

**Minutes of Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7.15 p.m. at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Terry Turvey (Chair), Sandra Lemon, Jeremy Roychoudhury, Alan Beber, David Farrand, Steve Green, Bernard Day

Clerk : John Marshall

1 member of the public, PCSO Cooksammy, Dis Cllrs Wilson and McCord

2013/

Action

1. Public session:

A member of the public raised flooding issues, particularly in Hartwell Road in the vicinity of Orchard House.

2. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Lemon, as a member of the Ashton Playground Association.

3. Apologies for absence:

None.

4. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting (14th November 2012):

Cllr Beber proposed that the Minutes be accepted; all in favour.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated; there were no questions.

Matters arising were as follows;

- Cllr Day raised the flooding in the dip on Roade Hill and the response from Street Doctor ie 'no action necessary'. The Council considered the response to be incorrect (as the drain beneath the road is blocked) and unsatisfactory; the Clerk was asked to re-report the matter and to raise it with Helen Howard of NCC Highways.
- Cllr Farrand referred to the work done by Alan Humphrey in clearing the Hut Land. The Clerk advised that an invoice showing 'zero charge' had been received, with a comment that the clearance and removal services had been donated to the village free of charge. Cllr Farrand pointed out that the sum agreed between himself and Alan Humphrey (and subsequently approved by the Council, see Minute 119 i, page 398) had been £200, not £500 as mentioned in the invoice. Cllr Lemon voiced a degree of unease over how the donation might be viewed by others, given the Council's role as a statutory consultee on planning matters. Cllrs agreed and resolved unanimously to place on record that the free service was accepted on behalf of the village, unconditionally. The Clerk was asked to write to Alan Humphrey expressing thanks.

Clerk

Clerk

6. Planning:

i. New Applications.

S/2012/1558/FUL; 85 Hartwell Road. After discussion, the Council resolved its response to be 'no objections' to the variations requested to PA *S/2012/0967/FUL*.

ii. Update on existing Applications.

Decision pending:

S/2012/1083/FUL, 43 Stoke Road and *S/2011/1421/MAF*; M1 Wind Farm have been approved. Cllr Lemon reported on the meeting of SNC's Development Control Committee that she had attended and where she had spoken against the PA. Cllr Farrand reported on a subsequent telephone conversation with Mrs S Mallock, Chairman of Roade Parish Council in which he had been advised of a potential problem associated with the large amount of concrete that would need to

be laid, both as base pads for the turbines and for the carnage used during the construction phase. Given the rain water run-off that this would produce, he had been asked to prepare and submit to SNC a report on recent and historical flooding in Ashton. Cllr Farrand, as an individual had submitted his report to SNC and had also circulated his report to Cllrs who accepted the issues raised. He proposed and Cllrs unanimously approved that the Council endorse his report and submit it to SNC on behalf of Ashton Parish Council.

Clerk

iii. Other Planning Matters.

i. Cllr Farrand commented on the recent flooding at Stoke Road (see Minute 118 iii, page 397) and updated Cllrs on actions taken by Anglian Water to secure the sewer cover. He suggested that the Council keep the matter in view, given the proposed housing development in Road.

7. **Parish / Neighbourhood Plan:**

Cllr Roychoudhury had nothing to report. After discussion Cllr Roychoudhury was asked to contact all who had attended the initial meeting in an attempt to ‘kick start’ the process.

JR

8. **Finance:**

i. **Financial Report.**

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank as at 31st December 2012 £14,521.67

Receipts

Date	From	For	Amount
28/12/12	HMRC	VAT reclaim	1008.26

ii. **Bills for Payment:**

The Council approved the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
12/12/12	571	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Nov	233.78	
12/12/12	572	Post Office Ltd	HMRC (PAYE)	44.80	
12/12/12	573	David Farrand	AVN printing	97.50	
28/12/12	DD	Gerald Eve LLP	Charles Wells lease	125.00	
09/01/13	574	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Dec	204.30	
09/01/13	575	Post Office Ltd	HMRC (PAYE)	44.80	
09/01/13	576	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	30.00	
09/01/13	577	e.on	S/lighting electricity	135.43	6.77

iii. **Granting of dispensations under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011:**

