

**ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 8 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Kevin Nash (Chairman)  
Les Curtis  
Sian Miller  
Christopher Rand  
Peter Smettem

**Apologies:** County Councillor and Paul Irwin  
District Councillor

Clerk Michael Rand

Three members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

The Chairman invited members of the public to address the Council in an open forum.

The Meeting was then opened at 8.05 pm.

**2015. Minutes.**

**Resolved.**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015 be signed as a correct record.

**ACTION**

**2016. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**2017. Rural Affordable Housing.**

An update was given.

The Rural Housing Officer (Mrs. Jean Fox) and a housing trust have identified suitable sites.

Mrs. Jean Fox is in negotiation with the owners.

If, and when, agreement is reached the Parish Council will be informed and asked for their approval.

**2018. Community Speed Watch.**

Cllr. Miller informed the meeting that, although no further use of the speed equipment had taken place, two new volunteers had come forward who require training.

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2019. **APFA MUGA Grant.**

Cllr. Smettem updated the meeting.

All grant applications had now been submitted and favourable responses are expected.

2020. **Reports from Representatives on Outside Organisations.**

**LAF.** Councillor Nash gave an update.

The LAF meeting had agreed to fund the purchase of a new Sentinel Speed Device to replace, or to be used alongside, the existing equipment.

**AVDC PLANNING SEMINAR.** Councillor Smettem reported that the main part of the presentation was given to the advantages of communities having a Neighbourhood Plan. Although Parishes, such as Ashendon, are considered to be too small for such a Plan, consideration should be given to “a cluster” Neighbourhood Plan which would involve several neighbouring parishes joining together.

**BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES.**

Councillor Smettem’s report will form part of Item 2022.

2021. **Broadband.**

An update was given.

- Aylesbury Vale Broadband had agreed that the 64 registrations of interest was a significant show of interest considering it had not been sought.
- The Company, Gigaclear, are not proposing to lay fibre cable but are working with a satellite company to provide superfast broadband to the area.
- Village Networks have now identified a property along Main Street to provide connection to properties that do not have a direct line of site to the main aerial at Westcott. The Company has improved its performance at peak times and it has now reached agreement with other parties to provide a minimum of service of 24 mbps to all subscribers within the next four to six weeks.

Item 2021 Broadband Continued.

- Connected Counties have now agreed their superfast extension programme will include preference areas. These are areas that have been identified as having very poor or no broadband coverage. BT will be asked to prioritise solutions to these areas. Ashendon had been identified as a 'preference' area. An initial survey has been carried out by BT and it is now proposed that the new cabinet that had originally been proposed adjacent to the existing one Westcott side of the village, is now to be sited nearer the centre of the village. AVDC plan to provide £800,000 towards the preference areas identified in the district (of which Ashendon forms part) which will attract match-funding from the Government making a total of £1.6 million. It is anticipated this work will start at the beginning of the 2016 financial year. A more detailed survey and costing is in the process of being completed for the cable extension into the village from Westcott.

Due to the above progress a letter had not been sent to Speaker, John Bercow, asking for his support.

**Resolved:**

No further action to be taken unless Ashendon is not considered a 'preference parish' by BT.

2022. **Grass Verge Cutting/Devolution.**

Councillor Smettem gave a report of the meeting he attended and explained the detail on the slide presentation from the meeting that had been circulated to all Councillors. A discussion took place on the advantages and pitfalls of entering into an agreement with BCC on the grass cutting, sign cleaning and Rights of Way clearing.

**Resolved.**

A working party to agree a specification of works and obtain quotations. Attention to be paid to such items as possible increased costs of a Public Liability Insurance, complaints procedures, and Risk Assessments. Information to be gathered in time for the next Council Meeting for a decision to be made on whether to enter into an agreement.

KN/PS/CR

2023. **Appointment of New Clerk.**

**Resolved.**

Venetia Davies to be appointed new Ashendon Parish Council Clerk commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Proposed by Cllr. Miller, Seconded by Cllr. Curtis

2024. **Outstanding Accounts:**

Aylesbury Vale District Council:

- (two sessions of Play Around the Parishes) £400.00
- Parish Council Election £630.00

Michael Rand (street light bulb, The Square) £6.60

**Resolved.**

Payment to be made.

Proposed by Cllr. Smettem, Seconded by Cllr. Rand

**Date of next Meeting:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.