

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Andy Robinson
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MINUTES

From the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 12th September 2023** at AUH Chapel Hall.

It was fully accessible to the public and press.

Present – Cllr Rose (Vice Chair / temporary Chairman for this meeting), Cllr Masding, Cllr Payne, Cllr Bayliss, District Cllr B Hardman, Andy Robinson (Clerk). 3 members of the public.

1. **WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The Chair welcomed all present. Apologies from Cllr Rowley, Cllr Cope, Cllr Browne, County Cllr A Hardman.
2. **CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR / SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:**
Cllr Masding proposed to co-opt James Baylis to the Parish Council, Cllr Payne seconded the motion and all voted in favour. Due to a technical error the Clerk was unable to print out the declaration of acceptance of office form so this will be signed between meetings. Cllr Bayliss understood that he was unable to formally vote until the form had been signed. The Clerk apologised for the technical error.
3. **DISPENSATIONS:**
 - (I) Cllr Rose 1 year from 8th November 2022 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), discussion but no voting rights.
 - (II) Cllr Cope 1 year from 26th January 2023 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), discussion but no voting rights.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REMINDERS.**
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**
3 members of the public present, all from Long Carrant Park regarding item 8 on the Agenda. It was agreed that they would speak in relation to this during item 8.
6. **CLERK UPDATES & URGENT DECISIONS (DELEGATED AUTHORITY):**
 - (I) Delegated authority on items listed under Planning below.
 - (II) To pay £50.00 for gifts of flowers to two exiting Parish Councillors Nikki McIntyre and Jayne Barker. Funds from 23-24 Chairmans allowance.
7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - (I) Cllr Rose proposed to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 11th July 2023, Cllr Masding seconded and all voted in favour.
8. **A46 LONG CARRANT SPEEDING:**
3 members of the public from Long Carrant Park gave a detailed presentation of the dangers that the current road layout and lack of speed restrictions are having on the residents of the park. It was explained that this was first raised in 2016 and the residents had received various reports from Highways England that the A46 entrance layout would be changed some of which minuted by this Council in July 2018 but non had come to fruition. It was also reported by the residents that Highways England had informed them that the changes were included in the 2020-25, 5 year delivery plan.
It was concluded that the Council would conduct further research into the matter and liaise with the residents during the process. This item would remain on the Agenda going forward to future Parish Council meetings.
9. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
District Councillor Beverley Hardman explained:
 - An email has been sent to the Clerk in relation to the Communities Officer, Branwen Bingle. This is a scheme to support communities and organisations who may be interested in delivering projects such as 'a Men's shed' or other similar community projects. The Officers can provide support and potential funding sources. **Anyone interested in setting up such an initiative should contact the Clerk or a member of the Parish Council.**
 - The 50th Anniversary of Wychavon District Council is being celebrated next year. To celebrate the occasion Chairman for this civic year, Cllr Robert Raphael will be visiting every parish in the district. Cllr Raphael is due to visit Ashton under Hill. Further updates below in correspondence.
County Councillor Adrian Hardman – not present and no report available.
10. **PROGRESS REPORTS (DISTRIBUTING THE RESPONSIBILITIES ACROSS NEW TERM):**
 - A. **Social Centre** – Cllr Cope not present. Cllr Rose reported that the ASC would be meeting on Wednesday 13th September.
 - B. **Police** – Cllr Browne not present, nothing to report.
 - C. **Lengthsman** – All, item 13 refers.
 - D. **Flooding** – Cllr Payne, nothing to report.
 - E. **Highways & Byways** – Cllr Masding, nothing to report
 - F. **Trees** – Cllr Payne, nothing to report.
 - G. **Footpaths** – Cllr Browne not present, nothing to report.
 - H. **War Memorial & Steps NHB** – the Clerk provided a verbal report incl. that a complaint had been received regarding the work carried out at the War Memorial and steps. The complaint consisted of concerns regarding safety of the steps, materials used and the aesthetical appearance. The Clerk organised a safety inspection of the work carried out, this was completed by Barry Barnes of Worcestershire County Council. The report concluded there were no concerns over the safety of the new steps or any of the work carried out. It was noted within the report that the centre of the risers have not been pointed which would allow water to ingress and eventually cause damage. **The Clerk will chase the contractor to have the grouting completed.**
The Clerk also reported that it had come to light that the steps leading up to the footpath from the road directly in front of the war memorial belonged to Worcestershire County Council and that the Parish Council are not permitted to complete any remedial work to these steps. The plan to alter these steps has been put on hold, the Clerk is liaising with WCC to establish what can be done to improve the current state of the steps. Results of these discussions will be reported back to the Council.

