

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

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

Action

2017/

11. Public session:

One member of the public responded to the consultation on the tender for renewal of the 33/33A bus service contract by expressing support for the service and current timetable and made special mention of the helpfulness of the regular drivers.

12. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Day, Agenda item 19 v, grass cutting.

13. Approval of Apologies for absence:

None.

14. Approval of the Minutes of previous Meeting:

The Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 11th January 2017.

15. Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report had been circulated previously. It was resolved to purchase 3 replacement notice boards; various options were considered and the Clerk was asked to purchase aluminium notice boards for an anticipated max cost of £1500. Before doing so, the Council considered it to be courteous and prudent to approach the Hartwell Road residents in Little Ashton, on whose building the notice board is currently mounted to confirm their agreement to the replacement board and to ask whether they have a colour preference (silver or green); Cllr McAllister agreed to make the approach.

Clerk

SMcA

16. Planning:

i. New Applications.

None

ii. Update on existing Applications

None

iii. Other planning matters

None

17. Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st January 2017

£ 19,427.99

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds

£ 527.79

ii. residue of Transparency Fund grant

£ 301.56

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
13.01.17	HMRC	VAT refund	484.28

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
19.01.17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	79.17	3.77
08.02.17	823	Bucks Law Plus	Legal services	2715.99	438.50
08.02.17	824	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	66.80	
08.02.17	825	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Dec	290.65	
08.02.17	826	S R Lemon	Guerilla Gardeners	144.90	

NB the amount drawn on cheque 825 is incorrect. The correct figure is £297.64 and the £6.99 underpayment will be added to the Clerk's March salary payment.

iii. Government requirements for pension provision and auto-enrolment:

The Clerk explained that recent changes in pensions law mean that the Council needs to enrol with a pension provider; this must be done by the Council's staging date of 01 May 2017. Whilst a pension is not payable to the current Clerk, the Council must be able to provide a pension to his successor, if eligible, whenever that may be. The Clerk had researched the market for suitable pensions that meet the government's legal and other criteria for workplace pensions and recommended that the Council register with NEST; the Council unanimously approved the recommendation; the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

Clerk

18. Highways issues:

Cllr Lemon advised that she has arranged a site meeting with Kevin Pickering later this week regarding the proposed widening of Stoke Road footway.

Cllr Lemon also reminded all present that a litter pick will take place next weekend.

Cllr Lemon had arranged for fly-tipped material in the lay-by adjacent to the Stoke Road cross roads to be removed.

SL
SL

19. Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury advised that the next meeting of the Steering Group has been arranged for 20 February when Michael Wellock, the retained consultant from Kirkwells will be in attendance.

ii. Neighbourhood Watch

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

iii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister advised that a previously reported broken stile on KA14 is in Roade parish.

iv. Play equipment inspection

The rota for weekly inspection of the play equipment was confirmed as follows;

Feb – March, Cllr Johnson

March – April, Cllr Lemon

April – May, Cllr McAllister

May – June, Cllr Roychoudhury

June – July, Cllr Bullock

repeating *ad infinitum*

The Clerk reported that Solutions4Playgrounds carried out the annual safety inspection on Friday 27 January. The Inspector reported on one bolt at the top of the slide that required tightening; Cllr Bullock will investigate and deal with this if possible. He also confirmed that the erosion of grass in the goal mouths, raised by a resident is not a safety issue. After discussion, the Council resolved to arrange for the areas to be repaired, by turfing or otherwise.

The issue of the auto-closing of the Rec pedestrian access gate and the need for a notice specifying owner/operatorship and post code details together with 'No dogs' were discussed; the Clerk will organise a sign and will discuss both the turfing repair

CJ
SL
SMcA
JR
PB

PB

Clerk

and the gate with Jason Smith .

v. Grass cutting; arrangements for the 2017-18 season

The Clerk advised that JAS Landscapes prices for the coming season would increase by £5 for each of the 2 areas cut making a total of £125 per cut; the Council resolved unanimously to accept the increase and re-appoint JAS Landscapes.

Bernard Day advised that his annual charge for cutting the Rec would remain the same as this year ie £400; the Council resolved unanimously to re-appoint Bernard Day.

vi. Guerilla Gardeners; purchase of plants

Approval for the prior purchase by Cllr Lemon of plants for the village gateways had been given previously; see Minute 17 ii. The Clerk advised that purchase of plants etc for this purpose next financial year was likely to qualify for a grant from the SNC New Homes Bonus Fund. Cllr Lemon advised that a sum of £500 max would be appropriate and the Clerk was asked to pursue this matter with Katie Arnold, SNC Grants Officer.

Clerk

vii. Review and re-adoption of Risk Assessment and Asset Register

The Clerk had reviewed the Council's Financial & Management Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Risk Assessment documentation (without change) and had updated the Asset Register. The Council resolved unanimously to adopt all 3 documents.

viii. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision

a. SNC Governance Review

The Council resolved to request SNC to consider 2 minor variations to the parish boundary; firstly, to incorporate the finger of land in Roade parish that projects south to Stoke Road and that lies between Roade Hill and the south-west corner of Roade Parish and secondly to incorporate the part of Stoke Bruerne parish that lies east of the A508 and is bounded by Stoke Road and the A508 north of the cross-roads.

Clerk

b. NCC consultation on the re-tendering of the 33/33A bus service

The Council endorsed the favourable comments received from the public regarding the frequency and quality of the service; the Clerk will respond accordingly.

Clerk

c. Annual bid for work to be carried out by the NCC Highways Community Enhancement gang

Cllr Johnson's proposed schedule of works was accepted and added to; the Clerk will make the bid

Clerk

20. Items for next meeting, for report only:

Fencing of the Recreation field

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 9.05 pm.