

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council
held on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at 7.15 p.m. at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Sandra Lemon (Vice Chair), Bernard Day, Lee Gardiner, Steve Green, Carl Johnson

Clerk : John Marshall

NCC Cllr Walker in attendance; no members of the public present.

- 102. Public session:** **Action**
NCC Cllr Walker advised that he had met with David Farrand and agreed to provide a £500 grant from his Councillor Empowerment Fund towards ongoing production of the AVN. He further advised that the Fund still has money available; he is keen to assist any community group or organisation, including the Primary School but he stressed that a grant must be used to provide tangible outcomes, not just financial assistance.
- 103. Declarations of interest:**
Cllr Lemon, Hut Land; Cllr Green, Hut Land.
- 104. Apologies for absence:**
Terry Turvey (holiday), Alan Beber (prior engagement)
- 105. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting:**
The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the meeting of 10th September.
- 106. Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:**
The Clerk's Report had been circulated previously; there were no questions. Cllr Lemon advised that she had reported back to the residents who had raised the issue of the St Michael's Court refuse / recycling bins and after consultation with the Clerk had provided an article for the AVN on the Council's request regarding parking on the pavement. Cllr Gardiner has posted the Council's Grants Policy on the Council website.
- 107. Planning:**
- i. New Applications**
The Council considered the following Applications and resolved as follows;
S/2014/1601/FUL, Highview, Roade Hill, no objections and no added comments
S/2014/1682/FUL, 62 Stoke Road, no objections but to comment that to limit the visual impact of the structure on neighbouring properties and the street scene the height of the structure at the rear ie abutting Stoke Road should not exceed the height of the existing hedge ie the hedge should be utilised to provide screening
S/2014/1743/FUL, no objections and no added comments
- ii. Update on existing Applications**
S/2014/1362/FUL, 15 Roade Hill, replacement dwelling has been withdrawn.
- iii. Other planning matters**
None.
- 108. Finance:**
- i. Financial Report.**
The Clerk pointed out that his report had been prepared before receipt of the monthly bank statement and due to the 2nd half precept having been paid in September, earlier than expected some of the figures reported were incorrect. He reported the financial situation as follows;
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Cash at bank at 30 th September 2014 | £25,382.79 |
| includes AVN funds (£71), Wind Farm grant (£4,320) & APA transfer (£2434.45) | |

Cllr Lemon, as Internal Controls Cllr reported that she had carried out the required financial checks on 7th October and found everything to be in good order.

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
19.09.14	SNC	2 nd half year precept	6,000

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT	
18.09.14	670	Broker Network	Insurance premium	442.56	
26.09.14	DD	Govt Debt Office	PWLB loan	1693.59	
08.10.14	671	W J M Marshall	Salary + exes for Sept	225.90	
08.10.14	672	Post Office Ltd	HMRC/PAYE	48.20	
08.10.14	673	Aylesbury Mains	Street light maintenance	645.24	107.54
08.10.14	674	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	30.00	
08.10.14	675	JS Landscapes	Grass cutting, Sept	210.00	
08.10.14	676	ASPA	Fireworks grant	350.00	
08.10.14	677	e-on	Street light electricity	142.20	6.77

109.

Other issues:

i. Dealing with Parish Council correspondence, consideration of draft policy.

The Council resolved to adopt the draft Policy that had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Lemon asked whether all recently appointed Cllrs had attended the NCCALC training course for new Councillors 'Off to a Flying Start'. Cllr Gardiner has not yet attended and Cllr Lemon suggested that she would accompany him as the course provides valuable refresher training. The Clerk was asked to enquire *re* upcoming dates for this course.

Clerk

ii. Footpaths

NCC RoW Officer Allan Rigby has inspected path KA8 and concluded that no action *re* the Network Rail security fence was necessary. The Council resolved to refer the matter to Cllr Turvey, as the Cllr who initially raised the issue.

TT

iii. Highways issues

Cllr Day had checked all salt bins and found them to be full. The Council had previously requested NCC Cllr Walker to investigate why the promised Stoke Road / A508 junction works had not been completed whilst traffic management had been available for other works in recent weeks. The Council also resolved that the Clerk write to the NCC regarding progress with the promised replacement sign at Bozenham Mill Lane and to NCC Highways, neighbouring parishes and Andrea Leadsom MP regarding the lack of new and improved roads and infrastructure to deal with the growth in housing and consequential traffic in neighbouring villages, particularly Roade.

Clerk

iv. Neighbourhood / Parish Planning

Cllr Beber was not present and a report was not available.

SL

v. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Johnson advised that he had contacted the school about cars parking on the pavement in the vicinity of the school; the situation was felt to have improved. Recent crime in the village had involved the theft of items from an outbuilding.

vi. Millennium Garden

Cllr Lemon advised that the Guerrilla Gardeners would be closing down the garden for winter on Saturday 11 October. She requested that the Council fund the assistance that would be necessary for the heavier gardening work and the Clerk was asked to contact JS Landscapes requesting that he contact Cllr Lemon to

discuss the work required and provide a quote.

Clerk / SL

vii. Pumpkin festival

Cllr Lemon requested and the Council approved the staging of the festival on 31 October. The Council resolved to approve the event and Cllr Lemon undertook to seek the approval of Susan Bland of Grand Union Housing Partnership for the Council to use Stoke Roade Green.

SL

viii. Reminders of Parish Council Meetings

Cllr Lemon suggested and the Council agreed that notice of Council meetings together with the Agenda be circulated via the village e-mail network, this to be in addition to the current methods of announcing Parish Council meetings. Cllr Lemon agreed to undertake this task.

SL

ix. Provision of play equipment on the recreation field

The Council agreed to purchase the play equipment but to first meet with representatives of Charles Wells to ensure that this project fitted in with CW's plans for the site and our lease, going forward.

Clerk

Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

- 110.** The Council had received an e-mail from a resident who had in turn received a response from Andrea Leadsom MP following her visit to Ashton. The resident felt that her comments might have been misrepresented by Mrs Leadsom and was anxious to assure the Council that it had her wholehearted support for the way the recreation field was being developed.

Items for next meeting:

- 111.** The Clerk was asked to investigate options for recognising longstanding merit and achievement of individuals within the community.

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 7.15pm.