

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

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

Clerk : John Marshall

2 member of the public, PCSO Cooksammy and SNC Cllr Budden. NCC Cllr Walker unable to attend.

Action

2016/

31.

Public session:

Messrs Amies and Tanner introduced their proposals for the development of Old Farm Lane. Cllr Lemon explained that the proposal could not be discussed at this meeting as it was not on the Agenda. Plans were left with the Clerk and the matter will be placed on the May Agenda, thereby allowing members of the public to attend and comment.

Clerk

PCSO Cooksammy gave an update on crime statistics.

SNC Cllr Budden advised that SNC has set aside £100,000 as a fighting fund to oppose the proposed 'Rail Central' project adjacent to M1 Junction 15.

32.

Declarations of interest:

Cllr Day, Agenda item 37 iv. A) as a member of St Michael and All Angels PCC (non-pecuniary disclosable interest); Cllrs Lemon and Green, Hut Land (all non-statutory disclosable interests).

33.

Approval of apologies for absence:

The Council approved apologies from Cllrs McAllister (prior commitment) and Bullock (family illness).

34.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th March 2016.

35.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

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

36.

Planning:

i. New Applications.

S/2016/0682/FUL; Mallock Sports. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections' with no added comments.

S/2016/0694/FUL; 14 Stoke Road. The Council resolved its response to be 'no objections' with no added comments.

ii. Update on existing Applications

The Clerk apprised the Council of the grounds on which the Planning Inspector had refused the Appeal against refusal by SNC of S/2015/2430/FUL, new dwelling on land adjacent to Ridgeway Farm.

iii. Other planning matters

The Clerk advised that consultation on SNC's proposals for 'Local Plan Part 2A Options' is open until 10 June. The Chairman asked Cllrs to look at the information available at www.southnorthants.gov.uk/planningpolicy regarding this important consultation that will shape the development of the district over the next 15 years. Cllr Roychoudhury undertook to seek comments from the Neighbourhood Planning Group. The Clerk will produce a draft response for consideration at the May meeting.

37.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31 st March 2016	£ 12,429.57
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	£ 141.66
iv. residue of Transparency Fund grant	£ 112.05

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
			Nil

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
13.04.16	772	JAS Landscapes	Grass cutting, March	115.00	
13.04.16	773	David Farrand	AVN issue 151	80.00	
13.04.16	774	e-on	Street lighting	211.66	10.08
13.04.16	775	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	45.00	
13.04.16	776	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	61.60	
13.04.16	777	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, March	288.22	
13.04.16	778	Northants CALC	Member & audit fees	408.33	

iii. Approval of the Annual Return:

a) The Clerk addressed each of the questions in the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 set out in Part 1 of the Annual Return form; there were no questions. Councillors unanimously approved the Resolution 'that the Council acknowledge and confirm the Annual Governance Statement as required by the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016'. The approval was signed by the Clerk and Cllr Lemon as Chairman of the meeting.

b) The Clerk then took Cllrs through Part 2 'Accounting Statements 2015/16' of the Audit Annual Return form; there were no questions. Councillors unanimously approved the Resolution 'that the accounting statements that form part 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 be approved'. The Accounting Statements were certified by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer and the confirmation of approval by Cllr Lemon as Chairman of the meeting.

The Clerk advised that David Harries, the NCALC Internal Auditor was due to visit on 18 April to conduct the internal audit.

iv. Consideration of grant applications

a) St Michael & All Angels PCC; the application to cover the annual cost of floodlighting the church, considered to enhance the village and benefit the community was approved in the sum of £92 ie minus the VAT element.

b) Mens Own RFC; the application was declined on the grounds that it was essentially the same application that had been submitted and declined by the Council last year and the reasons for refusal last year still pertained this year. The Council did however consider that it was likely to support, in principle a bid for funds from the New Homes Bonus fund held by SNC and asked the Clerk to convey that information to MORFC.

Clerk

38.

Highways issues

a) Hartwell Road railway tunnel

Cllrs raised a defect in the line painting work at Hartwell Road tunnel; the paint on the north-west side has been applied to loose gravel and consequently is rapidly disappearing. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with Helen Howard, NCC Highways.

b) proposed footway widening at 58/60 Stoke Road

Cllr Lemon advised that she had yet to speak to the residents of 56, 58 and 60 Stoke Road to establish the level of commitment to the formal granting of a right of way without which, the project cannot proceed further. She undertook to do so.

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

Cllr Roychoudhury advised that a meeting of the NHP group was due to take place on 21st April.

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Cooksammy had reported during the public session.

iii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had advised the Clerk that there was nothing new to report.

iv. play equipment inspection

The reports for March (Cllr Roychoudhury) and April (Cllr McAllister) are outstanding. Cllrs are asked to bring the original reports to the May meeting

The weekly safety inspection rota was agreed as follows;

April – May, Cllr Johnson.

May – June, Cllr Lemon

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. Stoke Road Green ownership

The Clerk advised that Bucks Law Plus have commenced work..

vi. correspondence requiring a response or a decision

None

vii. arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting, 11th May

It was agreed that this would take place on 11th May, commencing at 7pm and would precede the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, commencing 7.15pm and the May monthly business meeting. It would follow the usual format ie the Chairman would prepare and deliver a review of the Council's activities and achievements for the year May 2015 – 16.

JR,
SMcA**40. Items for next meeting, for report only:**

Proposal for Old Farm Lane development

Response to SNC Local Plan Part 2A Options

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th May 2016