



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 17th April 2023 at the Pavilion

Present:	Cllr Sarah Howell Chairman)	Cllr Simon Hull (Vice Chairman)
	Cllr Keith Allen	Cllr Twink MacLachlan
	Cllr Sarah Summers	Cllr Georgia Winson-Pearce
	Kevin Dadds (Clerk)	

01. PUBLIC MEETING

4 members of the public were present.

A member of the public raised a number of issues.

- a) The high number of pot holes on local roads
- b) Damage to a verge in Silverley Way.
- c) Concern that overhead cables adjacent to a large tree in the High street could get snagged.
- d) Concern that the new development on the High Street would lead to additional traffic and potential accidents, and the hazard caused by vehicles parking outside the shop. The speed monitor was not working at present.
- e) Conifer trees on the Ashley/Cheveley Road were preventing sunlight drying out the road.
- f) A request for a further defibrillator training session.
- g) A request for the Minutes to be in larger print

Cllr Howell replied as follows;

- a) The PC are very aware of the number of potholes and regularly report the damage to Highways. County/District Cllr Sharp added that the level of funding had not been increased this year although £200m of additional monies had been agreed by central government, a proportion of this would go to Cambs. A request to use unspent Covid reserves for this purpose was rejected. All agree that it is a very unsatisfactory position, dictated by available funding.
- b) The Silverley verge has been reported previously and repaired only to be damaged again by large vehicles. It does not meet the threshold for further repairs.
- c) The cables are managed by the power company who survey them from time to time and will carry out any future actions required.
- d) The High Street development was agreed on the basis of the access meeting current highway policy and Cllrs are actively looking at ways to slow the traffic down in the High Street. It was felt that double yellow lines would affect the business of the shop, and another resident at the meeting opposed parking restrictions as this would affect people living in adjacent properties. Cllr Howell agreed to re-charge the battery on the speed monitor. **Action - Cllr Howell**
- e) The conifer trees are large and do create a shadow, although there have not been any previous reports of them causing a hazard. Cllrs felt that it was not within their remit to intervene with the owners. Cllr Hull added that the trees appear to be sound and damage to the road surface was as a result of water draining from the elevated land of the adjacent stud.

- f) Cllr Howell will shortly undertake “trainer training” to enable her to deliver a CPR session to residents on the operation of the defibrillator. It was suggested that this could be held at the Community Rooms in Silverley Way and possibly the monthly PC meeting could be held there on that occasion.
- g) Clerk advised that the size of the notice board at the shop dictated the print size, as the Minutes have to be contained to 4 pages to fit. He agreed to maximise the size of print within this restriction, and also deliver a set of Minutes to the Community rooms, where they can be displayed.

A further resident asked what the arrangements were for allotments in the area. He had attempted to contact Newmarket Town Council and hadn't received a response. Clerk had been in email contact with the resident and confirmed that Ashley did not have access to land for that purpose having previously been unsuccessful in discussions with surrounding landowners. There are allotments in the East Cambs part of Newmarket, but these are probably managed by Newmarket Town Council and not Woodditton Parish where the land lies. Attempts by the resident to contact Newmarket TC have proved unsuccessful, and Clerk agreed to establish who managed them and the application procedure. **Action – Clerk**

D/C Cllr Sharp advised;

There was a full County Council meeting 21st March with 80-100 members of the public. A request was made by opposition parties to defer the Cambourne-Cambridge bus route proposal at a cost of £160m (2020 prices) until the proposed Bourne/West Cambourne developments prepare their planning transport arrangement strategy. The request was voted against and will probably go to a Public Enquiry.

15,000 petitioned against the congestion charge in Cambridge but a request for a referendum was rejected.

The Public Meeting Closed at 7.45 pm

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2023

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr MacLachlan and seconded by Cllr Summers

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 04 – Appearance of site at 28 High Street – Clerk advised that he had received a reply from PR Build Ltd and they will check the extent of the land purchased, in particular whether they now owned part of the adjacent footpath and advise accordingly.

Item 04 – Lime Trees in Churchyard – Clerk advised that the work to pollard the lime trees has been completed.

Item 04 – 20 mph Scheme – Clerk advised that the closing date for applications is 30th April and having reviewed the criteria, it would be unlikely that we could present a strong case. In particular, details of any accidents since 2017 are a key issue, and there have been none in the Parish during this period. Additionally, without being able to download data from the speed monitor, there is little to base our application on. Cllrs discussed and agreed that it was not the right time to submit an application, and we could possibly establish the cost of carrying out the scheme from Parish funds at some stage in the future. A further option is to invest in a new speed monitor that is capable of capturing data to be downloaded and has a more active visual display. Meanwhile, Cllrs discussed carrying out Speedwatch sessions to establish the extent of traffic speeding through the village.

