



Ashley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 5th September 2022 at the Pavilion

Present: Cllr Sarah Howell (Chairman) Cllr Twink MacLachlan
Cllr Keith Allen Cllr Sarah Summers
Kevin Dadds (Clerk)

01. PUBLIC MEETING

One member of the public attended and spoke about her concerns as to the lack of street lighting in Church Street between Glebe Barn and the junction of Dalham/Gazeley Roads. This has been a long standing issue, and with an additional 4 houses recently constructed near the junction, pedestrian traffic is likely to increase. It was agreed that the issue would be raised with a representative of Cambs CC Highways when they visit the village in the near future. Cllr Howell thanked the resident for their comments.

D Cllr Sharp was unable to attend as the date clashed with another meeting. He advised that the Local Highways Initiative grant scheme will open at the end of October and close before Christmas. He is interested in the thoughts of the PC in respect of the road safety issues following the Public Meeting, and has previously offered to assist with the application for grant funding.

The Public Meeting Closed at 7.10 pm

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr's Hull and Winson-Pearce offered apologies.

03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th July 2022

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

04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 04 – Highways Issues – Clerk has asked Cambs CC Highways to give dates for a meeting in the village to discuss road safety.

Item 04 – ROSPA report – Cllr's viewed the Play Areas and the Clerk explained the areas of concern highlighted in the ROSPA report. In particular, the surface of the swing area does not meet current regulations and has become worn and uneven. Gaps have appeared between the rubber tiles and it is presenting trip hazards. The fixings have become worn and need replacing. Online Playgrounds, who recently installed the Rotating Cone Climber, have quoted to install a matching rubber mulch surface and carry out repairs to the swings for £2,322 + VAT. This includes renewing both swing seats, although Cllr's felt that the existing seats are still sufficient. Additionally, the roundabout has issues with the concrete base being visible, and likewise does not meet current regulations. A matching rubber mulch surface and minor repairs have been quoted at £669.50 + VAT. Multiple quotations were obtained when the earlier works were carried out, and on the basis that Online Playgrounds represented the best value, and the desire to install matching surfaces, no further quotes are required. It was agreed unanimously by Cllr's to proceed

with the works and Clerk will liaise with the contractors. The cost of the works will be covered by the annual reclaim of VAT in November. **Action - Clerk**

Item 04 - Damaged Pavement at Silhalls Close – Clerk advised that the pavement had been weeded, but no repairs carried out. D Cllr Sharp has agreed to follow up. **Action - D Cllr Sharp**

Item 09 – Assets of Community Value – Clerk advised that an “application to list” needs to be completed via a link through ECDC. Cllr’s discussed further, and on the basis that the PC did not have a mandate from the village and would not be in a position to step in if the property was offered for sale, it was agreed not to proceed with the application. In the event that the property is offered for sale, or any change of use is proposed, the PC would consider any required actions at the time.

Item 11 – Appearance of site at 28 High Street – Clerk advised that following a previous exchange with the site owner, on 5th August he had at their request, provided them with the contact details for McGregor Services as a suitable contractor to tidy up the site entrance. Despite this, the work had not been done. Cllr’s commented that the adjacent footpath to Cheveley, which runs along the edge of the site, is becoming overgrown. A chasing email has been sent.

05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 22/00842/FUL Orangery Extension – Bloodstock Barn, Mill Road. Cllr’s discussed and have no comments to add.
- b) Ref 22/00908/FUL – Two storey side and rear extension and internal changes – Butchers Farm, Mill Road. Cllr’s discussed what is a very large addition to the property. It was felt that Butchers Farm holds a special place in the village, and that any work should be in keeping with the character and setting of the existing building. Clerk agreed to send the comments on to ECDC. **Action – Clerk**
- c) Ref 22/00910/TRE T1 Sycamore, remove on grounds of potential damage to retaining wall and adjacent property – 5 The Green. Cllr’s discussed and have no objection.

07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in August/September

	£
ECDC – Facilities Improvement Grant (Rotating Cone Spinner).	1,973.78

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
McGregor Services - Village grass cutting July/August and annual hedge cut.	708.00
CPALC – Cllr training.	75.00
Suffolk Tree Surgery – New post on Recreation Ground barrier and reduction of Field maple	230.00
Ashly Pavilion Trust – Rent for Pavilion Q2 – signed at July meeting under “Urgent Matters” as received too late for inclusion on Agenda.	51.00

08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that herself, the Clerk and the Chairman of Ashley Pavilion Trust met the agent for Fairhaven Estates to discuss the Recreation Ground. The lease now has less than 42 years to run, and it was explained that this was insufficient to warrant major expenditure on the site by either extending or rebuilding the Pavilion. An earlier request to purchase the site had

been refused and he was asked whether there were options that could be discussed. He fully understood the position and agreed to discuss with the landowners and advise us of their thoughts.

APT have arranged meetings at the Pavilion on the evening of 7th October and morning of 8th October for residents to discuss, and give their views on what would be required in the event of changes to the Pavilion. Two new Trustees have been appointed.

The Trustees have met investment advisors to discuss options for investing the funds received from Peter Bridge's estate, in the event that they are not in a position to carry out work on the Pavilion.

09. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen advised that the website is up to date.

10. STREET LIGHTING IN CHURCH STREET

Cllr' discussed following the resident's comments in the Public Meeting. It was agreed that as the Clerk is in the process of arranging a visit from "Highways", it can be discussed at the time.

11. POND GROWTH

Cllr Howell advised that the reeds and Bulrushes at the pond are in need of a trim before winter. Clerk advised that he had received an email from Cllr Hull on the same subject and agreed to facilitate a date when the work could be completed. **Action – Clerk**

12. FLOODING IN MILL ROAD

The bottom of Mill Road flooded again after the recent heavy rain. One resident had a flooded kitchen and a number of people have written to Cambs CC asking for action. The PC has already highlighted the problem and will await the response to the residents before deciding on a course of action.

13. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a) Accessibility in the village.
- b) Fuel Poverty

14. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from Lucy Frazer MP advising that she is happy to give support in respect of damage to local roads (particularly potholes), new signage, requests for road safety, grants and liaising re speed checks.
- b) E-mail from Lucy Frazer MP giving summer update. Subjects covered include Newmarket Curve (improving rail links between Cambridge and Newmarket), Junctions 37 & 38 of A14/A142, Sunnica solar farm, Swaffham Prior Heat Project and Ukraine welcome reception.
Full details can be seen on her website www.lucyfrazer.org.uk

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th October at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

KEVIN DADDS