

**Minutes of Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14th August 2013 at 7.15 p.m. at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Terry Turvey, Sandra Lemon, Bernard Day, David Farrand, Alan Beber,
Steve Green, Carl Johnson

Clerk : John Marshall

SNC Cllr Wilson and two members of the public in attendance

2013/

75.

Public Session:

Two members of the public present. The applicant for planning permission for a tree house at 29 Hartwell Road advised the Council that his application had been refused by SNC. He indicated his intention to appeal the decision and asked whether the Council would provide a letter of support. He was advised that the Council would be formally consulted as part of the appeal process and that that was the appropriate route for the Council's comments.

Susan Bland, Development officer for Grand Union Housing Group (that incorporates South Northants Homes) gave a presentation on the Group's proposal to build 5 dwellings (3 houses and 2 flats) on the land lying to the north east of Stoke Road Green, currently occupied by garages. She intends to hold a village consultation event, probably at Ashton Primary School; Cllr Lemon agreed to forward contact details for the School Bursar.

SL

She also outlined the Group's offer for the Council to take a 20 year lease on Stoke Road Green and to pay 50% towards the cost of the proposed footpath along the southern edge of the Green. Additional funding towards the footpath is available from SNH, the Clerk will pursue this with Layna Carman.

Clerk

Cllrs asked whether GUHG would gift the Green to the Council; Susan Bland thought it unlikely but will make enquiries. The Clerk was also asked to enquire of our insurers the costs, if any of taking on the Green either as permanent ownership or leasehold.

Clerk

76.

Declarations of interest:

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

77.

Acceptance of apologies for absence:

None.

78.

Approval of Minutes of last Meeting (12th June 2013):

The Council resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record.

79.

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

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

80.

Planning:

i. New Applications

S/2013/0917/MAF, M1 Wind Farm, variation to Conditions. The Council resolved to object to the Application due to uncertainty as to whether the changes requested would give rise to additional concrete / hard standing and consequent additional surface water run-off leading to an increased risk of flooding.

S/2013/0951/FUL, Pickerings, Roade Hill, retention of an building for agricultural, commercial and industrial use. The Council resolved to object to the Application for the same reasons as had been entered as objections to the previous Application ie increased traffic, noise, road safety and an unacceptable change of use.

ii. Update on existing applications

0476/FUL, changes to bridge deck at 27 Hartwell Road and 0511/FUL, variations to house type at Vale Farm have been approved.

0517/FUL, changes to room over garage at 20 Roade Hill and 0605/FUL, treehouse at 29 Hartwell Road have been refused. All other PAs remain pending.

iii. Other planning matters

None.

81. Finance:

i. Financial Report.

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at Bank at 31 July 2013	£15,452.72-
Unpaid cheques at 31 July 2013	£ 312.80
Pending deposit (NCC grant for AVN)	<u>£ 500.00</u>
Cash available	£15,639.92

ii. Bills for Payment and Receipts.

Receipts

Date		From	For	Amount	
				Nil	

Payments

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
14.08.13	607	W J M Marshall	Salary + exes for July	209.80	
14.08.13	608	Post Office Ltd	HMRC/PAYE	46.20	
14.08.13	609	JS Landscapes	Grass cutting, July	315.00	

iii. External audit.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been received back from BDO as external Auditor. No audit issues had been raised and the Council therefore resolved to approve and accept the Annual Return.

iv. Clerk's salary.

The Council received a report on the national agreement reached between the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to increase Clerks' pay by 1% with effect from 01 April 2013. The Council resolved to honour the agreement and to increase the Clerk's pay from £11.55 to £11.66 per hour with effect from 01.04.2013 and further to pay the annual subscription (£75) to SLCC.

v. Purchase of 'Local Government Administration' 9th edition.

The Council resolved to purchase the publication at the discounted cost of £60.

