

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting and monthly Business meeting of Ashton Parish Council
held on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

3 member of the public; SNC Cllr Budden and NCC Cllr Walker unable to attend

Action

2017/

86.

Public session:

A resident raised the issue of speeding within the village. The Council is well aware of the issue and concerns expressed by residents (see Minute 21 of the meeting of 8th March 2017) and has applied unsuccessfully for a 20mph limit but it was agreed that the data and application (if a copy is still available) would be provided by Cllr Bullock, who will liaise with the resident.

A resident raised concerns about the possible road closure in the event that the Council decided to proceed with the proposal to install a water supply to the Hut Land. The resident also spoke in favour of the proposed footway widening at Stoke Road. Both items were on the Agenda for consideration, see Minutes 94 v b and 95 below

87.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence:

Cllr Roychoudhury (work commitment)

88.

To consider and if appropriate co-opt a member to fill the vacancy on the Council:

The Clerk advised there had been one application, from Mr Glenn Otto who being duly qualified, was elected by unanimous vote. Mr Otto signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman welcomed Cllr Otto to the Council.

89.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Green, item 94 v. b) as Trustee of the Hut Land

90.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th August 2017.

91.

Matters arising from the Minutes and Clerk's Report:

The Clerk's Report, including actions taken on matters from the previous meeting had been circulated previously; there were no questions.

Cllr Green reported that Ms Gemma Martin had agreed to be appointed to the vacant position as a Trustee of the Hut Land; the Clerk will write to her to confirm the details of the appointment

Clerk

92.

Planning:

i. New Applications

None

ii. Update on existing Applications

The Clerk reported that the Appeal by Chartwell Industries in respect of refusal by SNC to grant planning permission for 4 bungalows at Roade Hill has been refused.

iii. Other planning matters

None.

NHPSG

93.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st August 2017

£20,184.06

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds	£ 777.79
ii. AVN funds	£ 320.00
iii. NHP Fund grant	£ 250.94

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
22.08.17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	56.05	2.68
23.08.17	DD	1 & 1 Internet	ISP	91.10	15.18
13.09.17	866	Aylesbury Mains	Street light	2564.33	427.39
13.09.17	867	Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium	471.21	
13.09.17	868	Fastsigns	Sign for NH Plan	132.36	22.06
13.09.17	869	A Johnson	Notice board install'n	176.25	
13.09.17	870	BDO LLP	Audit fee	120.00	20.00
13.09.17	871	JAS Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting, August	485.00	
13.09.17	872	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	69.60	
13.09.17	873	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, August	337.06	1.59
20.09.17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	56.45	2.70

The Council resolved to amend the bank mandate following the resignation of Cllr Lemon; Cllr Bullock was appointed as a signatory. Cllr Bullock will take the mandate change form, signed by the Chairman and Clerk to the bank with his ID.

PB

iii. Renewal of insurance cover:

The Clerk reported that the renewal premium (£471.21) from Zurich Municipal was competitive; the Council resolved to renew the current insurance.

iv. Annual Return 2016 – 17:

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been received from BDO LLP, the External Auditor. BDO LLP raised no audit issues and the Clerk has arranged for the necessary audit information to be displayed on the website.

v. Grants, income and applications:

The Clerk reported that the application has been submitted to SNC for payment of the NHB grant for the new street light. The Clerk further reported that;

a) confirmation had been received from the Guerilla Gardeners (the Mrs Lemon and Willetts) that they would continue to maintain the planters on Stoke Road but not on Hartwell Road, due to safety concerns; they further suggested that the damaged planter be removed and not replaced. The SNC Grants Officer has confirmed that sufficient funds remain in the approved NHB grant for both a planter and plants and after discussion, the Council resolved not to pursue the unidentified driver for the costs of the planter and contents but to replace the planter, which will then be planted up and maintained by Cllrs McAllister and Otto.

b) the quote received from Anglian Water to lay on a water supply to the Hut Land was £2947, the bulk of which (£1750) was for a mandatory closure of Hartwell Road during the works. After considerable discussion, including consideration of the cost / benefit of the proposal the Council resolved not to go ahead with this project. The Clerk was asked to prepare an explanatory note for the website with a copy to Cllr Green for allotment holders.

**Clerk
SM/GO**

Clerk

95. Highways issues:

Cllr Green asked for an update on the current status of the proposed project to widen the Stoke Road footway by acquiring a right of way across the front gardens of 3

adjacent properties. The Council renewed its commitment to the project in principle, whilst noting the legal and technical difficulties of delivering the uncosted project. Cllr Green was asked and agreed to ascertain from Mrs Lemon, who had previously led for the Council on the project the progress made to date and the current position.

SG

96. Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury was not present but had provided Cllr Day with an update report, to which Cllr Otto contributed during the discussion. Mrs Lemon had forwarded to the NHP Steering Group members (copied to the Clerk) an e-mail received by her from Groundwork UK Community Rights Programme Team, the grant funding body for the NHP requesting submission of the End of Grant Report and asking that the SG arrange to have her name removed from the circulation list. The Clerk emphasised the importance of complying with Groundwork's request and Cllr Otto agreed to convey this message to Cllr Roychoudhury, the SG Chairman. It was confirmed that the NHPSG will secure protection for Stoke Road Green through incorporation in the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan.

GO
NHPSG

NHPSG

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had submitted a written report; there were no questions.

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

The Clerk received the June/July and August /September reports. The rota, going forward is

September – October, Cllr Roychoudhury

October – November, Cllr Bullock

November – December, Cllr Johnson

December – January, Cllr Otto

January- February, Cllr McAllister

repeating *ad infinitum*

iv. Pathfinder II project

Cllr Green provided an update on this project, including his meeting with Nancy Baines, NCC Resilience Project Officer.

96. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision

i. The Council appointed Cllrs McAllister and Otto as delegates to the NCALC AGM at Moulton Community Centre on Saturday 7th October, with Cllr Otto being the voting delegate. The Clerk will confirm the attendees and details to NCALC.

Clerk

ii. A letter of appreciation and thanks had been received from two residents regarding the provision of the new street light. The Clerk had already responded verbally.

iii. e-mails from a resident asking the Council to consider;

a) the provision of football goals / posts on Stoke Road Green. The Council considered the provision of permanent goals at the Recreation field together with the current arrangements using cones was adequate for the occasional games that took place on the Green.

b) instituting legal proceedings to recover the costs of the Hartwell Road planter and plants (approx. £75) destroyed by an unknown driver in an accident on 26 July. The Council resolved not to pursue such action due to it being not cost beneficial and to renew the planter using part of the remaining SNC NHB grant provided for this purpose..

The Clerk will respond to the resident accordingly.

Clerk

98. Items for next meeting, for report only:

None.

Cllr McAllister closed the meeting at 9pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th October 2017. NB one week later than usual