

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th October 2015
at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Lemon, Green, Day, Bullock, McAllister, Roychoudhury and Johnson

Clerk : John Marshall

4 members of the public, NCC Cllr Allen Walker. SNC Cllr John Budden unable to attend.

Action

2015/

61.

Public session:

A representative from ASPA enquired whether the Council would make a grant towards a Fireworks event being organised jointly by ASPA and Men's Own RFC. The Clerk reminded the Council that in view of the annual grant received by the Council from the Wind Farm Community Fund and the arrangements made by the Council for disbursing those funds, the decision had been taken as part of last year's budget round, not in future to include any allowance for such grants. After discussion and careful consideration by members, Cllr Day proposed that a grant of £250 be made to ASPA; the Council resolved by 1 vote for, 5 against and 1 abstention not to make a grant.

2 residents of Roade Hill expressed their concern regarding Planning Application S/2015/2282/FUL, K J Pickering Ltd that they felt represented creeping extension of the village boundaries.

62.

Declarations of interest:

Cllrs Lemon and Green, Hut Land; (all non-statutory disclosable interests).

63.

Approval of apologies for absence:

None.

64.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th September 2015.

65.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

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

66.

Planning:

i. New Applications.

S/2015/2282/FUL; K J Pickering, Roade Hill, stables with ancillary works. The Council noted that this Application was a re-submission of a previous similar application for a larger scale development that had been refused. The Council's response to the previous PA had been 'no objections'. Whilst mindful of the comments made by residents, as the applicant had clearly addressed the reasons given by SNC for refusal, the Council felt unable to change its earlier comment and resolved its response to be 'no objections'.

ii. Update on existing Applications

S/2015/1879/FUL; The Brambles, 23 Hartwell Road.

The Appeal lodged against refusal of S/2014/2505/FUL has yet to be resolved

iii. Other planning matters

The Council noted that S/2015/1957/AGD, determination of whether PP is required for an agricultural building on land off Bozenham Mill Lane had been withdrawn due to the building being extant at the time the application was made.

The Council noted that S/2015/2240/AGD, determination of whether PP is required for an agricultural building on land off Bozenham Mill Lane (unrelated to the above) was for information only.

The Clerk reported that an approach had been received from representatives of Chartwell Industries (CI) and a developer with an interest in the Roade Hill site

regarding the refused PA S/2015/1036/FUL for 4 dwellings. CI is intent on developing the site and has not ruled out the possibility of an appeal against refusal but would prefer to work with the community to seek a mutually agreeable and acceptable outcome. With that in mind they wish to meet with the Council to explore options; the Council resolved to agree to such an initial meeting, scheduled for 28th October and will sound out residents, especially those who made objections to the original proposal prior to the meeting.

67. Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 30 th September 2015	£25,984.08
this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;	
i. play equipment	£ 1,504.45
ii. election contingency funds	£ 1,000.00
iii. AVN funds	£ 214.00
iv. Guerilla Gardeners grant	£ 440.00
v. Wind Farm Community Fund grant	£ 4,343.65
vi. Unpresented cheque	£ 60.00

The Clerk reported that whilst the financial position was healthy, the cash at bank included the second half year's precept (£6,824), required to cover the Council's outgoings to April 2016, the new item of play equipment (£7,200) was installed the previous day, 13th October and there remained some items of unbudgeted expenditure related to the transfer of ownership of Stoke Road Green, together with the Stoke Road Green footway (estimate £7,710), that the Council will be required to fund before reclaiming the promised grants.

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
28.09.15	SNC	2 nd half year precept	6824.00

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
25.09.15	DD	PWLB	Website hosting	1693.29	
25.09.15	737	Zurich	Insurance premium	438.74	
14.10.15	738	JAS Landscapes	Grass cutting (Sept)	345.00	
14.10.15	739	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	45.00	
14.10.15	740	SNC	Election costs	722.21	
14.10.15	741	e-on	Street light electricity	213.99	10.19
14.10.15	742	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	61.60	
14.10.15	743	W J M Marshall	Salary + exes for Sept	373.72	

iii. Finance Working Group:

The Clerk advised that the Finance WG (2 x Cllrs + Clerk / RFO) needs to be reconstituted and a meeting arranged to prepare the budget and precept recommendations for the coming year 2016/17. The Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Lemon and Green to the WG and the Clerk was asked to prepare the necessary financial data for the year to date and the coming year (2016/17) to inform the exercise. Once available, a date for the WG to meet will be set.

