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| *Village Sign* | | | **Ashley Parish Council**  **Minutes of the Meeting of**  **Ashley Parish Council held on**  **Monday 8th April 2024 at the Pavilion** |
| Present: | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Cllr Sarah Howell  (Chairman) | Cllr Simon Hull | | Cllr Twink MacLachlan | Cllr Georgia Winson-Pearce | | Cllr Maria Parkin | Cllr Sarah Summers | | Kevin Dadds (Clerk) |  | | | |

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| **01.** | **PUBLIC MEETING**  Both District/County Cllr Sharp and District Councillor Lay attended, no members of the Public attended.  Cllr Howell gave tribute to Margaret Jackson who recently passed away. Margaret served as a Parish Councillor, Churchwarden and cleaned the Pavilion for a number of years. She will be missed by all that knew her, and our thoughts are with her friends and family at this time.  Cllr Sharp reported the following;  **Education** – There is an issue with availability of places for some pupils resulting in long daily bus journeys and pressure on the home to school transport system.  **Buses** - A £12.36 addition to the Precept should help fund new bus routes.  **Roads** – Delays in road maintenance continue to frustrate, with budget constraints moving projects from the last financial year to the current year. The Swaffham Heath crossroads improvement scheme is due to start shortly having resolved legal issues.  Cllr Howell expressed her concern as to the condition of the roads and delays in repairs and questioned how we can influence changes in the way Highways operate.  **Local Plan** – The chapter relating to climate change has been delayed due to discrepancies about energy efficiencies in new-builds.  Cllr Parkin added that there was a shortage of qualified engineers to install air source heat pumps.  Cllr Lay introduced himself to the meeting as a District Councillor for the Woodditton ward, and gave a brief resume of his experience in Local Government. He highlighted a number of causes he has supported and offered his support in any issues the village may have.  The meeting closed at 7.35pm. | |
| **02.** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  None. | |
| **03.** | **TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 2024**  The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr MacLachlan and signed by the Chairman. | |
| **04.** | **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  04 – Maintenance of the footpath adjacent to 28 High Street – Clerk reported that he had written to Hascombe Stud concerning the ownership of the footpath, and in particular where the boundary between their land, and the new development owned by PR Build Ltd falls. Whilst in the meeting, an email arrived from the Hascombe Stud offering to meet up on site and discuss. Clerk agreed to arrange the meeting. **Action – Clerk** | |
|  | Item 04 – Solar Lights in Church Street – Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Clerk at Stetchworth who had given him the name of a contractor that had recently installed solar lamps for the village. He has spoken to the contractor, and is due to meet him in Church Street tomorrow. Meanwhile, Balfour Beatty have been asked for firm quotes to carry out the work. **Action – Clerk** | |
|  | Item 04 – Play Equipment at Recreation Ground – Clerk advised that the new seesaw had been installed and was proving popular with the children. Cllrs looked at the covering of wood chips and agreed a top up was required and Clerk will obtain quotes. The cradle swing has been damaged and needs replacing.  **Action – Clerk** | |
|  | Item 04 - Notice Boards – Installation of the notice board is dependent on removal of the old phone box, see Agenda item 10. **Action – Clerk** | |
|  | Item 04 – Crown Public House – Cllr Howell advised that following contact with the owner’s agent, he had asked for proof of funding before agreeing to a viewing. This came as a surprise, as it was to be an informal visit to gauge what interest there may be in the village to purchase and operate a “community pub”. Cllr Howell believes this issue can be overcome and will agree dates for a viewing.  **Action – Cllr Howell** | |
|  | Item 04 – Ice on road at junction of Dalham/Gazeley Road – Clerk advised that he has not yet received a reply from Highways and had chased. | |
