



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2023 at the Pavilion

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

01. PUBLIC MEETING

One member of the public was present.

CC/DC Sharp was unable to attend the meeting although sent a report that was read out by the Chairman as follows;

- a) Congestion Charge - The Combined Authority are trying to keep the reference to Congestion Charging in the Local Transport Plan and this will be debated on Wednesday, where he will be attending.
- b) A paper on the proposed weeds issue will come to Highways & Transport Committee in January.
- c) Growth & Infrastructure Fund Applications valid until 9th December.
- d) In terms of CIL, Potters Cottage, is still on course for legal action. They have just had the final letter from the legal department. In terms of the self builds, ECDC keep a charge against the property, which is released after 3 years if the self-build rules have been complied with. They check electoral role, property transfer sites etc. on those properties.

The meeting closed at 7.05

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th OCTOBER 2023

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

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

04 - Appearance of site at 28 High Street – Clerk advised that he had still not received a reply from PR Build Ltd and had chased again emphasising the need to resolve the issue.

04 – Pride of Place Grant – Clerk advised that he had received an acknowledgement from ECDC in respect of the application for funding of 5 bat boxes.

Item 04 – Trees/Bushes in Closed Churchyard – Clerk advised that he had submitted a planning application to fell the cypress tree growing from a grave. He has requested a quote for the work, to include removal of brambles from an adjacent plot.

Item 04 – Damaged Sign at Pond - Clerk advised that the insurers had already sent the funds for the work and would attempt to recover the excess of £250 from the driver. Contractors have already been instructed to carry out the work. Cllr Parkin offered to repaint the white lettering on the sign.

Item 09 – Pond Growth – Clerk advised that he had spoken to the contractor who carried out the work previously, and was told that cutting bulrushes in the autumn promotes further growth and he would carry out early spring. A quote will be prepared for approval.

Item 10 – Overgrown Hedgerows – Cllr Hull has walked the village and prepared a list of properties where vegetation hangs over or encroaches on footpaths. He will forward to the Clerk who has agreed to write to the occupants. **Action Cllr Hull/Clerk**

Item 11 – Solar Lights in Church Street - Clerk advised that he had received an email from Lucy Frazer MP’s office regarding a letter from a resident concerned at the lack of lighting on the bends in Church Street. He explained that we were already in discussion with Balfour Beatty who manage the lights, and it would be helpful if she could offer her support and try and move discussions along. It was explained that the cost of installing 3 lamp posts was in excess of £30k due to the need for additional equipment and laying of cables, hence the enquiry about solar lighting. The Clerk did receive an email from Balfour Beatty advising that another department would be dealing with the request, but a further reply is yet to be received.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 23/00982/FUL Roof extension over existing garage to form annex - Highfield House, 72 Mill Road, Ashley. **REFUSED**
- b) 23/00918/FUL Double garage to front - Rayners Cottage, Church Street, Ashley – Cllrs discussed having viewed the Conservation Officers recommendation to reject and have no further comments to add.
- c) 19/00179/NMAN Non material amendment relating to reduction in size of one dwelling – site north of 39 Church Street – Cllrs discussed and do not feel the need to comment.
- d) 22/0019/DISA To discharge conditions 3, 5, 10, Archaeology, drainage, soft landscaping – new Stud Farm in Mill Road. For information only.
- e) 23/00963/FUL Demolition of existing stables allowing erection of new 18 box American barn with associated site work - Dukes Stud – Cllrs discussed and do not feel the need to comment.
- f) 23/00591/VAR To vary conditions 1 & 4 (approved drawings/tree protection) Butchers Farm, Mill Road, Ashley. **APPROVED**
- g) 23/01221/TRE T16 Cypress – Remove – St Mary’s Church (received after posting of Agenda). Submitted by PC having received permission from Church and no comment required

07. FINANCE MATTERS

- (a) To note following receipts in October/November

	£
Hisbox Insurers – claim for damaged sign at Pond.	1,018.00

- (b) To authorise the following payments

	£
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McGregor Services – Grass cutting October	336.00
CAPALC – Cllr Training	75.00

8. PAVILION TRUST

Clerk advised that he had received a reply from the Fairhaven's agent who said that they were indisposed at present. He would meet them and discuss APT's proposal to rebuild the Pavilion at the earliest opportunity.

One of the activities in the Pavilion is provision of a Community Hot Hub for which some funding has been available. Communities are now being asked to raise their own funds to support the Hubs. It was suggested that the PC could be approached for a donation, and Cllr Howell advised that any request would be considered at the financial year end.

9. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT RECREATION GROUND

Cllrs discussed a strategy for the Play Area having met on site since the last meeting. It was agreed that in the short-term, the "bridge" should be removed as the wood is rotting in a number of places. One proposal was to replace with a "stand up see-saw" as per the quote discussed at the last meeting, although Cllr MacLachlan suggested that a "swinging net" may be an alternative. Clerk agreed to obtain a quote for the latter and report at the next meeting. It was agreed that replacement of the larger wooden structures could be delayed for the time being, although a top-up of bark would be required to ensure the correct depth, particularly around footings. **Action - Clerk**

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2023

Following agreement with the Unions, the national pay award affecting the Clerk has been published for 1st April 2023. The resultant increase of £1 per hour in his salary was unanimously agreed by Cllrs and will be backdated to the agreement date of 1st April 2023.

11. NOTICE BOARDS

Clerk presented examples of notice boards that would be suitable for the Pond. It was agreed that a freestanding board would be more visible than the present one fixed to the rear of the bus shelter. A man-made timber style board for 8 x A4 notices would be £1510 + VAT. Cllrs agreed with the style and cost, and Clerk agreed to obtain further quotes. The notice board at the shop is bespoke due to the width available and is not a size that can be purchased off the shelf. It was suggested that replacing the discoloured Perspex with glass would be sufficient. Clerk agreed to examine the fittings and see if this can be easily achieved. **Action – Clerk**

12. BANK MANDATES

Cllrs completed new mandates to add Cllr Winson-Pearce as a signatory at both Lloyds Bank and Nationwide Building Society. This is as a replacement for ex Cllr Allen who did not seek re-election earlier in the year.

13. WEBSITE

Cllr Howell advised that discussions had now taken place about the architecture of the site and research is required whether it remains suitable for the additional requirements if it were to be operated jointly with APT. Councillors and Trustees of APT would be responsible for keeping the content up to date

14. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) Lease to APT
- b) Precept

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday 11th December at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

KEVIN DADDS