I. **Tennis Courts Project** – Cllr Rose, item 15 refers.

11. PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS (lead Cllr Rose):

W/23/01242/FU L	Site of former Wil-low Cottage, Elmley Rd	Erection of dwelling and associated works.	PC – objection submitted 09/08/23
W/23/01244/CU	The Old Barn, Elmley Rd	Proposed outbuilding change of use and conversion.	PC – no objections 04/08/23
W/23/01396/HP	Evenlode, The Groaten	Two storey extension and internal alterations	PC – no objections 25/08/23

12. FINANCE:

(l) Cllr Masding proposed to approve the below Receipts and Payments, Cllr Payne seconded and all voted in favour.

Bank balances as at 31 st August 2023:	
Current account balance -	£28,867.27
Savings account balance -	£15,259.09
Total	£44,126.36

Payments Jul / Aug 2023

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Amount (£)
1	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	24/07/23	£ 133.40
2	PATA Payroll	Payroll 1 quarter	24/07/23	£ 36.15
3	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	24/07/23	£ 133.40
4	HMRC	Apr / May / Jun 23	24/07/23	£ 297.60
5	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office	31/07/23	£ 7.22
6	A Robinson	Clerks Salary	31/07/23	£ 396.91
7	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	21/08/23	£ 133.40
8	Wychavon Sports	Wychavon Parish Games	21/08/23	£ 49.00
9	B Arrowsmith	Lengthsman Jul 23	21/08/23	£ 160.80
10	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office	31/08/23	£ 7.22
11	A Robinson	Clerk Salary	31/06/23	£ 397.11

Receipts Jul / Aug 2023

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Total (£)
1	HMRC VTR	VAT Reclaim 22-23	24/8/23	£11,499.13

13. LENGTHSMAN:

The Council discussed the fact the Lengthsman contract expires on 6th October 2023. Cllr Masding proposed that the Council do not renew the contract with the currant Lengthsman but to advertise the position, Cllr Payne seconded the motion and all voted in favour. **The Clerk will advertise the post and report back to Council.**

14. RISK ASSESSMENT:

Cllr Payne reported that the Risk Assessment had been completed in relation to the new Marquee, very kindly by Nigel Akers. This will be circulated to all members and brought back to Council for formal adoption in due course. Cllr Payne requested the Clerk re-send the list of Parish Council assets so further Risk Assessments can be completed. **Cllr Payne will report back to Council on these at future meetings.**

15. TENNIS COURT VANDALISM:

Cllr Rose reported he and Cllr Rowley spoke with parents of two children who had caused some of the vandalism. There has not been a repeat of the recent damage to the tennis courts / marquee to which the Council are very grateful.

16. ASHCURCH DEVELOPMENTS:

Cllr Rose confirmed, that further to consultation with Parish Councillors, an objection to the Bredons Hardwick planning application was submitted. Following similar consultation, it was not deemed appropriate to submit an objection to the Fiddington planning application. The site is too far away from Ashton for an objection to be valid. Fiddington is 9 miles away and south of the A46 at Ashchurch.

17. RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATES:

Duplicate item – item 14 refers.

18. PURCHASE OF NOTICEBOARD FOR TENNIS / NETBALL COURTS:

Cllr Rose proposed to purchase a noticeboard for the tennis / netball courts from The Noticeboard Company at a cost of £1,047.36 excl. VAT. It was explained that this was a decision requested in partnership with the ASC. Six quotations have been obtained and it has been agreed with the ASC that they will re-imburse the Parish Council for the purchase. Cllr Masding seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. It was made clear that the noticeboard would become an asset owned by the Parish Council.

19. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Cllr Baylis reported an increase in dog fouling on the cricket field. He also reported that a sign had been found on the Cricket Field regarding dog fouling and potential fines. Further investigations would be carried out between meetings regarding these signs and any action in relation to the increase in dog fouling.

20. CORRESPONDENCE (data protection edited versions available from the Clerk on request):

- Email received from a resident regarding planning application 20/02134/HP.
- Email from Faith Quin of WDC. WDC are celebrating their 50th anniversary next year. To celebrate the occasion Chairman for this civic year, Cllr Robert Raphael is tasked with visiting every parish in the district. Cllr Raphael will visit Ashton under Hill tennis courts on Wednesday 20th September at 2pm where he will have a go at tennis and watch the First School netball sessions.

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

Tuesday 14TH November 2023.

2125 hours meeting concluded.