Clerk

82. Highways issues:

In discussion, a number of issues requiring either clarification or attention were identified *viz*;

- collapsed drains in the vicinity of the bridge on Stoke Road
- the current position of the A508 / Stoke Road junction improvements
- the possibility of a 20mph speed limit within the village
- appropriate eg 'slow down' signage warning of the presence of horses within the village and also at the blind bends on Roade Hill in view of the additional risk posed by the size and speed of buses.

The Clerk was asked to contact Helen Howard, MGWSP to arrange a village walkabout in respect of these matters.

Clerk

83. Anglian Water issues.

The Clerk provided an update on his dealings with AW regarding the sewerage outflow and overflow issue at Stoke Road. AW have promised to investigate the cause of the problem and to report back. Cllrs decided that unless a satisfactory

response was received, a representative of AW would be invited to attend either a face to face site meeting or a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the issues.

Clerk

84. Other issues:

i. Hut Land, update.

The Clerk provided an update on the continuing dialogue with the Charity Commission. He had now dealt with what it is hoped will be their final request for documentation and information.

The Clerk then raised the request from allotment users for grant funding towards fencing that had been tabled at the previous meeting. He advised that a sum of £500 had been included in this year's budget to provide start up funding for the Hut Land. Neither the Hut Land Charity nor the Allotment Association currently have a bank account, nor do they intend to do so. After discussion as to whether and how the funds could be provided, the Clerk advised that as the Council is the Custodian Trustee of the Charity, the payment could legitimately be made as a cheque payment, on receipt of an invoice addressed to the Parish Council from the fencing provider for the sum of £500, with the balance of the cost (if any) being met by the allotment holders. Cllr Farrand proposed and the Council unanimously approved that £500 be made available to the Hut Land in this way. Cllr Lemon agreed to convey the outcome of the discussion to the allotment holders and to obtain the necessary invoice.

SL

ii. Condition of empty property at 53 Hartwell Road.

Cllr Lemon drew attention to the dilapidated state of the property and asked whether anything could be done to encourage or require the owner to make improvements. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to the person who it is believed owns the property to seek his co-operation in this respect.

iii. Empty homes scheme.

No information available so no discussion.

iv. Keeping poultry, advice to residents.

Cllr Lemon was asked to pass the information to Cllr Farrand, for possible inclusion in the AVN.

SL

v. Neighbourhood / Parish Planning.

Cllr Beber reported that he had discussed the matter with Jeremy Roychoudhury, who had promise to e-mail residents and others who had previously expressed an interest in becoming involved, with the intention of holding a meeting to kick-start the process.

AB / JR

vi. Hedges.

A number of hedges requiring attention were identified viz;

- Roade Hill (property of Network Rail)
- Crown Corner, Roade Hill
- Willow tree on Stoke Road (property of NCC Highways)
- SNH property, corner of St Michael's Court / Hartwell Road

The Clerk was asked to deal with the first 2 by letter and the third when Helen Howard visits; Cllr Turvey agreed to look into a resolution / solution for the fourth.

Clerk
TT

85. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision.

1. Dis Cllr Wilson drew attention to an e-mail that he had received from SNC Planning (Daniel Callis, Case Officer for the M1 Wind Farm application) regarding the Community Fund that was to be established by the applicant, to benefit the 5 affected Parishes (Courteenhall, Quinton, Roade, Hartwell and Ashton). As the e-mail had not been received by the Clerk, no discussion was possible. The Clerk will initiate an e-discussion once the e-mail is to hand.

Clerk

2. The Clerk was nominated to attend the NCALC AGM in October as the Council's voting delegate.

Clerk

86. Items for next meeting:

Cllr Beber tendered his apologies for the next meeting. He advised that he was attending a meeting of abthorpe.net, a high speed internet service available in Abthorpe, on 19 September and would report back in due course. Cllrs Green and Farrand also tendered apologies.

AB

Cllr Turvey closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th September at 7.15pm.