

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on Wednesday
13th January 2016 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

1 member of the public. NCC Cllr Walker and SNC Cllr Budden unable to attend.

Action

2016/

01.

Public session:

Members of the public raised the following issues;

- the extent and unacceptability of dog fouling. Cllr Lemon advised that this issue was on the Agenda for discussion later.

02.

Declarations of interest:

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

03.

Approval of apologies for absence:

The Council approved apologies from Cllrs Bullock (family illness).

04.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

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

05.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report had been circulated previously. The Clerk updated the Council regarding the website. Whilst it is available to view online, the extent of the hack means that we are unable to add to or edit the material displayed and the content cannot be relied upon. The advice we have received, including from our web hosting service is that even if repaired, the site will now always be vulnerable and prone to further hacking attacks. NCALC had advised that hugofox.com, a free community website provider would offer an easy to create and use option and the Council therefore resolved to explore this option, with Alan Beber on his return from holiday. The Clerk was asked to prepare an information note for the village e-mail network.

Clerk

06.

Planning:

i. New Applications.

None

ii. Update on existing Applications

The Appeal lodged against refusal of S/2014/2505/FUL has been allowed.

S/2015/2522/FUL, change of use, The Hay Barn, Roade Hill has been approved

iii. Other planning matters

S/2015/2430/FUL; an Appeal has been entered by the applicant against SNC's failure to determine the application within the statutory period.

07.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st December 2015 £ 7,181.51

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds £ 277.79

ii. residue of AVN funds £ 80.00

iii. residue of Guerrilla Gardeners grant £ 255.00

iv. residue of Transparency Fund grant £ 112.05

A refund of VAT for 2015 (£2,653) has been submitted to HMRC

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
22.12.15	Interpay (Canon)	MF printer, cash back	60.00

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
13.01.16	DD	1 & 1 Internet Ltd	Website hosting	71.86	
13.01.16	DD	Gerald Eve	Rec field lease	125.00	
13.01.16	757	NCALC	Training course fees	39.00	
13.01.16	758	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	45.00	
13.01.16	759	e-on	Electricity for s/lights	213.99	10.19
13.01.16	760	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	61.60	
13.01.16	761	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Dec	271.28	
13.01.16	762	Solutions4PG Ltd	Playground inspection	180.00	30.00

08. Highways issues**a) proposal for a 20mph speed limit and footway widening at 58/60 Stoke Road**

The Clerk advised that he had, today been advised by Helen Howard that speed monitoring would shortly be carried out within Ashton to inform the Speed Limit Panel when considering the application for the 20mph zone. Cllr Green considered that NCC Highway's rejection of the Council's proposal for footway widening at 58/60 Stoke Road should not be taken lying down. The Clerk was asked to recirculate to all Cllrs the rejection e-mail in order that a further response by the Council could be considered.

Clerk

b) Stoke Road Green footway

The Clerk asked whether the Council wished to consider celebrating the completion of this successful Council-led project footway with an official opening. The Council agreed to this suggestion and the Clerk was asked to progress the matter.

Clerk

c) Hartwell Road railway under bridge no 200

The Clerk reported that in the same conversation reported at a) above, Helen Howard had indicated that the road painting work might well be carried out at the end of this month, weather permitting.

09. Other issues:**i. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllrs Lemon and Roychoudhury reported that work on the collation of the responses to the questionnaire was progressing.

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

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

iii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had nothing new to report. The Clerk reported that NCC Rights of Way Officer Allan Rigby had now moved on to other work.

iv. Play equipment inspection

The Council had received the Annual Safety Inspection Report and resolved to take action as follows;

a) Playquest to visit and remedy the defects noted with their equipment during w/c Monday 18th January

b) the suggestion regarding pegging down of the football nets was noted and the *pros* and *cons* of doing so were discussed. The Council resolved to take no action at present but to monitor the situation.

Cllrs

The weekly safety inspection rota was agreed as follows;

Cllr Lemon, Jan - Feb; Cllr Roychoudhury, Feb - March;

Cllr McAllister, March - April; Cllr Johnson, April - May.

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.

v. Dog fouling:

Cllr Lemon distributed a copy of a proposed strategy to deal with dog fouling. After discussion, the Council resolved not to pursue the provision of dog waste bins but to take forward the suggestions regarding education and information, via the AVN, notice boards and personal approaches to offenders (where safe and appropriate) together with a strategy to highlight dog waste by spraying with fluorescent, bio-degradable paint. The Clerk was asked to obtain a supply of the latter.

Clerk

vi. Re-adoption of Policies and Procedures:

After some minor amendments to the Health and Safety Risk Assessment (relating to traffic as a hazard during litter-picking) and the Asset Register (relating to the location of the gang mower) the Council resolved to adopt these Policies together with the Financial and Management Risk Assessment and the amended Grants Policy both of which had been updated to reflect current practice. These documents will be displayed on the new website, once it is available.

Clerk

vii. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

a) The Clerk reported that the process to transfer **ownership of Stoke Road Green** to the Council was continuing; he had recently heard from GUHP's solicitor at Wright Hassall who were in the process of putting together a 'transfer pack'; this is awaited.

b) The Clerk further reported that a **draft lease for the Recreation field**, commencing 8th January 2018 had been received from Freeths, solicitors acting for Charles Wells (CW). The Clerk had sought clarification on some items, most of which had been resolved satisfactorily. However, the need for the Council to carry out and bear the legal costs associated with the registration of the lease with the Land Registry (LR) was ongoing. The Clerk had previously received an indication from Bev Avery at Gerald Eve (GE), surveyors to CW that all legal costs would be borne by them (CW) and then back-charged to the Council via the increased annual rent. Bev Avery has now moved on and her replacement at GE is looking into the matter. The Council, noting that registration of the lease with LR was an essential requirement of the process resolved to authorise the Clerk to complete the financial negotiations with Freeths and GE including acceptance, if necessary of the cost (approx. £250 ex VAT) of this work and notwithstanding that issue, the Council further resolved to accept the draft lease that will be signed by the Clerk, as Proper Officer on behalf of the Council.

Clerk

10. Items for next meeting, for report only:

Information leaflet regarding street light repairs.

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 10th February 2016