



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 12th December 2022 at the Pavilion

Present:	Cllr Sarah Howell (Chairman)	Cllr Simon Hull
	Cllr Keith Allen	Cllr Sarah Summers
	Cllr Twink MacLachlan	Kevin Dadds (Clerk)

01. PUBLIC MEETING

No members of the public were present.

D/C Cllr Sharp was unable to attend although forwarded a report to the Clerk as follows

District Council

Warm Hubs - We have a number of warm hubs around the District, in conjunction with Cambridgeshire ACRE.

These have been well received by residents, where they can meet and talk and be in the warm with light refreshments.

Extraordinary Council Meeting - There is an extraordinary meeting of ECDC on 15th December to discuss the Council's response to the proposed Congestion Charge in Cambridge.

Budget 23/24 - The District Council continue to hope that they will be able to deliver a Council Tax with no increase for the 10th year running, which we believe is a record for a Council at our level.

County Council - Potters Cottage site

I responded to the email that the Clerk copied me into by asking about the site and the lack of CIL payment.

I have been told that the developer should now have received a request for payment of CIL monies. There is no reason for the withholding of that money.

20mph schemes - Highways & Transport Committee have agreed the setting up of a 20mph scheme, with applications being accepted from February 2023. More details will be sent to Parish Clerks in the New Year.

Congestion Charging - The consultation closes on 23rd December at 5pm, so if you haven't already voiced your opinions, then please do so. The congestion charge proposals, if they go ahead, will have a huge effect on travel into and around Cambridge. Opposition to the proposals continues to grow.

Budget 23/24 - The County Council had an original budget gap of £28m, which they have reduced to £12m, but we are questioning the flat lining of some budgets, such as those within transport, which would mean a cut to services.

The Government Autumn statement gave Councils the ability to raise Council Tax by 5%, which gives us a worry that this may be the level that they wish to increase it by.

The Public Meeting Closed at 7.10 pm

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Georgia Winson-Pearce offered apologies.

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2022

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Hull and seconded by Cllr MacLachlan and signed by the Chairman

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, the new owners, who confirmed that works were starting and that the frontage had been tidied up. They did however state that they did not purchase the adjacent footpath with the remainder of the land. Clerk has since written to the previous owners to establish the position and awaits a reply. Cllr Howell suggested that a plan highlighting the land purchased by PR Build Ltd should be requested to establish boundaries. **Action – Clerk.**

Item 10 – Highway Issues

- a) Clerk advised that ECDC had now received the new sign for Church Street and he has advised the positioning at the junction with Dalham/Gazeley Roads.
- b) Clerk advised that he continues in attempts to generate a response from Cambs CC Highways following the meeting in the village earlier in the year regarding proposals for improving road safety between the Pond and the High Street.
- c) Clerk advised that he had spoken to Balfour Beatty who manage the street lighting on behalf of Cambs CC. They have asked him to send details of the stretch of road at the top of Church Street that is at present unlit. **Action - Clerk**

Item 04 – Repairs/Improvements to Play Area - Clerk advised that the contractors have given a provisional window to complete the re-surfacing around the swing and roundabout and other general repairs of 17th-31st January 2023.

Item 04 – Lime Trees in Churchyard - Clerk advised that he had been asked to send photos of the avenue of trees to allow a third quote to be provided. **Action - Clerk**

Item 12 – Gully Cleaning – Cllrs reported that the road sweeper had cleared the leaves from the gully's and clerk reported that he had inspected some of the drains and they were clear. Cllrs advised that some remained silted up and it was agreed to advise the clerk of locations and he will report to Highways. **Action – Clerk**

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 22/01346/FUL Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey rear extension – Keswick 27 Mill road, Ashley. Cllrs discussed and have no comment
- b) Ref 22/00908/FUL Proposed 2 storey and single storey extension along with internal alterations and additions – Amended plan and additional information – Butchers farm, 8 Mill road, Ashley (previously circulated to Cllrs). Cllrs discussed and have no objection.
- c) Ref 22/00842/FUL Orangery extension to rear of property – Bloodstock Barn, Mill Road, Ashley- APPEAL Cllrs discussed and have no additional comments.
- d) Ref 22/01087/FUL Single storey rear extension (Retrospective) – 80 Mill Road, Ashley. **APPROVED**
- e) Ref 19/01758/DISC discharge condition 5 (drainage and foul water) Site of new stud farm to east of 80 Mill Road. For information only.
- f) Ref 18/01825 DISC discharge condition 5 (surface water) and condition 11 (exterior materials) Land south of 1 Gazeley Road. For information only.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in November/December

