

DRAFT MINUTES

2022/40



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall. Monday 21st March 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: There was one Parishioner present.

Parishioners Question Time

There were no questions.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman, Chris Rand.

1. Apologies

Paul Irwin (**PI**)

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 17th January 2022

The Draft Minutes of the January meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Sian Miller.

3. Matters Arising

- **Community Allotment.** Project ongoing.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Playground Project

Planning permission (21/04668/APP) for the new updated and accessible play equipment has been granted. This now allows APFA to enter into a funding agreement with FCC and to finalise the specification with the selected contractor (which will include, amongst others, a new roundabout, two new climbing frames, two seats of swings, a climbing wall, keep fit parallel bars, a zip wire, the

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current 'springy' horse and a picnic bench). Works are to begin w/c 2nd May with completion approximately 3 weeks later. It is very much hoped that the new playground will be up and running by the Platinum Jubilee weekend commencing on Tuesday 2nd June. David reiterated the issues with Bucks Council with regard to planning and S106 funding. All donors will be listed and recognised on a funding board. Communications with the village will commence soon.

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Ashley Waite updated the meeting. Road licence applications have increase by 40% resulting in scheduling issues and subsequently persistent traffic on the A41. Steps have now been taken to improve traffic management with traffic control now being manual to improve traffic flows. The Haddenham and Waddeson Community Board funded 31 applications last year, across a wide geographic area. Bernie the Bus is running four days a week. Ashendon is still a strong contributor to the Food Bank. The Smile campaign is now issuing toys to local children year-round.

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations

- Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board (09.02.22). Attended by FJ who shared details of the Ashendon Wildlife Project.
- CLG meeting for Greatmoor and Calvert (16.02.22). Apologies, CR
- BC Creating Wilder Road Verges (17.03.22). Attended by FC. The presentation explored how management costs of grass areas can be reduced, while improving biodiversity at the same time and cited Dorset County Council's success in reducing its grass cutting considerably over a period of four year. Given the backdrop to the Ashendon Wildlife project, Councillors agreed to trail this approach for Boughton's Peace, reducing the number of cuts to three (possibly May, July and September) with clippings used on the community allotment. **ACTION: CR to discuss with contractor for Boughton's Peace. Councillors to also inform residents affected.**

8. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Various activities are planned to include the Lighting of the Beacon on Thursday 2nd June and a *Bring and Share* lunch for the Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June. A bunting competition and other activities will also take place. It is also hoped that the new playground will be officially opened on this celebratory weekend. The Parish Council agreed to fund a Platinum Jubilee Emblem Bookmark for village children. Councillors agreed to purchase either an Oak or Elm (disease resistant) commemorative tree, to be planted in the playing field. The Parish Council will be responsible for watering. **ACTION: CR to meet with APFA to agree suitable location. MW to arrange watering party (perhaps with those involved with the community allotment).**

9. Village Website

It is proposed that the RLSC village website be incorporated into the Ashendon Parish Council site by including a section in it that relates specifically to the content on the RLSC website. Photos could be included in a separate Gallery. Peter Johnson has kindly offered to identify and prep the material for the Clerk to integrate. Councillors agreed to the material being incorporated. **ACTION: CLERK/SM to agree section/layout.** The domain expires in December 2022. The integration aims to be completed by summer.

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10. Speed Awareness Project

- **Wotton Road Footpath.** The proposed pathway is to be located on Thames Water ground. Thames Water had outsourced its land and property management but is now back in house. It is hoped communications will now improve. **ACTION: CR to chase response to email.**
- **Speed Indicator Device (SID).** The new SID will be delivered in April. **ACTION: CLERK to chase invoice for payment. CLERK to invoice Buckinghamshire Council to reclaim agreed funding and check the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance (£5m).** A risk assessment is required upon installation. A training session will be arranged with provider, Traffic Technology.
- **Ashendon Community Speed Watch (led by Richard Phillips).** **ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS agreed to attend the online training session.** A further appeal for volunteers will be made at the AVM. It was noted that both the SID and Community Speed Watch collect data. The data from the Community Speed Watch provides downloadable data for the Police but the SID will provide data for Ashendon.
- **HS2 Road Safety Fund.** **ACTION: Councillors to review criteria here for possible contribution to Wotton Road pathway:** [HS2 Road Safety Fund](#)

11. Defibrillator for Pollicott

The defibrillator has been delivered and will be installed shortly. **CLERK to return VAHT monitoring form and register the unit with Emergency Services UK. CLERK/SM to arrange training session with London Hearts and parishioners.**

12. Boughton's Peace Wildlife Project

A bring and share unit is being constructed. Remaining grant monies will be used for wildflowers.

13. Children's Play Activity

A parishioner has kindly agreed to lead a children's play activity (as an alternative to Play Around the Parish) and will provide a proposal to the Parish Council. Ashley Waite recommended Ride on Time, a local ride-on toy hire company. **ACTION: CLERK to agenda at future meeting.**

14. 2022/23 Grass Cutting

Councillors agreed to continue with the same cutting schedule as 2021 (6 cuts per year - £360.00 per cut). A quotation for Boughton's Peace was received. As above, CR will liaise with contractor re revised cutting schedule.

15. Correspondence

- Email regarding safety of pine trees on Boughton's Peace. **ACTION: CR/CLERK to obtain a quote for removal of trees.** These to be replaced with a smaller tree as part of Wild Ashendon project. Email from Chair of Ashendon Village Hall. There will be a small increase in the hire fee of the Village Hall - £12 per annum).

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16. Annual Village Meeting – Thursday 7 April 2022 at 8pm

A number of village organisations and societies have confirmed attendance. **ACTION: CLERK to issue Agenda and publicise on website. SM to promote via Facebook and Village What's App Groups. SM to purchase wine and nibbles.**

17. Clerk Salary

Councillors agreed to an increase in the clerks salary in line with the Pay Award 2021-22, and backdated as proposed by the Award to April 2021. Proposed CR, seconded LC. **ACTION: CLERK to inform JE Accountants who administers the payroll.**

18. Finance

a. Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (17th January 2022): £33,153.47

- Receipts: £0.00
- Debits: £1,220.69 (£44.69 Npower Business and £1,176.00 JCC Electrical Ltd)
- Plus unrepresented cheques: £128.00 (Ashendon Village Hall)
- Less standing orders: £499.20 (Clerk Salary)
- Balance of Bank Account: £ 31,561.58 as at 23rd February 2022)
- Available Funds: £ 31,433.58 (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)

b. Orders for Payment: £534.95

- Venetia Davies - £9.45 (Clerk travel)
- Venetia Davies - £180.00 (Use of Home)
- Len Holder - £290.00 (Mowing of Boughton's Peace 2021 as per quotation)
- Kevin Nash - £55.50 (£46.25 + £9.25 VAT) (New Electrode Pads for Defibrillator).
- BALANCE: £30,898.63 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

c. Management Report. The report for March was circulated.

19. Planning

There were no new planning applications.

20. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- TFB Stakeholder Event (Aylesbury Tfb depot) - Tuesday 22 March, 5.15pm-6.45pm. **ACTION: SM/FJ to attend.**
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Lighting of Beacon – 2 June 2022.

21. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Annual Village Meeting: Thursday 7th April 2022
Annual General Meeting: Monday 16th May 2022 at 8pm in Ashendon Village Hall