|  | Item 10 – Road Damage and Flooding Adjacent to Hascombe Stud – Clerk advised that he had written to Highways and incorporated Cllr Howell’s report of her meeting with Hascombe Stud. Lucy Frazer MP was copied in, and her office have since confirmed that she too has written to them. Clerk agreed to chase if no reply in next two weeks and inform Lucy Frazer’s office.  **Action – Clerk** | |
|  | Item 11 – Village Apple Day – Cllr Parkin advised that the Community Hub had agreed to run an Apple Day and she would liaise with them and offer the support of the PC.  **Action – Cllr Parkin.** | |
| **05.** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**  Cllr Parkin declared an interest in Agenda Item 10. | |
| **06.** | **PLANNING MATTERS**   1. 24/00173/TRE 5 x sycamores, pollard 50% reduction – 22 High Street, Ashley. **APPROVED.** 2. 24/0065/FUL – Loft conversion and internal alterations – 6 Dalham Road.  **WITHDRAWN.** 3. 24/00331/TRE – T1 Ash, pollard by 5m – Bloodstock Barn, Ashley – Cllrs discussed and there is a discrepancy between the application and the Planning Dept narrative as to whether an Ash or a Sycamore. It was suggested that the Tree Officer may wish to visit and establish whether the tree would be adversely affected by a significant reduction.  **Action - Clerk** | |
| **07.** | **FINANCE MATTERS** | |
|  | 1. To note following receipts in March/April | |
|  |  | **£** |
|  | None |  |
|  | (b) To authorise the following payments. |  |
|  |  | **£** |
|  | East Anglian Air Ambulance – S137 Donation. | 75.00 |
|  | MAGPAS – S137 Donation. | 75.00 |
|  | P Tweedie (About Ashley) - S137 Donation. | 75.00 |
|  | Ashley Pavilion Trust – (Warm Hub) - S137 Donation. | 75.00 |
|  | Gallagher Insurance – Annual Insurance Policy. | 892.07 |
|  | CAPALC – Annual membership renewal. | 367.55 |
|  | Kevin Dadds – Clerks Salary Jan – March. | 1,330.17 |
|  | HMRC – PAYE on Clerks Salary Jan – March. | 332.40 |
|  | Kevin Dadds – Clerk Expenses Jan – March (working from home allowance and consumables). | 126.00 |
|  | Kevin Dadds – Re-imbursement for credit card payment for skip at pond. | 235.00 |
|  | McGregor Services – Grass Cutting March. | 294.00 |
|  | Fenland Leisure Products Ltd – New seesaw for Play Area. | 8,594.40 |
|  | 1. Clerk presented the Responsible Financial Officers report for the financial year end 31st March having circulated to Cllrs beforehand. Total income for the year was £24,815 with total expenditure of £33,659. The expenditure included both a new seesaw at £8,594 and notice Board £2,545 that were funded from CIL monies received in previous year. A full report will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Total Bank balances as at 31st March after adjustment for cheques not yet presented were £69,293. | |
| **08.** | **PAVILION TRUST**  Cllr Howell advised that there was no news from the landlord’s, although APT’s solicitors details had now been passed over to the Fairhaven’s solicitors. | |
| **09.** | **WEBSITE**  Dates for Chairman/Clerk to be given instruction on maintaining the site need to be agreed. The Chairman of APT is in touch with the website developer. | |
| **10.** | **OLD TELEPHONE BOX**  Two quotes have been received to remove and dispose of the old telephone box at the pond. One was for £744.28 + VAT and the other £650.00 + VAT. As both were from local people known to the PC it was agreed to accept the lower quote from McGregors Services. Proposed by Cllr Howell and seconded by Cllr Summers. Clerk has not yet received confirmation that the electricity has been disconnected and will chase. **Action – Clerk** | |
| **11.** | **CAMBRIDGE AND PETERBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**  Clerk advised that membership renewal was due and Cllrs agreed to continue, to include the Data protection service. Proposed by Cllr Howell and seconded by Cllr Summers. | |
| **12.** | **URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**  Clerk advised that Lucy Frazer MP would be holding a surgery at the Pavilion on Saturday 13th April 1pm. A poster will be displayed at the shop advising of the meeting. | |
| **13.** | **CORRESPONDENCE**   1. Lucy Frazer MP Easter Update – highlighted her meeting to discuss resident’s concerns at the performance of Sanctuary Housing, the poor condition of the roads and Project Gigabit connectivity in the Fens. Full details can be seen on her website [www.lucyfrazer.org.uk](http://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk) | |
| **14.** | **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**  The next meeting will follow the Annual Parish meeting that will be held on Monday 13th May 7pm at the Pavilion.  The meeting closed at 8.45pm | |

**KEVIN DADDS**