

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

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

Clerk : John Marshall

1 member of the public present.

- 112. Public session:** **Action**
A resident raised the issues of;
- the lack of lighting in the railway bridge on Hartwell Road; increasing traffic volumes, including the bus has made the situation increasingly dangerous for pedestrians. The Council resolved to contact NCC Highways / MGWSP and Network Rail to see what, if anything can be done to improve safety **Clerk**
 - speed of vehicles, especially at the western approach to the village on Stoke Road. The Council advised that these matters had been raised with Helen Howard of NCC Highways / MGWSP on a number of occasions but that the recent initiative taken by the Council with NCC Cllr Allen Walker to raise the profile of road safety might present an opportunity to revisit these issues. **Clerk**
- 113. Declarations of interest:**
Cllr Lemon, Hut Land; Cllr Green, Hut Land; Cllr Day, grass cutting.
- 114. Apologies for absence:**
Terry Turvey (holiday)
- 115. Approval of Minutes of last Meeting:**
The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the meeting of 8th October.
- 116. Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:**
The Clerk's Report had been circulated previously; there were no questions. Cllr Beber raised the issue of the Pumpkin Festival and some non-compliance with the village 'code', ie to not knock at houses unless either a pumpkin or a picture of one was on display at the door. Cllr Lemon undertook to remind participants of the code prior to the next event.
The Clerk was congratulated on his letter to NCC and SNC Cllrs and Andrea Leadsom MP regarding the effect on rural road safety where planning approval for major housing developments did not include improvements to road infrastructure. Positive responses have been received from NCC Cllrs Allen Walker and Chris Lofts (but none of the other addressees) and the Council resolved to ask Cllr Walker to convene a meeting of interested parties. **Clerk**
The Council considered a report from the Clerk on recognising meritorious service to the community by individuals and resolved to utilise the opportunity afforded by the Local Government Act 1972 section 249 (5) to admit Honorary Freemen and Freewomen to the Parish of Ashton. The Clerk was asked to work up the necessary protocol and procedure for admitting suitable candidates. **Clerk**
- 117. Planning:**
- i. New Applications**
None
- ii. Update on existing Applications**
S/2014/1601/FUL, Highview, Roade Hill, approved

S/2014/1743/FUL, Pickerings, Roade Hill, approved
S/2014/1682/FUL, 62 Stoke Road, refused

iii. Other planning matters

None

118. Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st October 2014 £23,731.25
includes AVN funds (£71), Wind Farm grant (£4,320) & APA transfer (£2434.45)

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
07.11.14	D Farrand	NCC Grant for AVN	500.00

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
12.11.14	678	JAS Landscapes	Grass cutting, Oct	210.00	
12.11.14	679	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	48.20	
12.11.14	680	D Farrand	AVN, Oct and Nov	105.00	
12.11.14	681	W J M Marshall	Salary + exes for Oct	241.19	1.20
12.11.14	682	B R Day	Grass cutting	360.00	

iii. Draft Budget and Precept:

Cllr Green introduced the draft Budget that had been drawn up by himself, Cllr Gardiner and the Clerk. He drew attention to the increase of approx. £1000 in the Budget for the current year (£12,580) resulting primarily from an increase in grass cutting rates (the first increase from the contractor for several years), the need to increase the Clerk's hours from 20 to 25 hours per month, to more closely reflect the actual hours worked, an increase in the NCCALC membership fee due to the withdrawal of central government and NCC grant funding and an increase in the insurance premium, once the 3 year fixed price agreement comes to an end in September 2015. After discussion, the Council resolved unanimously to accept the Budget of £13,648 for the year 2015/16. The Council then resolved unanimously to set a Precept of £13,648 for the year 2015/16.

iv. AVN funds:

The Council considered a request from David Farrand for it to hold the NCC Cllr Empowerment Grant of £500, made to him personally to cover production of the AVN and for the Council to make payments to him on receipt of invoices. The Clerk advised that having spoken to David Farrand, his request was based on the AVN not having its own bank account and a desire for transparency and accountability. The Council resolved to agree to the arrangement (that was in fact the *status quo*) but added a rider that this did not create a precedent for other organisations that might make similar requests.

Clerk

119. Other issues:

i. Footpaths

Cllr Turvey was not present but the Council agreed to ask him to review path KA12 in the light of the ongoing approved building works to extend Vale Farm House (see S/2014/0323/FUL)

TT

ii. Highways issues

All issues discussed at this meeting will be taken forward at the proposed meeting to be convened by NCC Cllr Walker.

iii. Neighbourhood / Parish Planning

Cllr Beber advised that the proposed meeting with Adrian Colwell had yet to take place and that the Group were reluctant to proceed until they had answers from him to some fundamental questions regarding whether and how to take the matter forward. After discussion, in which concern was expressed by some members at the seeming lack of progress with this matter that is considered to be an important issue for the future development of Ashton, Cllr Beber agreed to consider with Jeremy Roychoudhury the suggestion that in an attempt to move the process forward the questions be submitted to Adrian Colwell by e-mail.

AB

iv. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Johnson advised that the only recent reported crime had been a theft from an unlocked vehicle in St Michael's Court. He also reported on a local meeting of NHW that he had attended, where parking on pavements had been highlighted as an issue of concern.

v. Grants

a) Procurement and provision of play equipment on recreation field, to be purchased using the Wind Farm grant plus Ashton Playground Association funds. Cllr Lemon reported on the estimates she had obtained to procure a suitable swing, The Council considered the offers from Wicksteed Leisure and from Playquest Adventure Play Ltd and resolved to accept that from Playquest, at a maximum cost of £5,898 ex VAT. The agreement of Charles Wells to install the equipment in the southernmost one third of the recreation field has now been obtained. The Clerk will place the order and Cllr Lemon will liaise with Playquest regarding delivery and installation. The Clerk will write to the AVN to publicise the installation.

Clerk / SL

Clerk

b) Procurement and provision of village enhancement items, to be purchased using the New Homes Bonus grant. Unlike the Wind Farm grant, the funds are only released by SNC after they have been purchased and receipts submitted. Cllr Lemon will meet with the Clerk to arrange purchase of those items that have been approved by SNC *viz* shed and edge boarding for the Hut Land, planters at village gateways. Cllr Green advised that the Hut Land Committee intend to request funding from the 2015 Wind Farm payment for installation of water to the site.

Clerk / SL

120. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

The Council considered correspondence from;

- the 'Fields in Trust' regarding a national initiative to identify and dedicate Centenary Fields as part of the WW1 remembrance programme. Stoke Road Green (destined for APC ownership) was suggested as a possible site and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries of the FiT organisation
- Gillian Spencer, SNC Strategic Housing Officer advising of a change to allocation criteria for the 3 bed house that will form part of the Stoke Road development for SNH/GUHP
- ASPA, thanking the Council for its donation to the event. Cllr Lemon drew attention to correspondence she had received from grateful children, thanking the Council both for the fireworks and the pumpkin event
- a resident, suggesting a fireworks limitation policy, restricting the letting-off of fireworks to just a few days ie New Year's Eve and around 5th Nov. The Council, noting that it was unable to impose such a policy resolved to forward the correspondence to the AVN for consideration of publication therein.
- a resident, requesting that the Council intervene in a problem involving poor reinstatement of the road surface following utilities works to service the SNH housing development at Stoke Road. The Council resolved to refer the matter to the project Manager at GUHP

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

121. Items for next meeting:

None

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 10th December 2014 at 7.15pm.