

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Andy Robinson
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MINUTES

From the Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on **Thursday 26th January 2023** at AUH Chapel Hall.

It was fully accessible to the public and press.

Present – Cllr Rowley (Chair), Cllr McIntyre (Vice Chair), Cllr Rose, Cllr Cope, Cllr Barker, County Cllr Hardman, Andy Robinson (Clerk). No members of the public.

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The Chair welcomed all present. Apologies from District Cllr Darby.
2. **CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR / SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:**
Cllr McIntyre proposed to Co-Opt Simon Masding, Cllr Rowley seconded and all voted in favour. Cllr Masding was unable to attend the meeting, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed as soon as practicable.
3. **DISPENSATIONS:**
(I) Cllr Rose 1 year from 8th November 2022 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), discussion but no voting rights.
4. **DISPENSATION REQUEST (Cllr Cope): DI – Cllr Cope left the room.**
(I) Cllr McIntyre proposed to accept the Dispensation Request from Cllr Cope in relation to her involvement with the Ashton Social Club, Cllr Rowley seconded. Motion Carried.

CLLR BARKER ENTERED THE MEETING.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REMINDERS.**
6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No members of the public present.
7. **CLERK UPDATES & URGENT DECISIONS (DELEGATED AUTHORITY):**
(I) Delegated authority on items listed under Planning below.
(II) Decision made between the Chair and the Clerk to pay £90.80 to Shurmer Electrical to repair defective light in the Parish Council owned telephone box.
8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
(I) Cllr McIntyre proposed to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 8th November 2022, Cllr Rowley seconded and all voted in favour except Cllr Barker who did not vote as not present at the meeting in November.
(II) Item withdrawn (added in error).
9. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
Item postponed to later in the meeting.
10. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
 - A. **Social Centre** – Nothing to report.
 - B. **Police** – Nothing to report.
 - C. **Lengthsman** – Nothing to report.
 - D. **Flooding** – Cllr Cope reported the ongoing drainage issues outside the Chapel Hall. (See item 9 for further).
 - E. **Highways & Byways** – Nothing to report. (See item 9 for further).
 - F. **Trees** – Nothing to report.
 - G. **Footpaths** – Nothing to report.
 - H. **War Memorial & Steps NHB** – See item 14.
 - I. **Tennis Courts Project** – Cllr Rose reported the Courts are now being used and there have been lots of volunteers come forward to help run the clubs. The lines for the Courts will be applied once the weather improves in the Spring.
11. **PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS (lead Cllr Rose):**
Any written reports to Council prepared by Cllr Rose or any other Cllr in relation to the below planning applications are available from the Clerk on request.

W/22/02515/FUL	Ashton under Hill Cricket Club	To create a patio area between our pavilion and existing practice net facility. The project will give us a much improved outdoor social space for use during the cricket season	PC – no objections. DI – Cllrs Rose and Cope did not take part.
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12. **FINANCE:**
 - (I) **DI Cllr Rowley left the room.** Cllr McIntyre took the Chair position for item 11(I) only. Cllr McIntyre proposed to approve the below Receipts and Payments, Cllr Barker seconded and all voted in favour.
 - (II) Cllr Barker proposed to approve the 3rd Quarter Accounts circulated to members prior to the meeting, Cllr Cope seconded and all voted in favour.

Bank balances as at 31st December 2022:
Current account balance - **£12,146.10**
Savings account balance - **£15,102.76**
Total **£27,248.86**

Payments Nov / Dec 2022

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Amount (£)
1	WDC	Dog Waste Empty Groaten & Back Lane	2/11/22	200.69
2	Royal British Legion	2022 Remembrance Wreath	3/11/22	20.00
3	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman Oct 22	11/11/22	164.00
4	PATA	Payroll Apr / May / Jun 22	11/11/22	23.85
5	K Rowley	Gifts for volunteers Plat Jubilee Event	11/11/22	60.00
6	HMRC	Apr / May / Jun 22	11/11/22	295.60
7	K Rowley	Ashton New Printing Costs	11/11/22	100.08
8	Webbees	Website Hosting Dec 22 – May 23	11/11/22	107.40
9	Worcs CALC	Cllr Training	24/11/22	12.00
10	WCC Pension Fund	Employer and Employee Contributions	24/11/22	161.77
11	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office Nov 22	30/11/22	7.22
12	A Robinson	Clerk Salary Nov 22 + Backpay	30/11/22	579.01
13	Grimshawe Kinnear	2 of 3 Payments Tennis Court Project	08/12/22	39,500.40
14	Unity Bank	Transaction Charge Grimshawe	08/12/22	15.00
15	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman Nov 22	14/12/22	174.20
16	PATA	Payroll Oct / Nov / Dec 22 + Ar-rears Calcs	14/12/22	35.25
17	WCC Pension Fund	Employer and Employee Contributions	14/12/22	161.77
18	Mudway Workman	Marquee Fete 2022	16/12/22	2,308.98
19	Unity Bank	Service Charge 2022-2023	31/12/22	18.00

Receipts Nov / Dec 2022

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Total (£)
1	ASC	Gift towards Tennis Court Project	25/11/22	3,800.00
2	ASC	Gift towards Tennis Court Project	28/11/22	3,800.00
3	WDC	2 of 2 Payments CLG Tennis Court Project	01/12/22	20,000
4	Unity Bank	Interest	31/12/22	48.79

9. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

District Cllr Darby not present. Written report submitted and available from the Clerk on request.

County Cllr Hardman reported:

- Dropped curbs on Cornfield Way have now been installed.
- Budget consultation has been completed and County Council Tax will increase by 4.94%.
- Flooding outside the Chapel Hall will be looked at by County. Cllr Hardman requested any pictures / videos at times of flood would assist.

CLLR HARDMAN LEFT THE MEETING.

13. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2023-2024:

The Clerk presented information to the Council in relation to the upcoming financial year. Cllr McIntyre proposed to agree the Draft Budget and increase the Parish Precept (from £18,131 in 22-23) to £19,881. Cllr Rowley seconded and all voted in favour. The Draft Budget is available to anyone on request via the Clerk.

14. WAR MEMORIAL:

Cllr Rowley proposed to appoint Monarch Builders to complete restoration works to the War Memorial and Steps at a cost of £17,000 excl. VAT. Cllr Rose seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. Quote from Monarch Builders circulated to all members of the Council prior to the meeting and is available from the Clerk on request.

15. MARQUEE PURCHASE:

Cllr Rowley proposed to purchase a Marquee from House of Tents (Toolport) at a purchase price (excl. VAT) of £3,742.37. This is on the provision that Council will receive a cash gift from the ASC to make the purchase. It was made clear that the Marquee would be owned by the Parish Council and it will not be used privately but exclusively for Public Village events. It was also made clear that there would be a Use Policy written prior to any use which would be agreed by the Council. Cllr McIntyre seconded the motion and Cllr Barker voted in favour. Cllrs Rose and Cope abstained from voting as per their Dispen-sations. 3 quotes for the Marquee were obtained and circulated to all members prior to the meeting and they are available from the Clerk on request.

16. DARK SKIES:

Cllr Rowley explained to Council that she is making enquiries in relation to gaining a 'Dark Skies' status for the Parish. She will keep the Council up to date with any progress.

17. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Nothing of note.

18. CORRESPONDENCE (Data protection edited versions available from the Clerk on request):

None of note.

19. PROVISIONAL NEXT MEETING DATE (PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES):

Tuesday 14th march 2023.

2100 hours meeting concluded.