

# DRAFT MINUTES

2022/51



## ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm**

#### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Chris Rand (**CR**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Les Curtis (**LC**), Fiona Jacob (**FJ**), Mark Wakeling (**MW**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Buckinghamshire Councillors, Paul Irwin (**PI**) and Ashley Waite (**AW**) were also present

**Parishioners:** There were three Parishioners present.

#### **Parishioners Question Time**

A Parishioner asked for road closure signs to be promptly removed after works are completed. Signs are still remaining some 5 days after. A Parishioner thanked Ashendon for its fantastic leap forward in getting superfast broadband into the Village and offered to join a working party in Ashendon's quest to get Ultrafast broadband. **ACTION: PI to arrange meeting with Greg Smith, MP (mid-September/early October) and members of working party.**

#### **1. Apologies**

There were none.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 20th June 2022**

The Draft Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Chris Rand.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

- **Boughton's Peace Wild Garden.** Thanks were paid to the working party who cut and cleared the site. A further clear up with take place in the autumn.
- **Combined Village Website.** Clerk has met with Peter Johnson, Kevin Nash, Peter Smettem and agreed format and content for integration of Ashendon Village website with the Parish Council website. The domain of the existing village website expires in December and it is anticipated that works with be completed by the November meeting of the Parish Council, if not before.
- **Defibrillator for Pollicott.** **ACTION: CLERK to return VAHT monitoring form. SM/CLERK to arrange training session with London Hearts and parishioners.**
- **Ashendon Playing Field Association - contribution towards Insurance.** APFA has secured the support of a regular hirer, which has eased the Association's previous financial concerns.

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- **Scots Pine on Boughton's Peace.** The planning application administered by Four Seasons Tree Care has been withdrawn to avoid a Tree Preservation Order on the Scots Pine. The tree needs to remain unless the condition of the tree changes. **ACTION: CLERK to send details to Paul Irwin/Ashley Waite so that the PC can consider appealing this decision.**
- **Conditions of Village Roads.** Ashendon to Westcott remains a failed road but has been repaired in places. There will be no potholes and patch this year. Cllr Paul Irwin continues to press for urgent repairs for next year.
- **Damaged footbridge between Ashendon and Nether Winchendon, and poor repair of footbridge on the footpath between Ashendon and Dorton.** Buckinghamshire Council has replaced a larger structure on FP10 on the parish boundary with Lower Winchendon. Due to financial resources, it has not been possible to fund the replacement of the structure on the parish boundary at the junction of public footpath number 9 (in the Parish of Ashendon) and public footpath number 2 (in the parish of Dorton). Rights of Way Capital projects for this year have already been allocated but this has been added to 2023 capital projects. Meanwhile, an officer is reviewing the condition of the bridge and in all likelihood, close the public footpath across the bridge by traffic regulation order for public safety.
- **Bouncy Funday Sunday.** This new initiative, as an alternative to Play Around the Parishes, was very well received with 70 children and 40 adults attending. Thanks were paid to Clare for arranging.
- **Tree planting project (as part of the relaunch of the Bernwood Jubilee way).** **ACTION: FJ to join a Teams meeting for more details.** Awaiting date from Elaine Hassell.

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

#### 5. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

PI commended the team that organised the new and accessible playground and said the new playground was a fantastic asset for Ashendon and surrounding villages. HGV traffic through villages has eased but work is progressing on the environmental ban. The Bernie Bus food collection is being very well supported. AW informed the meeting that Council tax refunds have been completed for all eligible households in Bucks. The small grant element of the H&W Community Board (£1,000) is still available but large funds have now been exhausted. The Community Board meet next on 27<sup>th</sup> September on Teams. Fix my Street, which traditionally runs for Bucks Council properties, is running a trial to include Parish owned assets so that enquiries can be redirected as necessary. New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Buckinghamshire Council. The 10-week consultation (which runs until 10.10.22) proposes new pattern of wards and a reduction of Councillors from 147 to 98 councillors. **Please have your say here:** [Have your say on a new pattern of wards for Buckinghamshire Council - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#). A new online self-service planning tool has been launched.

