



# Ashley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Ashley Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Pavilion

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

Cllr Simon Hull  
Cllr Sarah Summers

### 01. PUBLIC MEETING

No members of the public were present.

D Cllr sharp advised that he had spoken to the Local Highways Officer about the damaged pavement in Silhalls Close and they had discussed repair options. Further discussions will take place.

The cancellation by Stagecoach of 18 bus routes has caused many complaints and a number of discussions are taking place as to whether temporary funding can be sourced to protect the routes.

The Local Highways Initiative is open for grant funding requests from 31<sup>st</sup> October until 6<sup>th</sup> January. D Cllr Sharp has offered to assist should the PC wish to submit an application.

**The Public Meeting Closed at 7.10 pm**

### 02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Keith Allen offered apologies.

### 03. TO SIGN & APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2022

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

### 04. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 04 - Damaged Pavement at Silhalls Close – D Cllr Sharp updated in Public Meeting

Item 04 – Appearance of site at 28 High Street – Clerk advised that he had been advised that the site had been sold by Etopia to PR Build Ltd and completion had taken place. The previous owner's representative agreed to forward contact details. It was expected that work on the site would commence shortly.

Item 11 – Plant Growth in Pond – Cllr's discussed and will agree a time to carry out the works shortly. Agreed date will be advised to Clerk and he has been asked to hire a skip to allow removal of the cut vegetation. **Action - Clerk**

### 05. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

## 06. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Ref 22/00842/FUL Orangery Extension – Bloodstock Barn, Mill Road. **REFUSED**
- b) Ref 22/00910/TRE T1 Sycamore, remove on grounds of potential damage to retaining wall and adjacent property – 5 The Green. **PERMITTED**
- c) Ref 22/01087/FUL Single storey rear extension - 80 Mill road, Ashley (Retrospective). Permission had previously been granted for a red brick two storey extension which would blend in well with surrounding houses. The extension built, now the subject of the retrospective application, varied significantly from the permission granted and had been rendered white. The applicant claimed the extension was not visible but this was in fact not the case: it was visible from several points on Church Street. It was agreed that there was no objection to the extension itself but that it should be painted / rendered in a colour which would blend in with its surroundings.  
The Clerk was asked to pass these comments on to ECDC. **Action – Clerk**
- d) Ref 22/01129/TRE - T1 Field Maple, Reduce Crown by 30% and lift to 2m to prevent road overhang. T2 Oak, fell - small, self-seeded and under canopy of adjacent field maple. Grass triangle at The Green, Ashley. Application Submitted by Parish Council

## 07. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To note following receipts in September/October

	£
CDC – Precept – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment	9,550.00

b) To authorise the following payments

	£
McGregor Services - Village grass cutting September	444.00
McGregor Services – Duplicate cheque 737 issued 11/07/22 not received.	636.00
Kevin Dadds – Clerks salary July - September	1,098.01
HMRC – PAYE on Clerks salary	274.40
Kevin Dadds – Clerks expenses July – Sept (Working from home allowance)	78.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit fee (arrived too late for inclusion on Agenda)	240.00

c) Clerk presented the half year Responsible Financial Officer Report dated 30/09/22.

Actual spend to date is £21,851 with a further expectation of £12,820 for full year (including works proposed in agenda Item 12) making a total of £34,671.

Income YTD is £22,394 and with £3k expected from VAT rebate in December will total £25,394 for full year resulting in a deficit for the full year of £9,277.

The deficit results largely by grant monies of £8.6k being received in the previous financial year and spent in the current year. The surplus from 2021/22 was £13k.

## 08. PAVILION TRUST

Cllr Howell advised that there had been meetings at the Pavilion last weekend to allow residents to give their views. A questionnaire has been given out and feedback is awaited. The Trustees have agreed for extra security measures following a recent break in. No response has been received to date from the Fairhaven Estate with regard to purchasing or extending the lease on part or all of the playing field. Any action on the Pavilion is subject to what the Fairhaven Estate might allow on the land.

## 09. WEBSITE

Cllr Allen will update at the next meeting

## 10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr Hull and the Clerk met a representative from Cambs CC Highways to discuss a number of safety and parking issues.

