

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at AUH Chapel Hall.

It was fully accessible to the public and press.

**Present** – Cllr K Rowley (Chair), Cllr D Rose (Vice Chair), Cllr J Bayliss, County Cllr A Hardman, District Cllr B Hardman, Andy Robinson (Clerk). 2 members of the public. Ben Price (Communities Officer WDC).

**1. WELCOME, PRESENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The Chair welcomed all present. Apologies from Cllr S Masding, Cllr D Cope, Cllr J Payne. The Clerk notified Council that Jo Browne was no longer a member of the Parish Council as she had not attended a meeting for over 6 months so her seat had fallen automatically vacant creating a casual vacancy.

**2. DISPENSATIONS:**

(I) Cllr Cope 1 year from 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Ashton Social Centre (ASC), discussion but no voting rights.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REMINDERS.**

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

2 parishioners explained to Council that they were seeking pre-application advice from Wychavon District Council for a new dwelling on their land. The applicants explained their plans to the Council and showed detailed drawings. The Council made it clear that they were unable to make any decisions or give any opinions on the application until it became a formal application. The Council were grateful to the applicants for attending the meeting and explaining their position.

Ben Price, Communities Officer from Wychavon District Council spoke in relation to his role and how he can help the Council with funding opportunities.

**8. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS (ITEM BROUGHT FORWARD):**

District Councillor Beverley Hardman:

- Explained the new Cotswold Edge Wychavon Design Code (Draft form).

County Councillor Adrian Hardman:

- Consultation on Budget had begun, 4.49% increase proposed.
- Cllr Hardman stated he had not been made aware of any flooding issues in Ashton during the recent heavy rain.
- Explained the County could be losing fire engines as part of new plans.

**5. CLERK UPDATES & URGENT DECISIONS (DELEGATED AUTHORITY):**

(I) Delegated authority on items listed under Planning below.

(II) Meeting with WCC Highways regarding the steps to the war memorial has now occurred. The County Council are taking on this work and they will fund 100% of the costs. It was made clear that the Parish would want to be included in the decision making in relation to the materials used. The County have assured the Parish will be involved and a meeting will be organised whereby the County will show stone sample choices available. This will be published and open for anyone in the Parish to attend.

(III) The new Lengthsman (Steve Baker) has not yet been formally appointed as he has been seriously ill. He is expected to be back to full fitness within the next week or so there the contract will then be exchanged.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

(I) Item adjourned.

**7. A46 LONG CARRANT:**

No specific updates to note.

**9. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**A. Social Centre** – Cllr Cope not present. Nothing to report.

**B. Police** – Unallocated, nothing to report.

**C. Lengthsman** – Covered in Clerk updates.

**D. Flooding** – Cllr Payne not present, nothing to report.

**E. Highways & Byways** – Cllr Masding not present, nothing to report.

**F. Trees** – Cllr Payne not present, nothing to report.

**G. Footpaths** – Unallocated, nothing to report.

**H. War Memorial & Steps NHB** – covered in Clerk updates.

**I. Tennis Courts Project** – Cllr Rose, nothing to report.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATION NOTIFICATIONS (lead Cllr Rose):**

<a href="#">W/23/02249/LB</a>	Old Beams, Elmley Road	Proposed single storey rear extension and annex over garage.	PC – no objections.
<a href="#">W/23/02311/FUL</a>	Belfield At, Bredon Hill Country	Erection of storage and distribution building	PC – objection submitted 5/1/24
<a href="#">W/23/02546/LB</a>	Mole Hill Cottage, Paris, Bakers Lane	Proposed Orangery	Decision Pending. Due for return 26/1/24

**11. FINANCE:**

(I) Cllr Rose proposed to approve the accounts up to the end of the third quarter of 23-24, Cllr Rowley seconded and all voted in favour. Accounts circulated to all members prior to the meeting and are available from the Clerk on request.

(II) Cllr Rowley proposed to approve the below Receipts and Payments, Cllr Rose seconded and all voted in favour.

Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:  
 Current account balance - £29,557.70  
 Savings account balance - £15,469.22  
**Total £45,026.92**

**Payments Nov / Dec 2023**

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Amount (£)
1	Grimshawe Kinnear	Tennis Courts Painting Final Invoice 2 of 2	06/11/23	£ 2,268.40
2	WDC	Waste Bin Cleanse and Emptying	21/11/23	£ 110.24
3	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	21/11/23	£ 141.65
4	A Robinson	Clerk Home Office	30/11/23	£ 7.22
5	A Robinson	Clerk Salary + Back Pay	30/11/23	£ 603.73
6	St Barbara Ashton	Parish Council Grant	13/12/23	£ 1,700.00
7	PATA Payroll	Payroll 3rd Quarter	13/12/23	£ 46.15
8	Worcs Pension Fund	Pension Contributions	13/12/23	£ 141.65
9	Unity Bank	Service Charge 3rd Quarter	31/12/23	£ 18.00

**Receipts Nov / Dec 2023**

Ref	Payee	Description	Date	Total (£)
1	WCC	LM Apr 23	01/12/23	£160.80
2	WCC	LM Mar / May / Jun 23	05/12/23	£482.40
3	Unity Bank	Interest	31/12/23	£106.49

**12. BUDGET / PRECEPT REQUEST 2024-25:**

Cllr Rowley proposed to approve the Budget forecast and Precept 2024-25, draft forecast circulated to all members prior to the meeting and available from the Clerk on request. Cllr Baylis seconded and all voted in favour. The precept requirement remained at £19,881.00, the same as 2023-24.

**13. DISPENSATION REQUEST CLLR ROSE:**

Council to consider the renewal of Cllr Rose's dispensation in relation to all matters in connection with Ashton Social Centre. Cllr Rose is requesting a dispensation to allow discussion and voting rights. Request circulated prior to the meeting. **ITEM POSTPONED. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (CLLR ROSE) QUORUM NOT ACHIEVED.**

**14. DISPENSATION REQUEST CLLR BAYLIS:**

Council to consider the dispensation request from Cllr Baylis in relation to all matters in connection with Ashton Social Centre. Cllr Baylis is requesting a dispensation to allow discussion and voting rights. Request circulated prior to the meeting. **ITEM POSTPONED. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (CLLR ROSE) QUORUM NOT ACHIEVED.**

**15. RISK ASSESSMENT:**

Cllr Baylis agreed to work with the Clerk and review the Parish Council Risk Assessment. This will be completed between meetings and brought back to Council for a proposal to adopt.

**16. ASHTON FOOTPATHS TEAM:**

Council to discuss correspondence from representatives of Ashton footpaths team and Worcestershire County Council PROW team.

(I) Council to consider re-imbursing the footpaths team for expenses amounting to £102.40.

(II) Council to discuss their involvement with the Ashton footpaths team and set clear policies going forward.

**ITEM POSTPONED. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (CLLR ROWLEY) QUORUM NOT ACHIEVED.**

**17. COUNCILLORS REPORT AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:**

Nothing further.

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

- Nothing further of note.

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

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**2130 hours meeting concluded.**