



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 9th October 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 advised the following.

- a) The Cambridge congestion charge proposal has been stopped.
- b) A decision has been made to re-start buses, taxis and blue badge holders on Mill Road bridge. A legal challenge has been mounted against the decision to limit traffic on the bridge and a judge will shortly rule whether the challenge may proceed.
- c) A Local Highway Initiative scheme starts in November and Town and Parish councils have the opportunity to apply for grant funding for road safety measures.
- d) Renewal of bus contracts is expected by 1st April with no changes expected.
- e) The Swaffham Crossroads scheme is progressing with Heads of Terms agreed in respect of the land transfer and construction to commence after Christmas.
- f) Road Safety have been advised of concerns about lack of signage and road markings resulting in vehicles not stopping at the bottom of Moulton Road when entering Broomstick corner, Cheveley.

Cllr Howell raised a concern that CIL monies due did not appear to be followed up by the appropriate department at ECDC resulting in delays and potential missed payments. Cllr Sharp agreed to follow up and establish that system is robust.

The member of the public asked about 20 mph schemes and voiced concerns that unsightly yellow lines be painted. Cllr Howell advised that we were unlikely to meet the threshold for the 20 mph scheme due to the lack of recorded accidents in the village and that yellow lines were not proposed.

The meeting closed at 7.30

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11th September 2023

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr Summers and seconded by Cllr Winson-Pearce and signed by the Chairman.

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

04 - Appearance of site at 28 High Street – Clerk advised that he had not received a reply from PR Build Ltd about the need to keep the footpath clear despite chasing. A quote had been received from McGregor Services of £100 to cut back the trees and bushes annually, and £30 per grass cut. The quote has been sent to PR Build Ltd.

04 – ROSPA report – Clerk advised that he had met a representative from Action Play and Leisure and had received a number of quotes for replacement of equipment. He had advised that the Bauchamp Tower where the legs were rotting in the ground, would be difficult and uneconomic to repair. He further advised that the spinning see-saw we had suggested would most likely damage the soft base whilst spinning and dragging on the floor. His suggestion was for a “stand-on” see-saw that didn’t spin. Quotes provided are as follows;

- a) Large Stand Up See-Saw with resin base £7,612 + VAT
- b) Soft surface for existing scooter £ 828 + VAT
- c) Soft surface for Nursery Toddler £3,450 + VAT
- d) Steel Multiplay to replace both Bauchamp Tower and Overhead Climber £47,680 + VAT
- e) Timber Multiplay (with metal feet) to replace Tower and Climber £24,264 + VAT.

Cllrs agreed that a short and medium term strategy was required to maintain and replace equipment, and asked Clerk to arrange a meeting on site to look at and discuss the various proposals. **Action - Clerk**

04 – Pride of Place Grant – Clerk advised that he has submitted an application for funding of 5 multi sectioned boxes.

Item 04 – Trees/Bushes in Closed Churchyard – Cllr MacLachlan confirmed that permission had been received to reduce the yew tree in the Churchyard and Cllr Hull had carried out the work. There is a tree growing out of a grave and some brambles on the back wall that also need removing. Clerk agreed to speak to McGregor’s about carrying out the work. **Action – Clerk**

Item 06 - Stud Farm on Mill Road – Clerk advised that Planning Dept had replied to his advice of the proposed livery business. Their initial thoughts were that the Planning did not necessarily prevent this as it might be associated with a stud farm, but were not able to investigate any potential breach until the business commenced in November. Cllrs felt that the additional traffic that could be generated by a livery business could be significantly in excess of the expected Stud Farm traffic and would discuss again once the business is operating.

Item 13 – Damaged Sign at Pond - Clerk advised that quotes had been received for the repair work and approved by the Insurers. APD Ltd have been asked to proceed with the repair and once completed, McGregor’s will be asked to install.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 23/00849/FUL 1.7m timber fence behind new hedging retrospective (resubmission 22/01415/FUL) Location: The Paddock 1B Gazeley Road Ashley. **REFUSED**
- b) Ref 23/00591/VAR To vary condition 1 (approved drawings) and condition 4 (tree protection plan) of previously approved Ref 22/00908/FUL Butchers Farm, 8 Mill Road, Ashley – relates largely to tree root issues for proposed new patio, Cllrs have no comments.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in September/October

	£
Cambs County Council – Precept 2 nd instalment.	9,550.00

(b) To authorise the following payments

	£
McGregor Services – Grass cutting September £408.00 - Annual hedge cut £660.00	1,068.00
Kevin Dadds – Clerks salary Jul - Sep	1236.57
HMRC – PAYE on Clerks Salary Jul - Sep	309.00
Kevin Dadds – Clerks expenses, including working from home allowance.	84.00

c) Clerk presented the half year Responsible Finance Officer report. Income YTD is £19,516 with full precept received, and expenditure of £10,809 is on track. Balances at Bank total £86,880 include an unspent CIL receipt of £21k. Significant expenditure will be required on replacing Play equipment in the short/medium term. The full summary is displayed on website.

8. PAVILION TRUST

Clerk advised that he had not received a reply from the Fairhaven's agent to his email detailing the proposal to re-build the Pavilion, and had chased.

Cllr Howell reported that additional external lighting was being proposed to cover both the pedestrian exit and exit to car park. A memorial bench to Peter Bridge is being sited at the pond on a new base and the old bench is being removed and is available for siting elsewhere. Unveiling of the bench is provisionally set for 11th November.

9. POND GROWTH

Then Bulrushes at the Pond are again in need of reducing and it was suggested that professional help was required to both remove and prevent excessive future growth. Clerk agreed to contact the contractors who cleared some of the growth several years ago for a quote. **Action - Clerk**

10. HEDGEROWS

A number of hedges are overhanging and obstructing footpaths. Clerk agreed to contact the owners and asked for them to be cut. **Action- Clerk**

11. SOLAR LIGHTS

A quote was received earlier in the year for street lighting between the existing lights at the top of Mill road and the lights at the Dalham/Gazeley Road junction. This proved to be excessive due to cable laying and new equipment required in addition to the lamp post themselves. It was suggested that solar lights may help, and Clerk advised that he had already e-mailed Balfour Beatty who manage the lights on behalf of Cambs CC, to ask if there were issues we need to be aware of.

12. WEBSITE

Cllr Howell advised that she was attempting to arrange a meeting with Keith Allen who manages the site and the Chairman of Ashley Pavilion Trust to discuss a joint site.

13. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) New notice boards.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Polling district review – No change in Woodditton ward.
- b) Letter from Cllr Ann Bailey – Leader of ECDC. Available on ECDC website <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/>

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday 13th November at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

KEVIN DADDS