

**Minutes of Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Terry Turvey, Sandra Lemon, Bernard Day, Carl Johnson, Steve Green,
Lee Gardiner, Alan Beber

Clerk: John Marshall

In attendance: SNC Cllr Wilson, NCC Cllr Walker, 2 members of the public.

2014/

13. Public Session:

Representatives from ASPA queried the situation regarding insurance for their firework event, specifically why the Council's insurance cover via the Council's insurance policy was not available to them, as it had been in previous years. The Clerk explained that the terms of the Council's insurance are explicit in stating that 'our policy provides cover for firework displays and bonfires subject to the Council being the sole organiser of the event.' As such, it is not available to be lent, borrowed or extended to cover any co-organised or 3rd party organised event, such as the event organised by ASPA; indeed, to do so would actually result in the event being uninsured, as had been the case in previous years when the Council's insurance had been utilised in this way. The Clerk was asked to produce a proposal to enable the Council to support future fireworks events.

Clerk

14. Declarations of interest:

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

15. Acceptance of apologies for absence:

None.

16. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting (8th January 2014):

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

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

The Clerk's Report had been previously circulated; there were no questions. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries at NCC regarding the Register of village Greens and the process and mechanism for de-registration, specifically whether the Council would be consulted were such an application to be made.

Clerk

18. Planning:

i. New Applications

None

ii. Update on existing applications

S/2013/1556/FUL; 85 Hartwell Road - approved

S/2013/1597MAF; Salcey Forest Visitor Centre - withdrawn

S/2013/1619/FUL; 15 Roade Hill - refused

S/2013/1632/FUL; 23 Roade Hill - refused

S/20123/0382/MAO; ex PSL site in Roade – approved

S/2013/1185/EN; 29 Hartwell Road, tree house – appeal allowed

S/2013/1458/FUL; land north of Stoke Road Green - approved.

All other PAs remain pending.

iii. Other planning matters

The final draft of the Agreement between Roade Wind Farm Ltd and the parishes of Ashton, Courteenhall, Quinton and Roade, that establishes the Community Fund from which all 4 parishes will benefit had been received. The Council resolved unanimously to accept the terms of the agreement; the Clerk, as Proper Officer will

sign and return the necessary documentation

Clerk

19.

Finance:

i. Financial Report.

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at Bank at 31 st January 2014	£15,345.17
NB includes AVN funds, currently	£ 226.00
Cash available	<u>£15,119.17</u>

ii. Bills for Payment and Receipts.

Receipts

Date		From	For	Amount	
				Nil	

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
12.02.14	633	W J M Marshall	Salary + exes for Jan	243.88	4.93
12.02.14	634	Post Office Ltd	HMRC/PAYE	46.80	
12.02.14	635	D Farrand	AVN issue 139	71.00	

A letter had been received from the Treasurer of St Michael and All Angels Church, requesting payment of £176.54 (inc VAT) for the electricity required for floodlighting of the church for the period 21.06.12 – 08.01.2014. The Clerk advised that to pay this amount on the basis of the submitted ‘invoice’ would put the Council in jeopardy with the Auditors because;

- the amount covered an 18 month period and had not been budgeted for
- the amount covered several pricing periods and was calculated rather than supported by direct evidence of usage
- the amount included VAT that cannot be reclaimed by the Council as the Church is not VAT registered
- the request for payment was based on a historic agreement, which is inappropriate as the Council cannot be tied in this way, in perpetuity.

The Clerk further advised that as the Council had adopted the General Power of Competence, it is legally possible to make a payment to the Church to cover the cost of floodlighting. However, the appropriate method for dealing with the issue would be in the form of an annual grant that should be requested by the Parochial Church Council and then approved and awarded by the Council. In discussion, it was agreed not to pay the ‘invoice’ of £176.54 but it was further resolved to make a payment of £210, deferred to the April meeting as the Church Treasurer is currently away. The Clerk was asked to prepare a covering letter to be sent to the Treasurer, explaining the arrangements going forward.

Clerk

20.

Highways issues:

i. A number of street lights are dead. The Clerk has reported to e-on those that are reported to him, either by members of the public or by Cllrs and had been assured by e-on, the previous day that the only repair outstanding was light no 1. In discussion, it was apparent that that was incorrect; Cllr Turvey undertook to carry out a check on all lights and to progress the matter, personally with e-on. In discussion, Cllrs identified a number of recurring / longstanding issues and the Clerk was asked to arrange for Helen Howard to attend for a village ‘walkabout’.

TT

Clerk

21.

Other issues:

i. Footpaths

The Ramblers’ Association have requested that NCC remove the 2 kissing gates on path KA8; the RA assert that there is no longer any need for them, as no stock is kept in the adjacent fields. Allan Rigby, NCC Rights of Way Officer has indicated

that this request will be difficult to resist, but is seeking the Council's views. The Council resolved to resist removal of the gates on the grounds that they provide a pleasant, historical feature that is valued by the community; Clerk to respond.

Clerk

ii. Neighbourhood / Parish Planning:

Cllr Beber reported that a meeting, attended by 15 people had been held. The discussion had centred mainly on whether a Neighbourhood, Parish or Village Plan was the most appropriate format to take forward at this time.

iii. Website:

The Clerk reported that due to personal circumstances, there had been a delay in moving this project forward. However, he hoped that the site would be available by the end of February. Cllr Beber explained the e-mail addresses that he had set up for Cllrs.

Clerk

iv. Fireworks:

The matter had been dealt with in the public session; see Minute 13.

v. Village Hall:

Cllr Green questioned whether there was a want or need for a Village Hall. After discussion, it was concluded and agreed that a need could not be shown and as such, this was not a project that could be supported.

22. Correspondence requiring a response or decision:

None.

23. Items for the next meeting:

None.

Cllr Turvey closed the meeting at 9pm.

Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 12th March 2014