	£
ECDC – CIL contribution 28 High Street	20,665.97
HMRC – VAT reclaim 1 st Dec 2021 – 30 th November 2022 (received after posting of agenda	3,183.46

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
Nationwide Building Society – transfer to reserve	20,000.00

08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that the agent for Fairhaven Estates had replied that the landlords are not willing to extend the lease for the 25 years requested, and enquired as to the PC's plans for the Pavilion, if the landlords were not willing to extend/renew the lease. They likewise asked what the plans would be if for example, the lease was extended for 10 years.

Cllrs felt that the parties needed to establish the maximum extension to the lease that is feasible and so allow a decision on the future of the Pavilion building to be made. It was felt that a dialogue was needed rather than exchange of emails and Clerk suggested he spoke to the agent direct and try and establish what level of flexibility is available. **Action – Clerk**
Cllr Howell suggested that the PC and Pavilion Trust would need to hold joint meetings to shorten the communication timelines, and this was agreed by the other Cllrs present.

09. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen advised that the website was up to date and welcomed any content from the residents.

10. STREET WORKS - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE CHURCH STREET

Cllrs discussed the proposed road closure at the top of Church Street on 7th March between 9.30am and 3.30pm to allow work on overhead cables, and have no further comment. The closure will be for a single day, during school hours and will be subject to advance signage with a diversion in place.

11. PRECEPT 2023/24

Cllrs discussed the PC's request for funding in the next financial year. Clerk provided a financial summary and detailed the level of re-occurring and discretionary costs. The current year Precept is £19,100 of which approx. £12,100 is required to meet regular payments for grass cutting, hedge cutting, Clerks salary, insurance, defibrillator support and play area inspection. The remaining £7,000 meets maintenance, repairs and renewals, which whilst variable are essential. Precept receipts have in recent years been able to meet these payments and generate a modest annual surplus that has allowed a reserve to build for future capital expenditure. Whilst inflationary pressure will increase many of the above payments, recently received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions will reduce the need to generate a surplus from the Precept. It was agreed that there should be no increase in the Precept for 2023/24 and the Clerk will submit the request for £19,100 to ECDC. **Action - Clerk**

12. CIL MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION

Clerk advised of the position in respect of CIL payments already received and due. A payment of £20,665.97 was recently received representing the final payments in respect of 28 High Street.

With no payment received in respect of the site behind Potters Cottage, ECDC have been chased as the landowners applied for, and were granted a Certificate of Lawfulness confirming

that the works had been commenced within the 2-year period required to preserve the Planning consent. ECDC replied that the landowners are yet to make CIL payments in accordance with the demand, and correspondence from the landowner's agent advises that he does not anticipate his clients will be rushing to make the payments. The Planning Officer has been asked to intervene, and C/D Cllr Sharp has written to the Planning dept. as highlighted in the Public Meeting above. The expected contribution to the PC is £24k.

Clerk in addition chased payments in respect of the site south of 1 Gazeley Road where 3 properties are now structurally complete. ECDC replied that Plot 1 applied for and was granted relief from the payment as a self-build, and Plots 2 & 3 have been chased for payment.

13. LOCAL HIGHWAYS INITIATIVE GRANT APPLICATION

Following D/C Cllr Sharp's comments advising that the Highways and Transport Committee have agreed to a 20 mph scheme being set up, it was agreed that this may be an alternative to physical speed control measures such as speed cushions. Whilst the main focus of the PC effort has been in respect of speeding vehicles entering the High Street from the Pavilion direction, there are similar problems in Church Street and the High Street from Newmarket direction. It was agreed to defer an LHI application, and discuss the 20mph scheme at January's meeting. Cllr Allen agreed to produce a poster advising residents that the issue will be discussed and they are welcome to attend and speak at the Public Meeting. Cllr Howell agreed to post a note on Facebook.

14. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) 20mph zones

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Lucy Frazer MP has sent 2 email updates.

- a) Refers to increased funding for NHS, growth, support for vulnerable groups, and energy costs.
- b) Refers to continued local opposition to Sunnica's application for Europe's largest solar farm, and recent changes and cancellation in bus routes.

For full content see <https://www.lucyfrazer.org.uk/>

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th January at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

KEVIN DADDS