

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

2 members of the public; SNC Cllr Budden and NCC Cllr Walker unable to attend

Action

2016/

108.

Public session:

No issues were raised.

109.

Declarations of interest:

None.

110.

Approval of Apologies for absence:

None.

111.

Approval of the Minutes of previous Meeting:

The Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 12th October 2016.

112.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

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

113.

Planning:

i. New Applications.

The Council considered Planning Applications S/2016/2564/FUL for a vehicle cross-over and parking at 5 – 7 Hartwell Road and resolved its response to be to support the Application.

ii. Update on existing Applications

S/2016/2260/FUL for 4 single storey dwellings at Roade Hill has been refused

iii. Other planning matters

None

114.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st October 2016

£ 21,446.59

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds

£ 527.79

ii. residue of Transparency Fund grant

£ 352.35

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
15.09.16*	808	e-on	Street light electricity	267.41	12.73
22.09.16*	808	Retail Print Servs	Village sign	215.62	35.94
02.11.16*	810	Mike Jones B Serv	Bench install'n & rpr	490.00	
09.11.16	811	JAS Landscapes	Grass cut, Oct	115.00	
09.11.16	812	Post Office	HMRC / PAYE	66.60	
09.11.16	813	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Aug	297.65	

***retrospective approval**

Cllr Lemon as Chairman thanked Cllrs Roychoudhury, Day and Johnson who had been involved with the replacement and refurbishment of the village sign and proposed that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mike Jones for his work to repair and refurbish the WI bench in the Millennium Garden.

Clerk

iii. a) Draft Budget for 2017-2018:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group introduced the draft Budget and explained the proposed increase from £14,800 in the current year to £16,000 next year. The Council resolved unanimously to approve the draft budget of £16,000 for 2017 – 2018. 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

b). Precept for 2017 – 2018:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group then proposed that the precept for 2017 – 2018 be set at £15,000. He explained that the Finance Working Group were proposing that the actual increase in budget of £1,200 over the current year be offset by £1,000 to be derived from other sources ie grants, leaving a small increase of £200, the effect of which, per household, was minimal. The Council resolved unanimously to set the precept at £15,000 for 2017 – 2018.

115.

Highways issues:

- i. Cllrs Lemon and Johnson together with the Clerk will be meeting with Helen Howard and Rebecca Miller, Communications Manager for NCC Highways on 15 November to discuss issues arising from the recent 4 day closure of Hartwell Road and the impact on the community, particularly the suspension of the bus service.
- ii. Cllr Lemon reported on a meeting that morning with Helen Howard, NCC Highways attended by Cllr Johnson and herself together with the Clerk. The meeting was to consider the viability, from Highways' point of view of the Council's proposal to widen Stoke Road footway by obtaining a right of way across part of the front gardens of 56, 58 and 60 Stoke Road. Helen saw no immediate objection but raised the issue of underground services; she undertook to discuss this proposed project with colleagues. The Council agreed to request details of any underground services from the utilities providers.

Clerk

Cllr Lemon also raised the issue of access to the site on Stoke Road being promoted by Chartwell Industries as the possible location for development of a village hall or other community facility together with a commercial premises. Helen Howard suggested that the Council seek pre-app advice from SNC Planning Dept. The Council reasserted its decision to refer the matter, in the first instance to the NHP Steering Group to ascertain the community's views on this proposal.

NHP SG

116.

Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury reported on the meeting of Roade PC NHP Steering Group attended by himself and Cllrs Lemon and Johnson together with Mr Otto. He agreed to contact Jenni Johnson, our dedicated SNC Planning Officer for the draft NHP, regarding the site access issues referred to at minute 115 ii. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will take place on Wed 18 November at 7.15pm.

JR

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Johnson has circulated the most recent report; there were no questions.

iii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister drew attention to 2 instances of fly tipping in the village. The Bozenham Mill Lane fly-tip had been referred to SNC as it contained addressed material. Apart from that, there were no new issues or updates to report.

iv. Play equipment inspection

No safety issues; Cllr Lemon suggested that the notice board catches would benefit from lubrication.

v. Proactive bulk change of street lamps

Since the warranty on the street lamps expired in September, a total of 8 lamps had failed; 4 have been replaced. The Council discussed the *pros* and *cons* of changing all street lamps other than those 4 and resolved to arrange for replacement of the 4 that have currently failed and to monitor further failures until the year-end. The Clerk was asked to obtain a price from Aylesbury Mains for bulk change of the remaining 24 lamps and to prepare a note for the website, AVN and village e-mail explaining the policy being followed by the Council.

**Clerk
Clerk**

117. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision

The decision of BT to remove the Ashton payphone and kiosk had been previously drawn to Cllrs' attention in an e-mail from Cllr McAllister. An e-mail had been received from Kevin Lerner, SNC Community Infrastructure Officer, explaining that the annual volume of calls – 123 – meant that BT was entitled under the Ofcom Code of Practice to discontinue and remove the service unless the Council wished to object. After reviewing the grounds on which an objection could be entered, the Council concluded it was not possible to mount a realistic objection and resolved to reluctantly accept BT's decision. The Council further resolved that it did not wish to adopt the kiosk. The Clerk will notify SNC of these decisions.

Clerk

118. Items for next meeting, for report only:

None.

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.