The Clerk drew attention to the section of his report that dealt with the legal anomaly and omission within the Localism Act 2011 regarding the perceived disclosable pecuniary interest that might arise for Cllrs participating in the budget-setting and precepting processes. He reiterated the advice from Kevin Lane, SNC Monitoring Officer that Cllrs consider applying individually for a dispensation as allowed by section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and circulated a proforma application form. Cllr Lemon then proposed and the Council approved the Resolution to grant the dispensation, valid until the next election to those Cllrs that had applied.

iv. **Budget 2013 – 2014:**

The Clerk then introduced the draft Budget that had been previously circulated. After discussion and the correction of some minor errors Cllr Beber proposed and the Council unanimously approved the Resolution that a Budget of £11,914 (details of which are appended as page 411) be approved for 2013 - 2014.

v. Precept for 2013 – 2014:

SNC Dis Cllr Ian McCord outlined to Cllrs the likely effect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the changes to the tax base which would have a minimal effect (an annual increase of £1.30 per Band D property) on the council tax paid by Ashton residents. Following discussion, Cllr Beber proposed and the Council unanimously approved the Resolution that the Precept demand for 2013 – 2014 be set at £12,000, the same amount as for the current year.

Clerk

9. NCC Highways:

i. *Mud on Stoke Road.* The area in question is not in Ashton Parish.
 ii. *Flooding of Cook's Close / Hartwell Road jitty.* Cllrs noted that this was a recurring problem that had been discussed previously and linked in with Cllr Farrand's report. The Clerk was asked to report both this issue and the impaired water flow at the Hartwell Road bridge (between 12 and 14 Hartwell Road) to Street Doctor and to raise the issue of flooding with Helen Howard of NCC Highways.

Clerk

10. Other issues:

i. *The Hut Land.* Cllr Lemon reported that 2 requests had been received for allotments. The Clerk reported that the dialogue with the Charity Commission was ongoing but that all information requested by them had been submitted.
 ii. *Location of the Ashton Playground Association football goal posts.* Cllr Lemon reported that the goal posts had now been replaced in position, in the originally agreed position with the approval of all parties. Cllr Green proposed that the Council approve the location; all in favour.
 iii. *Footpaths.* Cllr Roychoudhury, as Parish Paths Warden reported on several paths that had been ploughed up; he had sent photos to Allan Rigby, NCC Rights of Way Officer but had not had a response. The Clerk suggested that a response was more likely to be forthcoming if the reports were sent via Street Doctor.
 iv. *Annual review and re-adoption of policies and procedures.*

JR

The Clerk referred to his report that set out details of the review (including amendments) of the following Council documents, policies and procedures;

- Financial Regulations
- Financial & Management Risk Assessment
- Financial Controls & Internal Audit
- Standing Orders
- Asset Register

Cllr Green proposed and the Council unanimously approved the Resolution that these be readopted *en bloc* and that Cllr Lemon be reappointed as Internal Controls Cllr

11. Correspondence requiring a response or decision:

Given the cost and the lack of a speeding problem in Ashton, Cllrs decided not to take up the Police invitation to join the Community Speed Watch programme.

12. Items for next meeting:

Grass cutting.
 Work by Network Rail on bridge

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 13th February 2013 at 7.15pm

Cllr Turvey closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Approved Budget for 2013 – 2014

Budget head	Item	Budget	Totals
Staff	Salary and expenses, PAYE	2,810	
	Professional subscriptions	90	
			2,900
Admin	Home office allowance and consumables	300	
	Audit fees	300	
	Membership and payroll fees	200	
	Insurance	450	
			1,250
Grants and donations	AVN	100	
	Other	450	
			550
Grounds	Grass cutting	1,500	
	Street furniture	0	
	Maintenance	300	
	Hut Land improvement	500	
	Contingency	500	
			2,800
Street lighting	Electricity	600	
	Maintenance / repairs	0	
			600
Parish / Neighbourhood Plan	Development / production costs	400	
			400
Loans and leases	PWLB	3,388	
	Gerald Eve (for Charles Wells)	125	
			3,513
Total			11,914
Precept			12,000