



ASHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2020 at The Pavilion

Present: Cllr Sarah Howell
(Chairman)

Cllr Simon Hull

Cllr Keith Allen

Cllr Twink MacLachlan

Kevin Dadds (Clerk)

Attended: D Cllr Alan Sharp

1. Public Meeting

No members of the public were present. D Cllr Sharp advised that the ECDC working group had been looking at cycle/walk ways and bus routes and were consulting the public between 9th March and 19th May. It was intended to deliver a questionnaire to every house in the district, and in addition hold a series of residents meetings in the villages. The District portion of Council Tax will be frozen again and the Police and Crime Commissioner has proposed a £10 p.a. increase per household in their budget. Following additional funding from central government, it is expected that 62 additional Police officers will be in place within the County by March 2021.

The Public Meeting Closed at 7.10pm

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Almond who was unwell

3. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January 2019

The minutes were amended under Section 1 (Public Meeting) with "16 dwellings behind Potters Cottage" replaced by "Proposed Stud Farm to East of Mill Road". They were subsequently agreed, proposed by Cllr Hull and seconded by Cllr MacLachlan

4. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

Item 04 – Repairs to Play Area – Clerk advised that he had asked for the re-tensioning of the zip-wire to proceed and was waiting for the contractor to schedule a date.

Item 07 – Website – Cllr Allen advised that authority had been given to purchase the Domain name and the website should be available shortly.

Item 8 – Recreation Ground Drainage – Clerk advised that he had met a contractor on site and discussed the installation of land drains to move the water away from the

bottom of the Play area and disperse underground. A verbal quote of £3,000 Inc. VAT had been given and a written quote will follow. A second contractor has been contacted and the Clerk will meet him and obtain a further quote.

Item 09 – Play Area – See Agenda Item 10

Item 13 – Meeting Dates – It was agreed that the July Parish Council meeting would be delayed until 20th and the August meeting cancelled. Cllr Howell agreed to confirm with other Pavilion users that the revised dates were available. **Action - Cllr Howell**

5. Declarations of Interest

Cllr's MacLachlan and Allen declared an interest in item 6a (non-financial).

6. Planning Issues

- a) Ref 19/00179/FUM – Application for 16 new dwellings, Potters Cottage, Church Street. A further amendment has been received increasing the width of the access road. An extension of time has been requested until 31st March with a view to considering the application at the March Planning meeting. Cllr's felt that the access arrangements, particularly the proposed 2m wide tarmac path would be obtrusive. The path narrows to less than 1m where Potters Cottage meets the pathway. Cllr Howell agreed to formulate a reply to ECDC
- b) Ref 19/01758/FUM – Erection of new Stud Farm (re-submission) East of 80 Mill Road – Application remains under consideration and PC has no further comment.
- c) Ref 20/00100/FUL – application to convert existing garage to a one bed annex for occasional use as a B & B Rayners Cottage, 28 Church Street. Cllr's viewed the documents and are happy to support.

7. Finance Matters

- a) Invoices received and authorised for payment

	£
None	

8. Pavilion Trust

Cllr Howell gave the Clerk 2 donations for use of Car Park - £100 from WCTC and £19.80 from Ramblers. She advised that the CCTV camera overlooking the play area is broken, and Clerk confirmed that he was arranging for it to be repaired. The lease for the Pavilion (from Parish Council to Ashley Pavilion Trust) is due for renewal in 2021 and will need to be discussed at a PC meeting later this year.

