

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on Wednesday
11th December 2015 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Lemon, Green, Day and Johnson

Clerk : John Marshall

5 members of the public. NCC Cllr Walker and SNC Cllr Budden.

Action

2015/

83.

Public session:

Members of the public raised the following issues;

- Cllrs Walker and Budden provided an update on current issues involving NCC and SNC respectively.
- the reason why the Council did not make grant funding available to ASPA for the 2015 fireworks and whether the Council would make grant funding available to ASPA for the 2016 firework event. Cllr Lemon, as Chairman reiterated the Council's previous decision on the matter (see Minute 61/2015) and further advised that Standing Orders prohibited a decision of the Council from being altered for 6 months. She further explained that she has already arranged to meet with ASPA in the New Year.

84.

Declarations of interest:

Cllr Day, item 89 ii payment due to him for services rendered (pecuniary interest).
Cllrs Lemon and Green, Hut Land; (non-statutory disclosable interests).

85.

Approval of apologies for absence:

The Council approved apologies from Cllrs Bullock (family engagement), McAllister (work) and Roychoudhury (work).

86.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 11th November 2015.

87.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

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

88.

Planning:

i. New Applications.

S/2015/2840/FUL, single storey rear extension at 85 Hartwell Road. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections' with no added comments.

S/2015/2835/FUL, detached garage at 81 Hartwell Road. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections' with no added comments.

ii. Update on existing Applications

S/2015/2282/FUL, Pickering's Road Hill has been approved. The Appeal lodged against refusal of S/2014/2505/FUL has yet to be resolved.

iii. Other planning matters

None.

89.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported that the Council's application for grant funding from the government's Transparency Fund had been successful with the Council being awarded £382, representing 100% of the amount requested. The terms of the grant require the funds to be used solely to deliver compliance with the Transparency Code and the multi-function printer, scanner, copier had already been purchased, as approved unanimously by Councillors via e-mail.

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 30 th November 2015	£16,321.29
this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;	
i. election contingency funds	£ 277.79
ii. residue of AVN funds	£ 147.00
iii. residue of Guerrilla Gardeners grant	£ 255.00
iv. residue of Transparency Fund grant	£ 382.00

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
25.11.15	NCALC	Transparency Fund grant	382.00

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
09.12.15	750	B R Day	Rec field maintenance	380.00	
09.12.15	751	S Lemon	Guerrilla Gardeners	185.00	
09.12.15	752	David Farrand	AVN issue 150	67.00	
09.12.15	753	CANCELLED			
09.12.15	754	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	61.60	
09.12.15	755	WJM Marshall	Nov salary + exes	599.32	53.99
09.12.15	756	KJ Pickering Ltd	Stoke Road footway	7,710.00	1,285.00

iii. Budget for 2016 - 2017:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group introduced the draft Budget and explained the proposed increase from £13,648 in the current year to £14,800 next year necessitated by increases in grounds maintenance, salary, website and street lighting energy costs. The Council resolved unanimously to approve the draft budget of £14,800 for 2016 – 2017. Cllr Green undertook to correct minor errors in the draft budget document and forward it to the Clerk who will arrange for it to be displayed on the Council's website

SG
Clerk

iv. Precept for 2016 – 2017:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group then proposed that the precept for 2016 – 2017 be set at £14,800. He explained that although this represented an actual increase of £1,152 over the current year, the actual increase in the amount payable per dwelling would be minimal due to the additional houses that had been constructed in Ashton over the last 18 months and thus the increase in the number of dwellings paying council tax. If the portion of this council tax rightfully due to Ashton was not claimed by the Parish Council via the precept, then it would be retained by SNC. The Council resolved unanimously to set the precept at £14,800 for 2016 – 2017.

90. Highways issues

a) proposal for a 20mph speed limit and footway widening at 58/60 Stoke Road

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report regarding this application.

b) Stoke Road Green footway

The Clerk reported that K J Pickering have now completed the works.

c) Hartwell Road railway under bridge no 200

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

91. Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that SNC had now formally approved the application for Ashton parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area, enabling the process to be advance to the next stage. The initiative is now back with the Ashton Neighbourhood

Planning Group and Cllr Lemon undertook to liaise with the absent Cllr Roychoudhury in that respect.

SL
JR

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

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

iii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had provided a written report that was noted by the Council.

iv. Transfer of ownership of Stoke Road Green

The Clerk reported that the process to transfer ownership of Stoke Road Green to the Council was continuing; he had now made contact with GUHP's solicitor at Wright Hassall and a response from them was awaited.

v. Play equipment inspection

The Clerk will obtain the November / December inspection report from the absent Cllr Bullock. The weekly safety inspection rota was agreed as follows;

Cllr Johnson wks/c Monday 14, 21, 28 December, 04 and 11 January.

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.

Clerk
PB
CJ

vi. Dog fouling:

Cllr Lemon distributed a copy of a proposed strategy to deal with dog fouling. As three Cllrs were not present, it was agreed to defer a decision on whether to adopt the strategy to the January meeting and to use the intervening period to consult publically, via the AVN, village notice boards and e-mail.

SL

92. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

None

93. Items for next meeting, for report only:

None

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 13th January 2016