Clerk

68. Highways issues

a) proposal for a 20mph speed limit

The proposal is now finalised but before submission to NCC, a final trawl for comments will be made via the AVN. The Clerk will then prepare the submission in time for approval by the Council at the November meeting.

Clerk

b) Footway widening outside 58/60 Stoke Road

The Clerk apologised that due to him having taken a week's leave and the volume of competing priorities during the previous month, he had not yet compiled the submission. He hoped and expected to complete this task before the next meeting.

Clerk

c) Stoke Road Green footway

The Clerk reported that the s.278 licence was now with K J Pickering who would be scheduling the works as soon as the utilities etc drawings had been received. The Clerk further reported that he had spoken to Grand Union Housing Partnership regarding the promised contribution of £3,000 (£2,500 from GUHP and £250 from SNH) and been advised that payment would be made on completion of the works and on receipt of Pickering's invoice.

d) Hartwell Road railway under bridge no 200

The safety improvements – signage and road painting – are still awaited. .

69.

Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury advised that the responses from the questionnaire and analysis of the data was under way.

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

The most recent circulation of crime etc data provided by PCSO Cooksammy had been previously circulated and Cllr Johnson had nothing further to report.

iii. Footpaths and dog fouling

Cllr McAllister provided a comprehensive report and update on the condition of several footpaths within the village. KA8 remains unpassable due to nettles etc and will be reported again to Allan Rigby; further issues had been identified that Cllr McAllister had reported via Street Doctor. She also requested that laminating pouches be obtained to allow the footpath maps that are to be made available to the public, free of charge via The Old Crown to be protected; Clerk to organise.

Cllr Lemon introduced a survey report prepared by Ashton Primary School children, dealing with various environmental issues including dog fouling, empty property, litter etc in the village. The Clerk was asked to write to the school, thanking all concerned for their effort.

Clerk

iv. Transfer of ownership of Stoke Road Green

The Clerk reported that slow but steady progress was being made with SNH regarding the transfer of ownership of Stoke Road Green to the Council. Four of the five Parish Councils receiving land – Chacombe, Nether Heyford, Helmdon and Ashton – have agreed to work together under the leadership of Northants CALC (as occurred with the Wind Farm Community Fund Agreement) to reduce, if not eliminate any legal costs.

v. Play equipment etc safety inspection

Cllr Lemon reported that the new item of play equipment had now been installed and that it had already been warmly received by many residents. The weekly safety inspection rota for September and October was agreed as follows;

Cllr McAllister wks/c Monday 12, 19, 26 Oct and 02, 09 November

Cllr Bullock wks/c Monday 16, 23, 30 November and 07 December

SM
PB

NB the duty (which may be for 4 or 5 weeks, depending on the calendar) commences the Monday of the week following the Council meeting and ends with the week of the following Council meeting, inclusive.

The Clerk also reported that arrangements had been made with Solutions4Play to carry out the statutory annual safety inspection of the play equipment on Wednesday 11th December at a cost of £150.

vi. Litter picking

The next litter pick will take place on Sunday 13th December

vii. Pumpkin festival

The Clerk reported that he had received formal permission from SNH for the annual Halloween Pumpkin Festival to take place on Stoke Road Green. Cllr Lemon agreed to undertake the organisation of the event.

SL

viii. Ashton Fireworks event

See Minute 61

70. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

The Clerk reported that;

- a) Bev Avery of Gerald Eve had written to confirm Charles Wells' agreement to the terms of the lease extension for the Recreation Field.
- b) a commemorative plaque had been received from EDF to acknowledge their sponsorship of the play equipment. Cllr Day agreed to mount the plaque at the entrance to the Rec.
- c) Cllrs Lemon and McAllister together with the Clerk would be attending the NCALC AGM on Saturday 17th October
- d) he had received acknowledgement of the Council's application for a grant of £382 from the government's Transparency Fund to cover the purchase of IT equipment expenditure necessary to deliver compliance with the Transparency Code.

71. Items for next meeting:

None

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th November 2015