



ASHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held via Zoom on Monday 8th February 2021 at 6pm

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 as well as achieving a 5 year housing supply last April, ECDC had now passed the “Housing Delivery Test” with 87% score (pass mark 75%). This will assist in preventing speculative developments outside the village envelopes.

The cycling/walking working group met mid-January and the timing of the joint consultation is unknown at present.

The Finance and Asset committee met and the Council Tax recommendation will be referred to full Council 23rd February.

The Public Meeting Closed at 6.20 pm

2. Apologies

None

3. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2021

The minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr MacLachlan. The minutes will be delivered to the Chairman for remote signature

4. Matters Arising From Previous Meeting

Item 04 – Damaged Church Gates – Clerk advised that the Church gates had been repaired and re-hung. Cllr’s expressed their thanks to the villager who carried out the work through Anglia Fabrication & Design Ltd.

Item 04 – Traffic Speed on High Street – Clerk advised that he had a reply from Highways at Cambs. CC who had now referred him to the project team, although with no contact details. Cllr’s expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of assistance from the CC in this respect and lack of replies to a number of emails.

Item 04 – Reeds in Pond – Clerk advised that the dead weeds were yet to be removed from the Pond and would contact the contractor to ensure the work is carried out before the nesting season. **Action - Clerk**

5. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Howell in respect of Item 7e (East Anglian Air Ambulance)

6. Planning Matters

- a) Ref 20/01618/TRE T1Ash – fell as leaning, T2 Black Poplar – fell following advice from Tree Officer, T3 Elder – reduce by 30%, T4 Apple – reduce and re-shape crown, 17 Church Street. **APPROVED**
- b) Ref 21/00038/TRE T1 Rowan – reduce to previous points, 4 The Green – Cllr’s discussed and do not feel the need to submit comments.
- c) Ref 21/00057/TRE T1 & T2 Plum – reduce back to boundary or nearest suitable pruning points, Stubbins Hall Cottage, 42 High Street. Cllr’s discussed and do not feel the need to submit comments.

7. Finance Matters

a) Receipts for approval

	£
HMRC VAT repayment	2,139.88

b) Invoices received and authorised for payment

	£
None	

- c) Clerk advised that Lloyds Bank require a letter signed by two signatories to start the process of opening an Instant Access Saver a/c for the purpose of the Peter Bridge legacy. It was agreed that Clerk would produce a letter and deliver to Cllr’s for signature. **Action – Clerk**
- d) Clerk presented the year to date budget as at 31st December 2020, having previously circulated to Cllr’s. Spending YTD was £9,638 with £9,012 of the Precept remaining. Approximately £4,500 is committed in ongoing expenditure (including Pond Reeds, Insurance, March grass cutting, Clerks Salary and possible donations), and Clerk advised that no maintenance has been carried out on the Play Area in the current year and further tree work is likely. Cllr’s will further discuss at the end of the financial year.
- e) Cllr’s discussed donations for the coming year. In recent years, £50 has been donated to each of MAGPAS, East Anglian Air Ambulance and About Ashley. It was agreed that £50 would again be donated to all three entities. Proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Hull. Clerk to prepare cheques for signature at the next PC meeting. **Action – Clerk**

8. Pavilion Trust

Cllr Howell advised that the Pavilion remains closed and a further funding claim had been made to Government. Solicitors were now engaged to advise the Trust on its future structure.

09. Website

Cllr Allen gave an update, he would now like more details from local businesses, such as opening hours and menus etc. It was agreed to approach The Plough & Local shop, both of which are already highlighted on the website and see if further information can be added. Clerk agreed to contact Ashley Pavilion Trust to see if they wish to display information. It was agreed to feature news items on the front page and incorporate links to services such as pot-hole reporting. **Action - Clerk**

10. ST Mary's Church

Cllr's Howell, Hull and the Clerk met 2 Churchwardens at the Closed Churchyard. The Churchwardens had previously sent a quotation for Tree Works received from Anglia Tree Contractors & Landscaping detailing work required on a number of trees. The Churchwardens advised that "Church" remained responsible for maintenance of the site although it was the Parish Council that was liable for the costs involved. Cllr Howell advised that the PC were aware of their responsibilities in this respect, carried out an annual inspection of the trees and any essential works highlighted. As the PC is funded from taxation, she advised that the costs of works had to be balanced alongside the many other demands upon available funds.

On further discussion the Churchwardens clarified that it was not their intention to carry out all the work that had been included in the quotation from the tree surgeon.

The trees were viewed individually and a consensus reached as to what was urgent, and probable timescales for other works. It was agreed that 3 quotes need to be presented to the "Church" for consideration and these would be obtained. Clerk to liaise with the Churchwardens in this respect. **Action - Clerk**

11. Parking in Chapel Row/The Green

Cllr Howell advised that she had received an email from a resident concerning parking at The Green and Chapel Row, and in particular the narrow road making access to properties difficult. Cllr's had previously noticed damage to the grassed area as a result of a parked car forcing large vehicle's such as refuse trucks to drive up the verge. There is a parking area, although this is usually full and the resultant overflow is causing the problem. Cllr's acknowledged the issues, and whilst the PC has no enforcement powers, it was suggested that residents should be made aware of the problems and use driveways to park their vehicles when possible. Clerk agreed to monitor the problem, and advice residents if vehicles are causing an obstruction. A request has been made to Cambs. County Council Highways to meet Cllr's concerning traffic issues in the village, and this issue can be discussed at the time. **Action - Clerk**

12. Urgent Matters/Items for Next Meeting

- a) Lease of the Pavilion to Ashley Pavilion Trust - Cllr's to discuss renewal.
- b) Virtual meetings – Cllr's to discuss format of meetings following expected announcements relating to lockdown on 22nd February.
- c) Phone Box at Pond – Cllr's to discuss request from residents to use as "seed exchange."

13. Correspondence

None

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held as a virtual call via Zoom on Monday 8th March, at 4pm. Any members of the public who would like to comment at the Public Meeting should contact Kevin Dadds (Clerk) on 01638 731043.

The meeting closed at 7.41 pm.