



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022 at the Pavilion

Present: Cllr Sarah Howell
(Chairman) Cllr Twink MacLachlan

Cllr Georgia Winson-Pearce Cllr Sarah Summers

Kevin Dadds (Clerk)

01. PUBLIC MEETING

25 Members of the public were present, following letters of invitation delivered to individual houses in respect of parking issues.

Cllr Howell welcomed everybody and introduced the Cllr's and Clerk. She advised that a number of comments had been received over several years concerning the parking on Newmarket Road between the junctions of High Street and Mill Road, and also at The Green. In respect of the former, the parked vehicles do not allow vehicles coming from opposite directions to pass each other and with limited visibility when coming from Church Street, this can cause vehicles to meet head on. The problem at The Green, is cars parking beside the triangle of grass, narrow the road resulting in large vehicles having to drive up onto the grass and causing damage, particularly when the ground is soft. Since circulating the letter of invitation, a number of comments have been received concerning parked vehicles on the bend in the High Street adjacent to the shop. Cllr Howell advised that in respect of the Newmarket Road issue a representative of Cambs CC Highways came to the village to discuss last year, and one of his suggestions was to create a "refuge" by adding double yellow lines for approx. 2 car lengths. This would allow one car to pull in when coming face to face with another although would not help when larger vehicles were involved.

A number of residents who live in the vicinity of the Newmarket Road junction expressed concerns at losing any parking spaces particularly as the 10 cottages have insufficient frontage to accommodate all their vehicles off the road. The greatest concern expressed was the speed of vehicles arriving at the junction, and it was felt that if this could be addressed, the safety issue of the parked cars would be mitigated. Most present, acknowledged that the residents had the need to park close to their properties and any parking restriction would simply move the problem elsewhere. A one-way system was suggested, and Cllr Howell replied that this had been considered, but as both the junctions from The Green and Newmarket Road to the High Street have acute angles, it would cause great difficulty and be a hazard when large vehicles attempt to negotiate. One resident suggested that large vehicles should not be coming through the village if they needed to negotiate those turns and should be redirected at the Ousden/Dalham junction. Cllr Howell suggested that the white lining could be adjusted at the entrance to "The Green" adjacent to the pond, to widen that part of Newmarket Road and so allow vehicles coming from Church Street/Mill Road to move further to the left and have a better visibility of any vehicles coming off the High Street into Newmarket Road. A resident suggested that similarly the white lining could be improved at the High Street/Newmarket junction to give more space to vehicles turning off the High Street.

In respect of "The Green", residents commented on the parked vehicles causing difficulties and also that a vehicle had started parking on the grass. It was acknowledged that there were insufficient parking spaces, although suggestions that signage could be installed to restrict parking on the narrow parts of the road and the grass. Any physical barrier would inhibit delivery

vehicles and emergency service vehicles, and it was generally agreed that double yellow lines are unsightly.

A number of residents were concerned at the increased number of vehicles parked on the bend outside the shop forcing through traffic onto the wrong side of the road. The vehicles are a combination of residents who live nearby and are unable to park off road, and temporary visitors to the shop. Most were concerned at the speed of vehicles and suggested traffic calming measures. Cllr Howell advised that the PC had applied for a grant under the Local Highways Initiative, to install speed cushions, although this was unsuccessful. D Cllr Sharp advised that he was the lead on Highways for the county Council and would assist the PC in a further application later this year.

Cllr Howell thanked everybody for their valuable contributions and agreed to research solutions in line with the comments. Clerk agreed to contact Cambs CC Highways to arrange another visit to the village to discuss options in line with residents comments. District/County Cllr Sharp agreed to join any such meeting and support the village in their attempts to resolve the issues.

Cllr Howell asked if anybody had any issues they would like to raise other than traffic issues. A resident expressed concern at a number of individuals fishing in the pond from the pathway, and also beside the wall below the pathway. It was felt that casting from these positions could injure somebody and a regularly used pathway was being cluttered. Other residents agreed with these comments. Cllr Howell advised that the PC had discussed whether fishing should be allowed at the pond a couple of years ago and following discussions with several fishermen were content to allow, based on barbless hooks and clearing up behind themselves. It was agreed to discuss at the next PC meeting.

All members of the public left the meeting.

D Cllr Sharp advised that he was on the Local Highways Initiative working party and that grant applications would be accepted from 3rd October. He further advised that the pot hole reporting system was being reformed to give better information to members of the public

The Public Meeting Closed at 8.10 pm

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr's Hull and Allen offered apologies.

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th June 2022

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr McLachlan and signed by the Chairman

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item10 – Tree at Recreation Ground – The Clerk advised that the works had been completed.

Item 12 – Highways Issues – Clerk agreed to arrange meeting in the village with representative from Cambs CC Highways and D/C Cllr Sharp to discuss residents concerns.

Item 14 – ROSPA report – Clerk advised that he is contacting contractors for quotes as agreed at last meeting and will report back at the next meeting.

Item 15 - Damaged Pavement at Silhalls Close – Clerk advised that he had photographed and reported the broken pavement with large weeds growing throughout and noted that a similar report by a resident in June had been dismissed as not meeting criteria. He challenged this opinion in his report but a similar response was received. D/C Cllr Sharp has agreed to look at and discuss with Highways if he feels appropriate.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 22/00769/CLE Land to the North of Potters Cottage, 39 Church Street. The case officer advised PC that, contrary to the information on the Planning Portal, the developers had met pre-planning conditions and that parts of the site had been marked out with white stakes, thereby meeting the requirement to commence within 2 years of the Planning Consent. Cllr's felt that they had to reluctantly accept the position.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in June/July

	£
Cambs County Council – Grass cutting contribution	374.87

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
McGregor Services - Village grass cutting June	636.00
Glasdon UK Ltd – New dog waste bin	381.97
Kevin Dadds – Clerks salary April – June 2022	1,098.01
HMRC – PAYE on Clerks salary	274.40
Kevin Dadds – Clerks expenses, including working from home allowance, consumables and postmix for installing Jubilee tree plaque and dog waste bin	174.19
Fairhaven Estates – Annual ground rent for Recreation Ground	5.00

08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that there had been no progress in negotiations to purchase the land. It was agreed that the PC should write to Fairhaven Estates and explore whether there could be an extension of the lease to the Recreation Ground, that now has less than 41 years to expiry.

Action – Clerk

09. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Cllr's discussed the Crown public House that has now ceased trading and is empty. The building is listed and occupies a prominent position in the village. Clerk advised that he had spoken to the owner of the site who expressed frustrations at planning limitations and was working with architects in an attempt to upgrade the property. He agreed to maintain the frontage in a tidy manner.

Clerk advised that if a successful application was made to designate as an "Asset of Community Value", this would result in any proposed sale of the property being deferred for up to 6 months to allow the PC the opportunity to facilitate a purchase. Whilst unlikely that the PC would involve itself in such a purchase, it would give other possible individuals or consortiums in the village the opportunity to acquire for the benefit of the village. Clerk agreed to investigate the criteria and process for such an application. **Action - Clerk**

10. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen did not attend the meeting and will update at the next meeting.

11. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) An invoice for the hire of the Pavilion for Parish Meetings was received after posting of the Agenda. Clerk prepared a cheque for £51 payable to Ashley Pavilion Trust and Cllr's agreed to sign, particularly as the next PC meeting will be in September.
- b) Fishing at the pond, following residents comments at Public Meeting.
- c) Clerk advised that he had written to Etopia Homes in respect of the untidy appearance of the site at 28 High Street, and also reminded them of their obligation to maintain the adjacent footpath.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

None

13. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th September at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

KEVIN DADDS