



# **Ashley Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Pavilion**

Present: Cllr Sarah Howell (Chairman) Cllr Twink MacLachlan  
Cllr Georgia Winson-Pearce Cllr Maria Parkin  
Cllr Sarah Summers Kevin Dadds (Clerk)

### **01. PUBLIC MEETING**

Cllr Sharp and one member of the public were present.

Cllr Sharp reported as follows;

There was no Highways meeting in December, although the January meeting will discuss the policy of not spraying weeds on roads and pavements in 2023 that has attracted considerable negative feedback.

Initial budgets for 2024/25 showed a deficit of £28m although the gap has now been narrowed to £2m based on a 5% increase in the County Council portion of Council Tax (includes 2% Adult Social Care).

ECDC will be discussing next year's budget later this month.

Cllr Summers raised the flooding of the road and footpath between Ashley and Cheveley. A drainage pipe from the raised fields at Hascombe Stud pours out onto the road with no obvious gully to disperse the water. D/C Cllr Sharp agreed to investigate.

Cllr Howell expressed concern at both the number of potholes, but also the quality of the repairs, resulting in holes re-appearing. D/C Cllr Sharp was asked if information was available as to how many pot hole repairs fail within a six-month period and what quality control procedures are in place. He agreed to investigate and report back in February.

The meeting closed at 7.30

### **02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Hull was unable to attend and made his apologies to the Clerk.

### **03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

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

#### 04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

04 – Maintenance of the footpath adjacent to 28 High Street – Clerk advised that he had not received any further information from PR Build Ltd in respect of ownership of the footpath and would chase. **Action – Clerk**

04 – Pride of Place Grant – Clerk advised that the five bat boxes had been installed, four at the Recreation Ground and one at the pond. ECDC had been invoiced for the grant monies and expect to submit the funds direct to the PC bank account this week.

Item 04 – Trees/Bushes in Closed Churchyard – Clerk advised that the tree and brambles had been removed from the closed Churchyard. The contractor carried out some repairs to fencing at the Play area in addition.

Item 04 – Damaged Sign at Pond - Clerk advised that the work has not been completed yet and he would contact AFD Ltd later in the month for an update. **Action - Clerk**

Item 04 – Solar Lights in Church Street - Clerk advised that he had not heard from Balfour Beatty and would chase. **Action - Clerk**

Item 04 – Play Equipment at Recreation Ground – Clerk advised that a provisional installation date was for the two weeks commencing 26h February. The contractors will advise exact dates nearer the time.

Item 04 - Notice Boards – Clerk advised that the notice board had been ordered and a delivery date is awaited. He will obtain a quote for installation. **Action – Clerk**

#### 05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

#### 06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 23/01352LBC – Replace side gate, Thimble Cottage, High Street, Ashley. Cllrs discussed and have no comment.
- b) 23/00964/FUL – demolition of existing stables allowing erection of new 18 box American barn with associated site works, Dukes stud, 36 Newmarket Road, Ashley. **APPROVED**

#### 07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in December/January

	£
HMRC – annual VAT reclaim.	2,798.76

(b) To authorise the following payments

	£
Kevin Dadds – Clerks salary 1 <sup>st</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> December including backdated national pay award.	1,516.57
HMRC – PAYE on Clerks salary 1 <sup>st</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	379.00
Kevin Dadds – Clerks expenses 1 <sup>st</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> December including working from home allowance and consumables.	111.99
Kevin Dadds – Re-imburement for Cr card purchase of Bat Boxes	323.75
Suffolk Tree Surgery – Remove tree and brambles from Churchyard, repairs to Play Area fence and installation of Bat Boxes.	500.00
Ashley Pavilion Trust – Rent for PC meetings Oct - Dec	51.00

## 8. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell reported that there had not been an APT meeting in December. Clerk advised that he had not received any response to his email to the trustees concerning a proposed letter to the landowner's agent. Cllr Howell agree to discuss at the next APT meeting. **Action – Cllr Howell**

## 9. DUKE OF EDINBURGH VOLUNTEERING

Cllr Parkin has been approached by parents of children participating in the D of E scheme as to whether the PC would welcome litter picking in the village. The scheme requires a weekly period of volunteering over a 3-month period and this would allow them to fulfil the requirement, whilst providing a valuable service to the village. Cllr Parkin will co-ordinate, and the parents of the children will oversee the activity. Cllrs discussed, and are happy for the activity to take place and can provide several litter pickers and Hi-Viz jackets. Cllr Howell and the Clerk have agreed to sign the D of E reports. **Action – Cllr Parkin**

## 10. WEBSITE

Cllr Howell advised that they are waiting for the web provider to confirm suitability of the site for the merged requirements of the PC and APT.

## 11. CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

A number of residents have expressed concern as to the fate of the building that has now been closed for several years. Cllrs discussed whether an application should be made to designate as an "Asset of Community Value". This is a register compiled by ECDC and in the event of a proposed sale, this can be delayed for up to six months to allow interested village groups or individuals to formulate a scheme to purchase and operate as a public house. It was agreed to invite residents to the Public Meeting prior to February PC meeting. Cllr Parkin agreed to design a notice for the shop/notice boards and Cllr Howell agreed to post a note on Facebook. **Action Cllr Howell/Cllr Parkin**

## 12. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) Ice on the road at junction of Church Street, Dalham Road and Gazeley Road.
- b) Insurance renewal.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) County Council Business and Financial Proposals – The County Council has published its proposals for 2025-29 and they can be viewed at the following link  
[Document.ashx\(cmis.uk.com\)](https://document.ashx(cmis.uk.com))

## 14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm

**KEVIN DADDS**