



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 13th June 2022 at the Pavilion

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

01. PUBLIC MEETING

2 Members of the public were present and expressed their concerns as to the parked vehicles in Newmarket Road, adjacent to the junction with High Street. The vehicles are parked on a bend, and vehicles entering Newmarket Road from the High Street need to move to the wrong side of the road without being able to see if there is oncoming traffic. This frequently necessitates a vehicle having to reverse, often onto the High Street thereby causing a further hazard. There are unpleasant “stand-offs” between drivers from time to time.

Cllr Howell replied that this is an ongoing discussion, frequently discussed by the Parish Council, and as a result, a representative of Cambs County Council Highways met Cllr’s last year to discuss. He suggested that a short area of double yellow lines on the bend would create a “refuge area” to be used as for passing when 2 vehicles meet. Cllr’s share the concerns as to the hazard caused by parked cars, whilst being mindful that removal of any parking space may well have a knock on effect, and cause further problems opposite the Pond and in surrounding streets.

It was suggested that residents in the vicinity of Newmarket Road/High Street junction and those most likely to use the junction, should be invited to the Public Meeting at July’s PC meeting. The Clerk agreed to produce and deliver a letter to the residents affected advising them of the meeting. **Action – Clerk**

District/County Cllr Sharp advised that he had attended annual meetings for both District and County and had been re-elected unopposed as Chairman of ECDC. The new Highways and Transport budget has been agreed and D Cllr Sharp agreed to raise the parking issue detailed above with the Highways representative who met Cllr’s last year.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2022

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

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 04 – Ash Trees in the Closed Churchyard – The Clerk confirmed that the works had been carried out.

Item 04 – Village Jubilee Celebrations – Cllr Howell advised that she had received good feedback for the event and thanked everybody for their efforts.

Item10 – Tree at Recreation Ground – The Clerk advised that the contractor had been authorised to carry out the works and it should be completed shortly. Cllr Hull advised that he had discussed the scope of the work with the contractor.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 22/00373/TRE T1 Yew- Fell due to poor positioning blocking light into garden and shading the house, obscuring a large more mature tree. Will replace with 1 Ash tree in a better position.
 T2 Sycamore - Fell suffering from server fungus which is causing the tree to die. Will replace with another Sycamore.
 T3 Cherry - Fell poor position and abnormal growth. Will replace in a better position with a Magnolia. Butchers Farm, 8 Mill road, Ashley

APPROVED

- b) Ref 19/00179/FUM Land to the North of Potters Cottage,39 Church Street D Cllr advised that he had not been able to discuss the pre-planning conditions and status of Planning Application with case officer, and would do so shortly and advise Clerk of outcome.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in May/June

	£
None	

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
The Community Heartbeat Trust (Solutions) Ltd – Defibrillator annual support contract.	162.00
Acacia Tree Surgery Ltd – Reduction of Ash Trees in closed churchyard	780.00
McGregor Services - village grass cutting May	498.00
Barcham Trees – Duplicate of cheque no. 7000143 issued 14/02/2022 and not received by payee. Cllr's signed "stop" instruction to Bank for missing original.	250.80

- c) Clerk advised that with over £42k held in the Lloyds Bank accounts there was sufficient surplus to transfer up to £20k to the reserves held in a 95-day saver at Nationwide Building Society. Cllr's agreed to transfer £20k, and Clerk will prepare a letter of authorisation for signature at July PC meeting. Reserves will total £40,454.58 representing just over 2 year's precept. The funds are held to cover future significant, but undefined expenditure on village assets. **Action - Clerk**

08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that a meeting had taken place in May but nothing relevant to the PC was discussed.

09. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Clerk presented the statement to the Parish Council. Acceptance was agreed by all Cllr's present, and signed by Cllr Howell as Chairman and the Clerk. The statement will be displayed on the website and village notice board for 30 working days to include the first 10 working days of July.

10. ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2021/2022

Clerk presented the statements which included the completed Annual Internal Audit Report signed by Richard Brook. Acceptance was agreed by all Cllr's, and was signed by

Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer and Cllr Howell as Chairman. The statement will be displayed on the website and village notice board for 30 working days to include the first 10 working days of July.

Cllr Howell confirmed that she had examined the accounting records of the PC, including ensuring that invoices and cheques were correctly authorised and fully included in the accounting records (spreadsheet). She also confirmed that she had agreed the figures in the accounting statements to the underlying schedules and was confident that they were an accurate record of the transactions and financial position of Ashley PC.

11. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen asked for suggestions as to content and in particular if the two newer Cllr's had any ideas. Clerk advised that he would forward the annual ROSPA report for inclusion.

12. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Fully discussed in Public Meeting and agreement that residents would be invited to the Public Meeting at the Pavilion on 11th July at 7pm.

13. OLD PC DOCUMENTS RETREIVED FROM PETER BRIDGE'S HOUSE

Cllr Howell brought with her to the meeting a box and suitcase of old documents. It was agreed that these would be examined at a later meeting, and meanwhile the Clerk agreed to keep with other PC documents and papers.

14. ROSPA REPORT

Cllr Hull advised that he and the Clerk had met at the Play Area and discussed the findings of the annual ROSPA inspection. The replacement of the wooden slide with the Rotating Cone Spinner has dealt with the major concern from last year. Whilst no serious issues were raised by the report, it did highlight a number of pieces of equipment that are wearing and need repair now or in the near future. Because of uncertainty in respect of the Pavilion building, it was agreed that any major repairs or replacement to the Beauchamp Tower and Multi-play with Overhead Climber, should be delayed until there is clarity as to the future of the site. Clerk has agreed to get quotes for the other pieces of equipment further away from the Pavilion, to include replacing the surface at the swing, repairs to the bridge and tidying up paintwork and fixings on other pieces of equipment. **Action - Clerk**

15. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) Crown Pub – Cllrs expressed concern that such an important village building was standing empty and is already looking untidy. It was agreed to write to the owner and establish what the plans for the building are. Cllrs agreed to a future discussion as to whether there should be an application to designate as an "Asset of Community Value"
Action – Clerk
- b) Cllr Hull advised that a portion of pavement at Silhalls Close was marked for repair 12 months ago and the works have not been completed. Furthermore, tree roots have damaged the pavement in Mill Road, the tree has since been felled. Clerk agreed take photographs and report to Highways. **Action – Clerk**
- c) Cllrs expressed concern at the unsightly appearance of the site at 28 High Street, particularly the grass and hedges at the entrance. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owners advising of the concerns, and at the same time, remind them of their responsibilities in respect of maintaining the footpath that edges their site.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

None

17. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th July at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

KEVIN DADDS