9. Asset Inspection and Risk Assessment

Cllr Hull and the Clerk carried out the annual inspection on 8th January and Cllr Hull has prepared report. The actions agreed include removing ivy & bramble from the Church walls, treat fence posts and paint rails at pond, replace a missing tile from bus shelter and clean the redundant phone booth at the pond. Cllr MacLachlan and Cllr Allen know an individual that carries out maintenance work and will contact and advise Clerk. Clerk agreed to speak to McGregor's about the ivy and brambles at the Church

and Cllr Hull advised that he had the missing tile from the bus shelter. **Action – Cllr’s MacLachlan, Allen, Hull and Clerk**

10. Play Area

- a) New Equipment - Cllr’s discussed a proposed new piece of equipment for the Play area from a brochure obtained by Clerk, taking in account suggestions made by residents. With much of the existing equipment being for climbing, it was agreed to obtain quotes for a see-saw and small net swing. Clerk will obtain quotes from Action Play and Leisure, who provided the brochure and also a local contractor.
Action – Clerk
- b) Dog Fouling – Cllr Hull advised that there had been a recent increase in dog fouling at the Recreation Ground. Clerk advised that he had received a letter from a resident, concerned that the PC was proposing a “dogs on lead” policy, and had met a group of dog walkers a few days earlier who had voiced the same concern. Cllr’s have not had any discussions along those lines, although are concerned at the increase in dog fouling. It was agreed to encourage responsible dog owners to help “police” the Recreation Ground and either speak to any offenders or report them to the ECDC dog warden. Clerk agreed to put up notices detailing the telephone number to ring. Clerk further advised that he had been contacted by Fordham Parish Council as they have approached ECDC with a view to obtaining a legally enforceable Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to keep dogs on the lead. ECDC had suggested that they should contact other PC’s and a blanket order could be requested. Cllr’s discussed, and again agreed that such an order would not be suitable for Ashley. **Action - Clerk**

11. ECDC Youth Strategy

Clerk provided feedback from the ECDC youth Strategy workshop held 15th January, having previously circulated to Cllr’s. The replies are being analysed and actions will be advised in due course.

12. Grass Cutting Around Pond

Clerk presented quote from McGregor’s of £10 (per cut) to add the cutting of the grass around the pond to the existing contract. The work was previously carried out by the late Peter Bridge. Cllr’s agreed the quote, proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Hull

13. Parish Forum

Cllr Howell attended the meeting on 20th January which was chaired by D Cllr Sharp. D Cllr Sharp advised that they were seeking suggestions for topics to be covered by invited speakers. Cllr Howell advised that the 2015 Local Plan remains in force including October 2019 revisions. D Cllr Sharp advised that ECDC have acquired the ex MOD site at Ely and subject to planning, will refurbish to provide 92 homes of which 40% will be affordable. An additional plot of land will provide 60 new homes, subject to planning. The poor rail service from Kennet, Newmarket and Dullingham was discussed, difficulties are being experienced as the new rolling stock is not compatible with the infrastructure. Funding is being provided for a feasibility study for half hour rail service on the Newmarket route and improvements to Haughey junction.

14. Urgent Matters/Items for Next Agenda

Donations – Cllr’s to discuss annual donations to be made before financial year end.
Litter Hoops – Clerk had obtained quotes for litter hoops (for holding plastic sacks) to assist with litter picking. Cllr’s agreed to purchase 5 at £7.99 each, Proposed by Cllr Hull and seconded by Cllr Allen.

Goal Nets – Cllr Hull suggested that one set of goal nets be put in place for the half term. Clerk agreed to arrange - **Action - Clerk**

Pond Spraying – Cllr Hull suggested that spraying the growth in the pond would help control. Permission would be required from the Environment Agency and a contractor with the appropriate qualifications. Clerk agreed to contact the grass cutting contractors (McGregor’s) to see if they were licenced to do so. **Action - Clerk**

15. Correspondence

- a) ECDC Recycling – Offer received from the Waste Team at ECDC to attend any local events and bring their “recycling van” containing information and activities.
- b) Lucy Frazer MP newsletter – Subjects covered include Newmarket to Cambridge rail services, school funding, Doctors surgery in Waterbeach, and expansion of GP Services in Ely. Full details can be seen on <https://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk/>

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th March commencing 7pm at the Pavilion

The meeting closed at 9.15pm