

**Minutes of the meeting of Ashton Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14th March 2018 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

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

Clerk : John Marshall

Two members of the public; SNC Cllr Budden, NCC Cllr Walker and Steve Barber, NCC.

Action

2018/

23.

Public session:

Steve Barber, NCC Casualty Reduction and VAS Schemes Co-ordinator addressed the meeting on the options to manage and control speeding in Ashton. Cllr Walker spoke about the issues and difficulties confronting NCC and the emerging findings of the investigation being carried out by the Inspector who had been appointed by DCLG to enquire into the Council's financial management. He advised that the rural bus subsidies are likely to be withdrawn in July, leaving the future of the 33 route uncertain although he and his colleague NCC Cllr Michael Clarke who represents Hartwell are investigating alternative ways of maintaining a bus service.

24.

Declarations of Interest:

None

25.

Acceptance of Apologies for absence:

Cllr Bullock (parents evening); Cllr Bullock joined the meeting at 8pm.

26.

Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting:

The Council resolved to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 14th February 2018.

27.

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.

28.

Planning:

i. New Applications

S/2018/0483/FUL; 55 Hartwell Road, new access driveway and parking, dropped kerb. The Council resolved to support the Application.

ii. Update on existing Applications

None..

iii. Other planning matters

None.

29.

Finance:

i. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported the financial situation as follows;

Cash at bank at 28th February 2018 £18,128. 16

this sum includes 'ring fenced' funds as follows;

i. election contingency funds	£ 777.79
ii. AVN funds	£ 186.00
iii. NHP grant funds	£ 267.64

ii. Receipts and Bills for Payment:

Receipts

Date	Payee	For	Amount
			Nil

Payments

The Council resolved to retrospectively approve payments 901 – 904 inclusive, approve payments 905 – 906 and in view of the impending year-end, noted the payments due to be made by direct debit on 23rd and 27th March;

Date	Cheque	Payee	For	Amount	VAT
07/03/18	901	Aylesbury Mains	Street light repair	111.12	18.52
07/03/18	902	NCALC	Training fee	42.00	
07/03/18	903	HMRC	PAYE payment	69.60	
07/03/18	904	WJM Marshall	Salary + exes, Jan	309.94	
	897	CANCELLED	Cheque lost		
14/03/18	905	ABCS	Reissued cheque 897	120.00	
14/03/18	906	David Farrand	AVN production	45.00	
23/03/18	DD	Total Gas & Power	Street light electricity	84.32	4.02
27/03/18	DD	PWLB	Loan repayment	1693.59	

30. **Highways issues:**

i. Speeding. After discussion of the options presented by Steve Barber, the Council resolved to proceed with the provision of at least one VAS device in Ashton. The next step is for Steve to visit Ashton by appointment and tour the village to identify suitable locations; Cllrs McAllister, Otto, Green and Johnson expressed an interest in attending. To that end, the Clerk was asked to make the invitation

ii. Litter pick. Cllr Otto reported that this event was poorly attended, possibly due to it being Mothering Sunday. The Council thanked him and the other volunteers who attended for their efforts.

Clerk

31. **Other issues:**

i. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Roychoudhury provided a progress report on the development of the Plan. The Steering Group is continuing to work on the Informal Consultation draft of the Plan and hopes to soon be able to set the dates for the consultation with residents and other consultees, including SNC. The Council noted the position and agreed to the Steering Group's proposal.

ii. Footpaths

Cllr McAllister had nothing to report.

iii. Play equipment inspection rota

Cllr Roychoudhury reported verbally on a minor defect on the multi-play equipment. The Council concluded that as this defect had been present for a while but had not been mentioned when all the play equipment received its annual inspection the previous month, no action was necessary. Cllr Roychoudhury will forward the completed monthly inspection sheet to the Clerk.

JR

The rota, going forward is;

March – April, Cllr Bullock

April – May, Cllr Johnson

May – June, Cllr Otto

June – July, Cllr McAllister

July – August, , Cllr Roychoudhury

repeating *ad infinitum*

The Clerk reported that Jason Smith of JAS Landscapes had attended to the defective closure spring on the personnel gate, the only issue raised in the annual inspection report. However, a problem exists relating to a gate screw and Cllr Day had spoken with Jason Smith about further work. The Clerk further advised that the arboricultural inspection of the 2 trees on Stoke Road Green has apparently been done but that a report by way of invoice had not yet been received.

iv. Update on transition arrangements for the incoming Clerk

Transition arrangements are well in hand; the Clerk will be inducting Lynn Lavender and introducing her to Ashton on 28th March. The Council resolved to set a budget of £500 for the purchase of IT equipment (laptop pc memory and printer plus software and peripherals including a memory stick). The Council also resolved to add Lynn Lavender to the bank mandate and remove the existing Clerk with effect from 1st April 2018.

Clerk

v. Grass cutting costs 2018/19 season:

The Clerk confirmed that JAS Landscapes' costs are;

- for St Michael and All Angels cemetery, £80 per cut and
- for Stoke Road Green, £60 per cut, an increase of £5 on the previous year's

The care and maintenance of Millennium Green will be carried out on an 'as and when needed' basis when the grass is cut and will be charged accordingly. Cllr Green confirmed that an additional £250 had been included in the grounds maintenance budget for the coming year which should be adequate to cover these costs.

Clerk

vi. Review of policies and procedures:

The Clerk reported that he had carried out the annual review of the Financial and Management Risk Assessment, the Health and Safety Risk Assessment and the Financial Controls and Internal Audit. Cllr Bullock raised the business continuity risk arising from the possible lack of availability of the school as the Council's meeting venue. The Clerk was asked to include that in a revised policy and with that *proviso*, the Council resolved to re-adopt all 3 policies.

32. Correspondence requiring a response or a decision:

None

33. Items for next meeting, for report only:

None.

Cllr McAllister closed the meeting at 8.53pm

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 11th April 2018.