

**Minutes of the meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

No members of the public, NCC Cllr Walker; SNC Cllr Budden unable to attend

Action

2017/

114.

Public session:

NCC Cllr Walker spoke about the parlous state of NCC's finances and the measures proposed in the NCC budget for the coming year to deal with the financial shortfall. Issues that will directly affect Ashton residents are the potential closure of Roade Library and the termination of rural bus services (other than the cross county 'X' routes) including the 33/33A, once the current contract comes to an end. Cllr Walker urged the Council and residents to respond to NCC's consultation and to support his campaign for any cuts to rural buses to be decided on a case by case basis rather than a county wide blanket cut of all buses.

115.

Declarations of Interest:

None

116.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence:

None

117.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meetings:

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

118.

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.

119.

Planning:

i. New Applications

None.

ii. Update on existing Applications

S/2017/2333/FUL, 4 houses at Old Farm Lane has been refused.

iii. Other planning matters

None.

120.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 31st October 2017

£21,712.79

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds

£ 777.79

ii. AVN funds

£ 253.00

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
01/11/17	879	SR Lemon	Guerilla Gardeners	110.95	
01/11/17	880	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	69.60	
01/11/17	881	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Oct	395.31	
02/11/17	882	Kirkwells Ltd	NHP consultancy	2100.00	
15/11/17	883	JAS Landscapes	Grass cutting, Oct	270.00	

iii. Appointment of 2 Cllrs to an *ad hoc* Budget and Precept Working Group:

The Council resolved to appoint Cllrs Green and Bullock who, with the Clerk / RFO will form the Working Group (WG). The WG will meet on 29th November to prepare a draft Budget and precept recommendation for consideration by the Council at its December meeting.

121. Highways issues:

i. Cllr Day reported, for information only that the grass, mainly verges within the village maintained by NCC was cut on 5 occasions during the course of the year. He also conveyed his thanks to Cllrs Otto and McAllister, echoed by the Council for their efforts to reinstate and replant the Hartwell Road planter.

ii. The Clerk reported on his discussion with Helen Howard of NCC Highways regarding the 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 absence of dwellings and street lights in this area mean that such an application would be unlikely to succeed and the possibility of obtaining a moveable Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) device was discussed. The Clerk will research the provision of this equipment that would likely require NCC Highways approval and obtain costings to enable this to be included in next year's budget, if appropriate.

Clerk

122. Other issues:

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury reported that the Plan continues to evolve; a further round of consultation will take place at the upcoming 'drop-in' church coffee morning.

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had nothing to report.

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

The Clerk reminded Cllr Roychoudhury that a report for the September – October weeks when inspections were made by him was still outstanding. Cllr Bullock submitted his completed report for October – November. The rota, going forward is;

November – December, Cllr Johnson

December – January, Cllr Otto

January - February, Cllr McAllister

February – March, Cllr Roychoudhury

March – April, Cllr Bullock

repeating *ad infinitum*

iv. Purchase of an Ashton Parish Council banner for use by the NHP Steering Group:

Cllr Roychoudhury requested and the Council agreed to use some of the NHP funds to purchase a pull-up Ashton Parish Council banner, to be used by the Steering Group at events.

JR

JR

123. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision

It was resolved to respond to the NCC consultation on the proposed budget, specifically to oppose the cuts to rural bus services and also to write to SNC Cllr John Budden urging SNC to become actively involved in the debate, including consideration of assistance to maintain the service.

Clerk

124. Items for next meeting, for report only:
Speeding in Ashton.

Cllr McAllister closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting:
Wednesday 13th December 2017.