

**Minutes of the meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

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

Cllr Johnson, Vice Chairman took the chair in the absence of Cllr McAllister

Action

2017/

125.

Public session:

SNC Cllr Budden spoke about NCC's proposed withdrawal of funding subsidies that will almost certainly lead to 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. Various alternative funding proposals are being considered but SNC considers it cannot step in to plug the funding gap. Representations opposing the proposal continue to be made but NCC appears to be adamant to pursue this course of action.

126.

Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Day; item 131 ii, payments

127.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence:

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs McAllister (work) and Roychoudhury (prior engagement)

128.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 15th November 2017.

129.

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.

130.

Planning:

i. New Applications

None.

ii. Update on existing Applications

None..

iii. Other planning matters

None.

131.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 30th November 2017

£18,766.93

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds

£ 777.79

ii. AVN funds

£ 186.00

iii. Transparency Fund grant

£ 250.94

iv. NHP grant funds

£ 267.64

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
06/12/17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	78.00	3.72
11/12/17	884	BR Day	Rec maintenance	400.00	
11/12/17	885	ABCS	IT maintenance	30.00	
11/12/17	886	David Farrand	AVN production	67.00	
11/12/17	887	JAS Landscapes	Grass Nov + M Gdn	635.00	
11/12/17	888	Post Office Ltd	HMRC payment	69.80	
11/12/17	889	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Oct	327.73	
21/12/17	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	86.83	4.14

iii a) Draft Budget for 2018 -2019:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group introduced the draft Budget and explained the proposed increase from £16,000 in the current year to £16,353 next year. In discussion, the 'grounds' budget heading was increased by £150 to take account of the increase in recently notified contractor charges due to additional activities in the coming year, the Council resolved unanimously to approve the amended draft budget of £16,503 for 2018 – 2019. Cllr Green undertook to amend the master copy of the draft budget document and forward it to the Clerk who will arrange for it to be displayed on the website.

**SG
Clerk**

b) Precept for 2018 – 2019:

Cllr Green, on behalf of the Finance Working Group then proposed that the precept for 2018 – 2019 be set at £16,500. He explained that the actual increase in budget of £500 over the current year would be covered by an increase in the amount of council tax collected and thus the effect, if any per household of the £500 increase was minimal. The Council resolved unanimously to set the precept at £16,500 for 2018 – 2019.

132. Highways issues:

- i. Speeding. There was considerable discussion on how best to approach the management of speeding within the village. At the previous meeting the Clerk had been asked to obtain details of vehicle activated speed (VAS) devices. Based on the information derived by the Clerk and contained in his report, the Council discussed the *pros* and *cons* of providing such a device, but reached no conclusion. The Clerk was asked to obtain further information from NCC Highways on options - a fixed VAS or one capable of being moved to different sites - the timescale and costs for licensing and infrastructure works by NCC and also, in the event the Council opted to obtain a mobile VAS, whether the Road Village Technician would be able and willing to take on responsibility for the necessary weekly mounting, demounting and charging duties. The Clerk was also asked to explore with Helen Howard of NCC Highways the provision of road painted '30' markings at the 3 main entry points.
- ii. Cllr McAllister had provided a written report drawing attention to regular speeding on Hartwell Road, inbound including through the railway tunnel by the same 2 or 3 cars. In the absence of any identification other than makes of vehicle, the Council was not able to report the matter to police, but an e-mail requesting any information from residents will be circulated via the village e-mail network. She further suggested the provision of additional street lighting on Hartwell Road, outbound and participation in the Community Speed-watch programme, but neither proposal was supported by the Council.
- iii. Cllr Day reported water lying in the dip on Roade Road between Ashton Lodge and the Hartwell Road junction, Hartwell (part of Ashton parish); the grips appear to be silted up. He also reiterated the need for the salt bins to be topped up. The Clerk will report both to Street Doctor.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

133. Other issues:**i. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Otto, in the absence of Cllr Roychoudhury provided a progress report on the development of the Plan. In response to a question regarding whether and when the Council would be able to see a copy of the draft Plan, Cllr Otto confirmed that a copy, initially of a summary document followed by the full Informal Consultation Draft of the Plan would be made available to the Council, once it had been finalised.

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had indicated that there was nothing to report.

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

The September - October report remains outstanding; the Clerk will remind Cllr Roychoudhury. Cllr Johnson submitted his completed report for

November - December. The rota, going forward is;

December – January, Cllr Otto

January - February, Cllr McAllister

February – March, Cllr Roychoudhury

March – April, Cllr Bullock

April – May, Cllr Johnson

repeating *ad infinitum*

iv. Update on issues arising from NCC budget proposals 2018/19

The bus issue was covered in discussion with SNC Cllr Budden (see Minute 125).

The Clerk reported that Roade Parish Council Clerk had written to Stoke Bruerne, Hartwell and Ashton PCs as well as Courteenhall Parish Meeting requesting support for the Friends of Roade Library (FoRL) initiative, being backed by Roade PC to take over the library in Roade as a community-managed library in Roade. The Council noted that its support had already been confirmed.

134. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

None.

135. Items for next meeting, for report only:

Speeding in Ashton.

The Vice Chairman reported that the Clerk had advised the Chairman and himself of his intention to retire on 31st March, the end of the Council's financial year. The Council agreed to commence the process to identify and recruit a suitable replacement and the Clerk was asked to put that in hand and report back on progress at the January meeting.

Clerk

Cllr Johnson closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 10th January 2018.