Apologies from Cllr Cope.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
  - Register of interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
  - To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.
  - To declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the Agenda and their nature.
  - Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (s.33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the Clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.
  - Councillors who have disclosed a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or any 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. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – there were no members of the public present.
4. **CLERKS UPDATES:**
  - (I) It was noted a nationally agreed 2.75% salary increase and 1 extra days holiday for the Clerk had come into force with immediate effect. The salary increase is backdated to April 2020.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - (I) It was approved to accept the minutes for the Parish Council meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**
  - District Councillor Adrian Darby:
    - A written report is available from the Clerk on request.
    - Concerns regarding the changes to the current planning system were presented to the Council. The Parish Council were advised to study the proposed changes and raise concerns to the District Council and / or CALC as soon as possible.
  - County Councillor Adrian Hardman:
    - Cases of Covid-19 in Wychavon are currently at 18 cases per 100,000.
    - Visits to care homes are being stopped due to rise in Covid-19 cases.
    - Pavement repairs in Ashton are now complete.
    - Advise concerning a new pole for the VAS (speed sign) was provided to the Council which will be followed up.

**\*CLLRS HARDMAN AND DARBY LEFT THE MEETING\*.**

7. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
  - A. **Social Centre** – In Cllr Copes absence, Cllr Hewitt reported that the Social Centre are currently allowed up to 20 people in the Village Hall but they were attempting to get this extended. (Meeting prior to most recent Government announcement of no more than 6 people to meet). It was also reported that there had been criminal damage to a memorial bench.
  - B. **Bredon Hill Conservation Group** – Cllr Wood reported that there had not been any meetings in the period between PC meetings but it was reported that a meeting was due to take place on Zoom on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.
  - C. **PACT** – Cllr Rowley. Nothing of note to report.
  - D. **Lengthsman** – Cllr Hewitt. Nothing of note to report.
  - E. **VAS** (Vehicle Activated Sign) – Cllr Hewitt. Discussed earlier in meeting with Cllr Hardman and noted above.
  - F. **Flooding** – Cllr Hewitt. No issues of note.
  - G. **Highways & Byways** – Cllr Hewitt reported that the pavement between BHS and Cornfield Way is in bad condition, attempts will be made to obtain funds for the repair. Cllr Rowley reported that there may be a clash of roadworks occurring simultaneously on Beckford Road and the A46. Cllr Rowley will investigate this further and report any issue via Social Media.
  - H. **Trees** – Cllr McIntyre. Nothing to note.
  - I. **Communication** – Cllr Rowley continues to post all relevant updates on Social Media.
  - J. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Barker will investigate the current AONB and Conservation area which may assist in opposing the planning reform mentioned earlier in the meeting.
  - K. **Broadband gaps** – Cllr McIntyre reported that advertising for the FTTP had commenced and is now live on line. To enable work to start with OpenReach residents need to pledge their interest. Without pledges OpenReach can not access government funding and FTTP can't be installed. The community website is now set up and the community can start voucher pledges. The link to the website is [www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity](http://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity).
  - L. **Footpaths** – Cllr McIntyre. Nothing of note.
  - M. **Telephone box** – Cllr Rowley reported that she is currently looking for a Custodian for the phone box library.

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**N. Speeding Signs** - Cllr Rowley. Enquiries with the printers are ongoing.

## 8. PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS:

- No planning decisions have been made by the Parish Council during July and Aug 2020.
- No planning decisions pending at the time of the production of the Agenda but the Council have received notification of the following applications but have not made comment. No decisions have been made on the following applications:

20/01783/HP	The Cider House, Cottons Lane, Ashton Under Hill	Replacement of 2 timber windows with like for like timber styles UPVC windows.	Decision Pending
20/01728/CU	The Pig Barn, The Groaten, Ashton Under Hill	Change of use of land for the siting of four holiday lodges and associated operational development.	Decision Pending

## 9. FINANCE:

- (I) Cllr Hewitt proposed to pay expenses of £168.48 to Cllr Rowley for the expense of the telephone box renovation. Cllr Barker seconded and all voted in favour.
- (II) Cllr Hewitt proposed to approve the below Receipts and Payments. Cllr Wood seconded and all voted in favour.

Bank balances as at 30<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Current account balance	-	£20,639.57
Savings account balance	-	£5,009.21

### Payments Jul / Aug 2020

### Receipts Jul / Aug 2020

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Amount (£)
1	PATA	Payroll services	2/7/20	£23.25
2	HMRC	PAYE	16/7/20	£216.40
3	Cllr Hewitt	Covid-19 PPE Expenses	16/07/20	£792.03
4	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office	31/07/20	£7.22
5	A Robinson	Clerk Salary July 20	31/07/20	£186.98
6	Worcs CALC	Clerk Audit Training Course	03/08/20	£20.00
7	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman June 20	03/08/20	£144.00
8	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman July 20	11/08/20	£84.00

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Total (£)
1	Evesham Festival of Words	Donation to phonebox Library	15/07/20	£100.00
2	A Robinson	Clerk Salary Correction	15/07/20	£0.20
3	WCC	Lengthsman Scheme May 20	14/08/20	£156.00
4	HMRC	VAT Recovery	25/08/20	£655.63

## 10. SAINT BARBARA'S CHURCH:

- (I) Cllr Hewitt proposed to support a request for assistance with maintenance of the St Barbara's churchyard, in line with the assistance the Parish Council has provided in previous years. Cllr McIntyre seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

## 11. MEMORIAL STEPS AND STONE CROSS:

- (I) Cllr Hewitt proposed to obtain formal quotes for repair work to the Memorial Steps and Stone Cross. It was agreed Cllr Wood would obtain quotes from stone masons.

## 12. GRIT BINS:

- (I) Cllr Hewitt informed the Council that the grit bin at the end of Cornfield Way had now been replaced after some considerable waiting time.

## 13. WILDFLOWER PLANTING:

- (I) Proposal to purchase and plant wildflower seed on particular grass verges around the Village. Proposal withdrawn (see next item).

## 14. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- (I) It was decided that Cllr McIntyre will design a suitable Community Survey to establish where and if the community would like wildflowers in the Village, this will then be presented for decision at the next meeting.
- (II) Cllr Barker to investigate the feasibility of Village entrance gates including approximate costs and report back to the next meeting.
- (III) It was reported that a Cllr had received a further complaint regarding bonfires in the village. The Parish Council would like to remind all to be considerate when lighting a bonfire. The guidelines state that early morning or sunset are the most

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appropriate times, and that smoke should be kept to a minimum, by not burning damp materials, or household waste. If anyone feels that smoke is becoming a nuisance they should contact Worcester Regulatory Services on 01905 822799, who will investigate and may issue an abatement notice if appropriate. It is always best to talk to the owner first, they may not be aware of the issue.

**(IV) Cllr Hewitt reported to the Council that she would be resigning from her position of Chair and also from the Parish Council with immediate effect. The Council will vote on a new Cllr to take the position of Chair at the next meeting.**

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**2100 hours meeting concluded.**