Item 10 – Privately Funded Highway Improvement Scheme – Clerk advised that he had received an initial report on the proposed scheme to amend the road layout between the pond and High Street. The option preferred by the project team is a one-way system through The Green, thereby reducing traffic in the section of Newmarket Road to one way. The scheme suggested by the PC to adjust the white lining to create better visibility of the “hot spot” carries with it the need for

double yellow lines either side of the adjusted junction coming out of The Green into Newmarket Road. The one-way scheme doesn't acknowledge the difficulty of large vehicles turning the acute angles out of both Newmarket Road and The Green onto the High Street that has resulted in stranded vehicles in the past. The need for double yellow lines for the PC's preferred scheme cuts across the original desire not to restrict parking in the area on the basis that there are not readily available alternatives.

Cllrs expressed their frustration that there seemed to be no workable solution to resolve the long running concern about Newmarket Road/Church Street junction. With the latest view, they felt they had exhausted every possible solution.

Item 11 – AED Training (Defibrillator) – Cllr Howell confirmed that she will deliver a further CPR training session once she has completed her “trainer training”.

Item 12 – Clerk confirmed that he had submitted the nominations and received confirmation that an election would not be contested for the Parish Council. He would forward the relevant declarations to Cllrs immediately after the Election date of 4th May and they need to be completed and handed to him at the next meeting. The Cllrs acknowledged that Cllr Allen has decided not to stand for election in May and this will therefore be his last meeting. The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr Allen for his significant contribution to the Council a number of years; echoed by all.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 23/00088/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension, entrance porch and alterations - Clopton House 39 Mill Road, Ashley. **APPROVED**
- b) Ref 18/01825/FUL discharge condition 16 (biodiversity improvements) 1b Gazeley Road, Ashley – for information only.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in March/April

	£
None	

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
Kevin Dadds – Clerks salary Jan - March	1,191.61
HMRC – PAYE on Clerks salary Jan - March	297.80
Kevin Dadds – Clerks Expenses Jan - March	177.49
CAPALC – Annual Membership Renewal	349.99
Suffolk Tree Surgery – Pollarding of lime tree in Churchyard	1,320.00
Barcham Trees PLC – Replacement beech tree (Queens platinum Jubilee)	226.80
Ashley Pavilion Trust – Q1 Rent for Pavilion (PC Meetings)	51.00

- c) Clerk presented the Responsible Finance Officers Report for Q4. Total Income of £46,253.40 (including CIL receipt of £20,665.97) and total expenditure of £35,748.69 leaving Bank Balances of £78,173.70. A more detailed summary will be given at the Annual Parish meeting 5th May.

08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that the Trust had decided to put in a Pre-Application request to ECDC in respect of a new Pavilion. The building would be of a similar length to the existing building and about 3m wider. Based on the discussions with the Planning officer, further engagement can be made with the landlords.

09. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen will not be standing at the forthcoming election, although agreed to continue maintaining the website until further arrangements are made. Cllr Howell agreed to approach an individual in the village who could possibly undertake the role in the future. **Action - Cllr Howell**

10. SANCTUARY HOUSING LIASON

Cllr Howell suggested that a meeting could be held in the Community Room following a Defibrillator training session. The heating in the room is now being repaired, but in all likelihood, the meeting would be in the summer months.

11. CAPALC MEMBERSHIP

Clerk advised that the annual membership was due for renewal and briefly explained the services offered that include GDPR support. It was agreed that membership should continue, proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Allen.

12. LOCAL ENFORCEMENT PLAN

Clerk advised details of the revised Planning enforcement document having previously circulated to Cllrs. He emphasised that individuals have the right to report any planning breaches, although can remain anonymous by asking the PC to report on their behalf.

13. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Fairhaven Drive (site behind Potters Cottage, Church Street). – Cllrs to discuss following posting of notice that 10 3-5 bed properties are to be erected.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Cambridge Highways Maintenance Programme – letter from Cllr Ann Bailey (leader of ECDC) expressing concern to Cambs CC about pot holes and safety of roads.
- b) Email from Lucy Frazer MP concerning local bus services.
- c) Email from PECT (local charity) in respect of energy crisis.

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing 7pm Friday 5th May at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

KEVIN DADDS