

**Minutes of the meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th October 2017
at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

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

Action

2017/

97.

Public session:

A resident raised the issue of funding for the Guerilla Gardeners. It was confirmed that the residue of the grant funding obtained from SNC via the New Homes Bonus for the activities of the Guerilla Gardeners for the purchase of plants, compost etc remained available.

A number of residents raised concerns about a planning application S/2017/2333/FUL for 4 houses at the Old Farm Lane development.

A resident spoke about a proposed online village forum. The Council confirmed that it will continue to operate its own website (which is a statutory requirement) but suggested that discussions take place with the AVN editorial team.

98.

Declarations of Interest:

None

99.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence:

None

100.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 13th September 2017.

101.

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. It had been reported that another of the planters, at the Stoke Road gateway had been damaged. Cllr Johnson agreed to inspect the damage and based on his report, the Clerk will purchase either 1 or 2 replacement planters.

**CJ
Clerk**

102.

Planning:

i. New Applications

S/2017/2333/FUL, 4 houses at Old Farm Lane. The Council considered the comments made by the public and also the recent decision by the Planning Inspector to dismiss the appeal against refusal of planning permission in respect of S/2016/2260/FUL, 4 bungalows on Roade Hill due to the application site being outside the village confines line resolved to object to the application.

Clerk

ii. Update on existing Applications

None

iii. Other planning matters

The Council considered the consultation on the SNC Local Plan Part 2A.

Preparation of the draft response had previously been devolved by the Council to the NHP Steering Group whose next meeting is not until Monday 23rd October. As the closing date for comments is before the next scheduled meeting of the Council, it was resolved to hold an extra-ordinary meeting on Wed 1st November; the Clerk will check availability of the school for the meeting.

NHPSG

Clerk

103.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 30th September 2017

£22,634.82

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
21.09.17	SNC	2 nd ½ precept + NHB grant	9771.97

Payments

The Council resolved to approve the following payments;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
26.09.17	DD	PWLB	Loan repayment	1693.59	
18.10.17	874	JAS Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting, Sept	270.00	
18.10.17	875	Barbara Osborne	1/4ly payroll services	60.00	
18.10.17	876	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	69.80	
18.10.17	877	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Sept	395.93	
18.10.17	878	David Farrand	AVN production	67.00	
21.10.17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	59.30	2.81

iii. Internal Controls; Q2 Report

Cllr Johnson reported that he had carried out the Q2 checks on 16 October and found all to be in order

104. Highways issues:

- i. Cllr Green provided an update on the current status of the proposed project to widen the Stoke Road footway by acquiring a right of way across land comprising part of the front gardens of 3 adjacent properties. After careful consideration, the Council resolved unanimously not to pursue the matter, primarily because there remained a lack of confirmed certainty over the commitment of the parties and also because it was impossible to provide a cost estimate for the project. The Council determined that taken together, these two factors meant it was imprudent to embark on an uncosted project with no guarantee of delivery.
- ii. It was noted that the road painting on Roade Hill, outside the primary school had been completed by NCC.
- iii. In the light of the recent demolition by a vehicle of the planter located at the Hartwell Road village location, the Council discussed a proposal to extend the start of the 30mph limit on Stoke Road further out of the village, to the location of the double bend sign. The Clerk will investigate with Helen Howard whether and how this might be achieved.

Clerk

105. Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury reported that the next meeting of the Steering Group will be held on Monday 23 October. The SG will consider and compile a draft response to the SNC local Plan Part 2A but as the PC does not meet again until after the closing date for responses to SNC, an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council will be required on Wed 1st November. The Clerk will check availability of the school.

Clerk

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had nothing to report.

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

Cllr Roychoudhury had been away for part of the previous month; he will complete a

report for weeks when inspections were made and pass it to the Clerk. The rota, going forward is;

JR

October – November, Cllr Bullock
 November – December, Cllr Johnson
 December – January, Cllr Otto
 January- February, Cllr McAllister
 February – March, Cllr Roychoudhury
 repeating *ad infinitum*

106. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision

- i. SNC ‘Good Neighbour’ scheme; the Council resolved not to offer itself as one of the two pilot villages
- ii. Mens Own RFC has requested a contribution from the Council towards the funding of a defibrillator, to be located at MORFC but available to the Ashton community as well as users of MORFC. In discussion, the Council recognised that there were two issues involved here, one relating to cost benefit to the community and the other to funding. In discussion, the Council noted that the grant application was not in the format set out in the Grants Policy and Procedure and concluded that because of the absence of some information required from applicants by the procedure it was improper to consider the grant application in that form; the Clerk was asked to write to MORFC asking for the application to be resubmitted. Prior to receipt of the MORFC correspondence Cllr McAllister had requested that the Council consider the provision of an AED (defibrillator). The Council recalled its previous discussion last year when it had concluded that a case for the provision of a defibrillator in Ashton had not been made and resolved to defer a decision on that until the resubmitted grant application was received.
- iii. The Clerk had already responded by e-mail to the e-mail from a resident, not of Ashton parish regarding the proposed SRFI development at M1 junction 15. The Council resolved that no further action was necessary.
- iv. The Council was supportive of the initiative taken by a resident to create an Ashton online forum but advised that its own website, which is a statutory requirement will continue. The Council also encouraged the resident to liaise with the AVN editorial team to ensure lines of communication were clear.

Clerk

107. Items for next meeting, for report only:

None.

Cllr McAllister closed the meeting at 9pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 1st November (response to SNC Local Plan) and 15th November 2017.
 NB one week later than usual