

**Minutes of the meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

One member of the public, SNC Cllr Budden.

Action

2018/

- 01. Public session:**
SNC Cllr Budden spoke about recent developments relating to governance and finance at NCC and the possible impact on the 2018/19 budget proposals insofar as they might affect the proposed withdrawal of funding subsidies for rural bus services and closure of libraries
- 02. Declarations of Interest:**
None
- 03. Acceptance of Apologies for absence:**
None (Cllr Bullock joined the meeting at 7.25pm)
- 04. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting:**
The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 13th December 2017.
- 05. Matters arising from the Minutes, not on the Agenda 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.
- 06. Planning:**
- i. New Applications**
None.
 - ii. Update on existing Applications**
None..
 - iii. Other planning matters**
None.
- 07. Finance:**
- i. Financial Report:**
The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;
Cash at bank at 31st December 2017 £17,072. 57
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
	890	CANCELLED			
10/01/18	891	Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	60.00	
10/01/18	892	HMRC	PAYE payment	69.60	
10/01/18	893	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Dec	300.73	
10/01/18	894	Aylesbury Mains	Street light repair	155.93	25.99

iii Internal Controls, to receive the Q3 report:

Cllr Johnson, as Internal Controls Cllr reported that he had carried out the Q3 checks with the Clerk on 4th January and found all to be in order.

08.

Highways issues:

i. Speeding. The Clerk had referred in his report to correspondence with Steve Barber, NCC's VAS Schemes Co-ordinator and the information received from him (previously circulated). After considerable discussion on the options available, the Council resolved to take up Steve Barber's offer to attend a Council meeting; the Clerk will contact him to offer either the February or March meeting.. The Council further resolved to widely publicise the meeting, once arranged in the hope that residents would attend, both to hear and contribute to the debate.

Clerk

The Clerk also confirmed that Helen Howard of NCC Highways had agreed to the provision of road painted '30' markings at the 3 main entry points as part of the 2018/19 'Small Works' programme.

ii. Cllr Day reported a recent localised flooding outside 32 Stoke Road; the gully pot that was missed by the gully cleaning team (and reported to Street Doctor at the time) at the previous visit was believed to be the culprit. The Clerk will report the matter again.

Clerk

Other issues:

09.

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury provided a progress report on the development of the Plan. A leaflet drop to all properties in the village will soon be completed and the Informal Consultation Draft is expected from Kirkwells imminently.

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister reported that whilst recent works by Network Rail adjacent to path KA8 had improved access to the path, gates at either end had yet to be fully and properly restored. It is possible that NR will return to complete the job but the Clerk will follow up with NR.

Clerk

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

Cllr Otto submitted his completed report for December – January. The rota, going forward is;
 January - February, Cllr McAllister
 February – March, Cllr Roychoudhury
 March – April, Cllr Bullock
 April – May, Cllr Johnson
 May – June, Cllr Otto
 repeating *ad infinitum*

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

The library and bus issue was covered in discussion with SNC Cllr Budden (see Minute 01).

10.

Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

The Council noted receipt of the Clerk's formal notice of his retirement on 31st March 2018. Cllr McAllister advised the Council that following the informal meeting on 2nd January between Cllr Johnson, the Clerk, Ms Lynn Lavender and herself,

the recommendation to the Council was that Ms Lavender should be offered the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st April 2018, on the same terms and conditions as the current Clerk, subject to satisfactory references being received. Ms Lavender was present at the meeting and confirmed she would wish to accept the appointment; the Clerk will now draw up the contract and offer letter. The Council also resolved to accede to the Clerk's request to purchase the existing laptop pc and printer on retirement, at the values advised by Alan Beber as the Council's IT consultant ie £250 and £120 respectively, a total of £370 to be funded through a combination of £250 cash and an estimated 15 unpaid hours during April when the Clerk will be handing over to the new Clerk, compiling the statutory year-end Annual Return and participating in the Internal Audit.

Clerk

Items for next meeting, for report only:

Pathfinder II flood prevention project; update.

11.

Cllr McAllister closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 14th February 2018.