- a) Speeding in High Street – An application for grant funding was unsuccessful earlier in the year and it was felt that this remains the best option to slow down traffic and a further application for funding can be submitted from 31<sup>st</sup> October. Discussions are being held in respect of a countywide lowering of village speed limits to 20 MPH, but no decisions are imminent.
- b) Newmarket Road/High Street junction – Following the Public Meeting to discuss, residents did not feel that parking restrictions would be an acceptable solution. A suggestion was to move the white lining adjacent to the Pond to enable traffic coming from Church Street to move further to the left and have sight of the junction before proceeding past the parked cars. The white lining at the entrances to both Chapel Row and The Green would need to be adjusted also. The Highways representative felt that this had merits although would need to be by private funding as Cambs CC would not cover the cost. The PC would need to pay a £500 non-returnable fee to the CC to allow a survey and plans to be drawn up. The cost of the project would likely be approx. £6k which would include the planning and implementation to include road closure fees and signage. It was not felt that this would be a good project for a LHI grant application, as the panel may well take the view that yellow lining and therefore preventing parking was a cheaper option, despite the knock on effect of vehicles having to park elsewhere.
- c) The Green – The problem of the narrow road and parked cars resulting in verge damage from larger vehicles was discussed. The only real option would be to reduce the grass area and widen the road. The potential cost of a small strip of road would be between £8 and £15k depending on the existing surface under the grass.
- d) Street Lighting in Church Street – The area between the Gazeley Road/Dalham Road junction and bend at the top of Church Street where there is no street lighting was viewed. As guide, each pole would cost approx. £3k and 4 or 5 would be needed for the entire stretch. A separate team deal with the lighting and it was suggested that we contact them.

Cllr's discussed the various issues and agreed the following;

High Street – A further application under the LHI should be made after 31<sup>st</sup> October. D Cllr Sharp agreed to assist. **Action - Clerk**

Newmarket Road – It was agreed to start the process by requesting the survey and the £500 expenditure was agreed by all Cllr's present. **Action - Clerk**

The Green – Whilst the parking issue remains, the residents generally avoid parking on the narrow areas when large vehicles are due. The cost of any works is prohibitive.

Street Lighting in Church Street – Clerk agreed to contact the Lighting team at Cambs County Council. **Action - Clerk**

## 11. TREE SURVEY

Cllr Hull has completed the survey and it was agreed to circulate a copy to Cllr's and discuss at the next meeting. **Action Cllr Hull/Clerk**

## 12. REPAIRS TO PLAY EQUIPMENT

It was agreed at the September meeting to proceed with the re-surfacing of the swing and roundabout with a recycled rubber mulch surface to match the recently installed Rotating Cone Spinner. The ROSPA report was sent to Online Playgrounds who carried out the earlier work

and they have now quoted for additional repairs highlighted in the report. This includes re-concreting the toddler slide that is now loose in the ground, a new basketball net and a number of re-tightening and replacing missing bolts. With the preliminaries, removing and replacing fencing and environmental disposal of waste the total cost is £5,019.65 + VAT. Cllr's discussed and agreed that the works should be carried out to preserve the safety of the site. Proposed by Cllr Howell and seconded by Cllr Hull. **Action - Clerk**

### **13. LIME TREES IN CHURCHYARD**

Cllr MacLachlan advised that branches from the avenue of Lime Trees were now touching the Church Building. Clerk obtained 2 quotes to pollard the trees in July and agreed to update them and seek a third quote. The Church will be approached for permission to carry out the works.  
**Action – Clerk**

### **14. DRAFT TRANSPORT STRATEGIES**

Clerk advised that The Transport Strategy team at Cambridgeshire County Council has developed three draft transport strategies for adoption in spring 2023 that will set the County Council's transport policy approach for the districts of Fenland and Huntingdonshire, and for active travel across the whole county. The Public Consultation is open and can be accessed via website <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/>.

### **15. URGENT MATTERS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- a) Drainage at Recreation Ground
- b) Gulley cleaning
- c) Expired lease of Pavilion

### **16. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on the first Monday of November as the Chairman would be unavailable on the usual date of the second Monday.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

**KEVIN DADDS**