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## 6. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations

- **H&W Community Board Litter Picking Forum.** Attended by FJ. There is litter picking equipment available to hire. There were suggestions to get children and young people involved (for example Duke of Edinburgh students). PI stressed that all volunteers wear high-vis Jackets. The next litter picking forum is on Tuesday 6th September at 5pm via MS Teams. **ACTION: FJ to attend.**

## 7. Correspondence

- Email from Resident with overgrown land concerns in Lower End. Colin Woolford, Local Area Technician, Buckinghamshire Council has sent details of the highway extents and has confirmed that the trees and hedges are all private boundary trees/hedgerows and the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. Colin has also confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council do not prune or fell a council owned tree or remove or reduce interference with telephone or electrical wires. **ACTION: As a devolved Parish Council, CLERK to write to landowner requesting cutting back of overgrown land referring to HIGHWAYS ACT 1980, SECTION 154.**

## 8. Speed Awareness Project

- **Wotton Road Footpath.** The proposed pathway is to be located on Thames Water ground. Despite ongoing efforts, Chris Rand is unfortunately no further forward with Thames Water than he was 12 months ago\*. **ACTION: PI to request support of Greg Smith, MP.**
- **HS2 Road Safety Fund.** Letter received (29.0722) confirming the Footpath on Wotton Road is being considered in the Stage 2 assessments. These are expected to be completed by the end of January 2023 and will include detailed consideration of more complex applications to ensure that all costs and risks/issues are fully understood, and that schemes are feasible. A member of the RSF project team will be in touch within the next two months to discuss the next steps. It was noted that not all applications being taken forward to Stage 2 assessment will be offered funding
- **Speed Indicator Device (SID).** The team, Richard Phillips, Peter Johnson, Chris Pullen and Sian Miller are beginning to understand the full potential of the SID and handle its data output usefully. A report was provided with speed figures. On average 60% are speeding when they passed the 30mph on Wotton Road. The average speed is 38mph, at the SID. There was a recorded speed of 98mph. The PC **agreed** to the purchase of a further SID function to record additional data at a cost of £150.00. Proposed SM, seconded LC.

**\*Post Meeting Addendum:** Email received from Thames Water. Thames Water has now had the opportunity to consider the title and land ownership and has concluded that there is at least 1.5m alongside the roadway that is not registered to Thames Water.

## 9. Ultrafast Broadband

**ACTION: CLERK to re agenda for full discussion at November meeting.**

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### 10. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (20<sup>th</sup> June 2022): £32,234.84**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
  - **Debits: £621.42** (Npower Business - (£93.42), RTM Landscapes (£432.00), JE Accountants £96.00)
  - **Plus unpresented cheques: £0.00**
  - **Less standing orders: £748.80** (Clerk Salary June, July, August))
  - **Balance of Bank Account: £30,864.62** (as at 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022)
- Available Funds: £30,864.62** (balance of bank account less unpresented cheques)
- a. **Orders for Payment: £187.55**
- **Venetia Davies - £30.00** (Backdated pay - due to no readjustment on Standing Order with Bank (June, July, August – as agreed in 2021/22))
  - **Venetia Davies - £55.55** (£28.35 Clerk travel, stationery £19.60 and postage £7.60)
  - **Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) - £62.00** (Membership)
  - **Information Commissioner - £40.00** (Data Protection Fee)
- BALANCE: £30,677.07** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- **Also Agreed**
  - **RTM Landscapes Ltd - £432.00** (£360.00 + £72.00 VAT) (August Grass Cutting)
  - **Traffic Technology - £402.00** (£335.00 + £67.00 VAT). (Additional brackets for SID)
  - **Clare Cook - £236.40** (Bouncy Castle and Refreshments for Funday).
- BALANCE: £29,606.67** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- b. **Management Report.** September 2022 circulated.
- c. **Banking.** **ACTION: SM/CLERK to send letter requested new passcode for online banking.**

### 11. Planning

- **22/02715/ALB and 22/02714/APP - Watbridge Farm, Westcott Road, Ashendon, HP18 0HA.** Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension. Internal alterations and fenestration alterations. Case Officer: Emily Kingswell. Comments by: 12 September 2022. **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**

### 12. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Litter Pick Forum:** 06.09.22 at 5.00pm on Teams
- **Greatmoor/Calvert CLG meeting** - Saturday 17.09.22 at 10am in person and on Teams.
- **Grass Cutting:** Verges: w/c 03.10.22. Boughton's Peace: 09.22
- **Official Opening of New Accessible Playground:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm. Camping and live music.
- **Litter Pick: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November** at 10am. Please meet in Playing Fields carpark. **ACTION: CLERK/SM to promote. PI/AW to arrange litter pickers/collection of litter.**
- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** To be purchased and planted November 2022. To be registered on the Queen's Green Canopy website. Working party for watering.
- **Bernie Bus** - Santa and Collection of Food. Date to be confirmed.

#### b. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall**