

**Minutes of Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7.15 p.m. at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Jeremy Roychoudhury, Sandra Lemon, Bernard Day, David Farrand

Clerk : John Marshall

Cllr Turvey being absent, Cllr Roychoudhury, Vice Chairman took the chair.

2013/

37.

Public Session:

No members of the public present

38.

Declarations of interest:

Cllr Lemon, Ashton Playground Association (as Committee member) and the Hut Land (as Trustee)

39.

Acceptance of apologies for absence:

Cllrs Turvey (holiday), Green (work commitment) and Beber (prior engagement)

40.

Approval of Minutes of last Meeting (13th March 2013):

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

41.

Matters arising from the Minutes, including the Clerk's Report:

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

Footway at Stoke Road Green: the reply from Layna Carman (LC) of SNH was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Day would make enquiries with Pickerings, Michael Learoyd and Alan Humphrey regarding suitable tarmac contractors who might be approached to do the work and the Clerk was asked to write to LC, acknowledging the offer of funding and a meeting.

Litter picking: a litter pick has been organised and the Council resolved to purchase 10 litter picker tools and hi-vis tabards at a cost not exceeding £100 ex VAT; Cllr Lemon to arrange the purchase. The Clerk agreed to supply a suitable risk assessment document to Cllr Lemon.

BD

Clerk

SL
Clerk

42.

Planning:

i. New Applications

S/2013/0326/FUL, 81 Hartwell Road; demolition of existing single storey extension and store and construction of new single storey extension to side. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections', with no additional comments.

S/2013/0350/FUL, 71 Hartwell Road; rear conservatory. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections', with no additional comments.

ii. Update on existing applications

None.

iii. Other planning matters

None.

Clerk

Clerk

43.

Parish / Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Roychoudhury reported that he had met with a resident who was willing to assist with the project, once it was up and running. The names of other residents who might be approached were discussed. Cllr Roychoudhury was asked to approach those individuals and also to provide some relevant words to Cllr Farrand, for inclusion in the AVN, with a view to getting the project under way.

JR

DF

44.

Finance:

i. Financial Report.

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31 March 2013

£11,708.76

ii. Bills for Payment and Receipts.Receipts

Date		From	For	Amount	
				Nil	

Payments

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
10.04.13	586	WJM Marshall	March salary+exes	204.50	
10.04.13	587	Post Office Ltd	HMRC/PAYE	44.80	
10.04.13	588	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	30.00	
10.04.13	589	JS Landscapes	March grass cutting	45.00	
10.04.13	590	NCALC Ltd	Annual subs + audit fees	201.16	
10.04.13	591	e-on	Street lighting	139.10	6.62

iii. Resolutions.

The Clerk then took Cllrs through Part 1 ‘Accounting Statements’ of the Audit Annual Return form; there were no questions. Councillors then unanimously approved the Resolution ‘that the accounting statements that form part of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2013 be approved’. The Accounting Statements were certified by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer and the confirmation of approval by Cllr Roychoudhury as Chairman of the meeting. The Clerk then addressed each of the questions in the Governance Statement set out in Part 2 of the Annual Return form; there were no questions. Councillors then unanimously approved the Resolution ‘that the Council acknowledge and confirm the Annual Governance Statement as required by the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2013’. The approval was signed by the Clerk and Cllr Roychoudhury as Chairman of the meeting.

45. Highways issues:

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to contact Helen Howard, MGWSP to follow up on current issues. Cllr Farrand expressed concern about the ongoing situation regarding potholes on Hartwell Park Road and Cllr Day drew attention to potholes on Ashton Road, Roade (in Roade Parish) that he had reported to Roade PC in August 2012. The Clerk was asked to report the latter to Street Doctor. Cllr Farrand also drew attention to a dead tree that had been uprooted and abandoned on Hartwell Road, east of the railway bridge, south side.

Clerk

46. Other issues:**i. Hut Land, update.**

The Clerk was asked to progress the necessary planning application re change of use, with SNC Development Control. Cllr Lemon advised that there was to be a meeting of the prospective ‘management committee in waiting’ on 13 April and an Ashton Scarecrow competition on 10 May.

ii. Footpaths.

Cllr Roychoudhury had nothing to report.

iii. Northants Best Village competition.

Cllr Lemon advised that the judges would be visiting Ashton on 5th June at 2pm. Various measures were agreed including ensuring that the grass at Stoke Road Green and the Cemetery was freshly cut (the Clerk to arrange with JS Landscapes, who is also to be thanked for the excellent appearance of the Green) and the Notice Boards refurbished (see Minute 46 v) and spring cleaned.

Clerk

iv. Annual Parish Meeting.

This meeting will start at 7pm on 8th May, the theme to be ‘Village Update’.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow the Annual Parish Meeting and will commence at 7.15pm as usual.

v. Notice Boards.

The Clerk had obtained estimates for refurbishment and replacement of the 3 village notice boards. Frank Eustace (who made the Hartwell Village Notice Boards and who carries out maintenance and repair work for Roade Parish Council) considers that although the doors are warped, the notice boards are basically sound and have several years of useful life left in them. Cllrs considered the estimate for refurbishment (£50 + materials per board) and replacement (£560 per board) alongside prices for replacement boards from Greenbarnes (£652 wall mounted, £783 post mounted) and resolved unanimously to opt for refurbishment. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the work to be done, in time for the 'Best Village' visit.

Clerk

vi. Terms of office for Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Cllr Lemon introduced this item. She saw some merit in Council Officers serving for a maximum fixed term of 4 years, as was the case with School Governors and in some other Parish Councils as this would encourage both a sharing of the workload and a regular refreshment of input. She had asked the Clerk to establish whether and how this could be achieved. The Clerk advised that this would require a simple amendment to Standing Orders 2 f and g. After discussion, Cllrs concluded that the proposed outcome could be achieved by means of the existing Standing Orders, if Cllrs so desired and decided to make no change to Standing Orders.

47. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

i. SNC consultation on New Homes Bonus.

The Clerk advised that one of the key questions being asked by SNC was whether Parish Councils would offset any share of the Bonus paid to them, against Precept demand. In discussion, the risk of so doing, were Council Precepts to be capped by Central Government in future years was identified; the Clerk was asked to respond to SNC accordingly.

Clerk

ii. SNC consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charges.

The Clerk advised that having now read the proposal in greater detail, the matter was not particularly relevant to the Council at this time; no response required.

48. Items for next meeting:

Litter bin(s) for the Recreation Ground.

Following a discussion regarding unruly and anti-social behaviour by adults using the football goals on the recreation ground, Cllr Day requested that the question of whether the goals would / should be removed for the summer be discussed at the next (May) meeting.

Clerk

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 8th May at 7pm (Annual Parish Meeting), followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and May Council Meeting at 7.15pm