

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

**Clerk :** John Marshall

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

**Action**

2017/

21.

**Public session:**

One member of the public raised the issue of speeding within the village with particular reference to Stoke Road. The Chairman explained that the issue was recognised by the Council as a matter of concern to residents and she further explained the discussions with NCC Highways over a long period of time and concerted efforts of the Council with a view to achieving a 20 mph speed limit and / or other speed reduction measures, all of which have been unsuccessful. The Neighbourhood Plan, currently being drafted will further address the issue, which the Council re-affirmed remains a priority objective.

22.

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

23.

**Approval of Apologies for absence:**

Cllrs Bullock (prior engagement, school governors) and Johnson (holiday).

24.

**Approval of the Minutes of previous Meeting:**

The Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

25.

**Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk's Report had been circulated previously. The agreement of the Hartwell Road resident for a replacement notice board on his property has now been obtained so the Clerk will proceed to purchase 3 replacement notice boards; paving slabs will be laid in front of the Old Crown notice board. A request has been made via the village e-mail for anyone willing and able to provide 'handy-man' services. Cllr Lemon has met with Kevin Pickering to discuss the Stoke Road footway widening project; he will now work up an outline project proposal. The Clerk reported that SNC Cllr John Budden, with SNC Officers was progressing the concerns expressed by residents as a result of the regular burning of materials in a field on the north side of Hartwell Road. Anecdotal evidence of developments was provided by Cllrs and it was resolved to ask Cllr Budden to continue to attempt to resolve the matter.

**Clerk**

**SMcA**

26.

**Planning:**

**i. New Applications.**

None

**ii. Update on existing Applications**

S/2016/3190/FUL, 65 Stoke Road; 2 storey side extension has been approved

**iii. Other planning matters**

None

27.

**Finance:**

**i. Financial Report:**

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

£ 17,167.93

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
17.02.17	Groundwork UK	NHP grant	1250.00

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
13.02.17	827	Solutions4Play Ltd	Safety inspection	210.00	3500
19.02.17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	81.72	3.90
08.03.17	828	S R Lemon	Guerilla Gardeners	23.60	
08.03.17	829	Aylesbury Mains	Replace street lamp	494.52	82.42
08.03.17	830	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	66.80	
08.03.17	831	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Feb	297.64	
08.03.17	832	Kirkwells Ltd	NHP consultancy	1500.00	250.00
08.03.17	833	Sign Logic Ltd	Rec sign	33.60	5.60

**28. Highways issues:**

Cllr Lemon will arrange a litter pick for later in the month.

Cllr Lemon will also approach the owner of a vehicle being parked on Hartwell Road in such a way as to cause obstruction to traffic, especially the bus.

SL  
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**29. Other issues:****i. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Roychoudhury reported on a meeting of the Steering Group held on 20 February and attended by Michael Wellock, the retained consultant from Kirkwells. A draft Planning Policy Assessment has been prepared and a first draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan will now start to be drawn up.

**ii. Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Johnson had circulated a written report; there were no questions.

**iii. Footpaths**

Cllr McAllister gave a verbal report. Cllrs discussed the difficulties, both for the public and Cllrs in identifying path numbers and asked Cllr McAllister to look into path marking, using the disc markers provided by NCC Rights of Way, perhaps using the services of a 'handy-man' should anyone come forward (see Minute 25 above).

**iv. Play equipment inspection**

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

March – April, Cllr Lemon

April – May, Cllr McAllister

May – June, Cllr Roychoudhury

June – July, Cllr Bullock

July – August, Cllr Johnson

repeating *ad infinitum*

**v. Fencing of the Recreation Field**

Cllr Lemon drew attention to dogs that occasionally enter the Rec. Fencing the incomplete fence on the western boundary, the possible access point would be a solution but Cllrs decided not to take that option at this time but to keep the matter under review. The Clerk reported that the sign for the Rec has been manufactured but he apologised that he had not yet discussed with JAS Landscapes the issues of the auto-closing of the Rec pedestrian access gate and the repair of the eroded grass in the goal mouths.

Clerk

**vi. Proposal to amend JAS Landscapes' schedule for Stoke Road Green to include hedge trimming and treework as necessary**

The Clerk advised that having spoken to Jason Smith of JAS Landscapes, he

anticipated that the hedge on the eastern boundary adjacent to the footpath would require trimming between once and three times per year at a cost of £50 per cut, the timing of which will be at his discretion. He is also able to carry out *ad hoc* tree work, as necessary, including the annual tree inspection report that he suggests should be carried out at the end of autumn and before the onset of winter; the cost of these services will be agreed as they arise. The Council resolved to accept these proposals. Cllr Day drew attention to an ash tree adjacent to the footpath that requires attention; the Clerk will confirm all the arrangements with Jason Smith.

Clerk

**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.

**vii. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision; request for an additional street lamp in Cook's Close to Hartwell Road jitty**

The Council discussed the request from a resident for an additional street light. The Council resolved to firstly identify the location – Cllr Lemon will speak to the resident who made the request – and then to consult with other residents in the vicinity seeking their opinion on the proposal.

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**Items for next meeting (12<sup>th</sup> April) for report only:**

None

Cllr Lemon closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.