



2022/01a

ASHENDON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
DRAFT Minutes of Annual Village Meeting held in The Village Hall
Thursday 7th April 2022 at 8pm

Chair: Sian Miller, Chair
Clerk: Venetia Davies, Clerk
Attendance: 8 Parishioners

1. Apologies

There were several apologies due to Covid.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 15th April 2019

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Book Group

There was no report.

5. Buckinghamshire Council - Cllr Paul Irwin and Cllr Ashely Waite

Cllr Paul Irwin: The launch of the new Unitary authority coincided with the start of the coronavirus pandemic and as such, the real benefits of the single Council is still to be seen. Road licences have gone up by 40% in the last year. Works in Station Road are almost complete. The new temporary roundabout (5 years) and new traffic lights have made things safer. HS2 are keen to support community projects including groundworks including vegetation clearing. Ashendon was thanked for its monthly support towards the Bernie Food Collection. It is hoped for a 'bumper' collection for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Smile campaign now includes birthdays. The Government is providing extra money for failed roads. Plane and patch repairs to Ashendon will be completed this year. The Ashendon to Westcott Road is a priority. The Waddesdon Greenway has been a fantastic success. It was described as the 'gift that keeps giving.' Paul will inform APC about the new speed watch and litter pick showcase initiatives. Vouchers will be available for lunchtime meals for the over-65s. There are now 2 Bernie buses running 7 days a week. More volunteer drivers are needed.

Cllr Ashley Waite: Council savings have been diluted due to lack of income during the pandemic but income is now started to rise. Most services are going through a Service Review. There was a modest 2% increase in Council Tax ([Report filed and available to view here](#)). Adult social care and the impact of the Levelling Up agenda was briefly discussed, and its potential effect on Council Tax and Precepts going forward. The Community Board funding has been significantly reduced (approximately £140,000). There will be three areas – highways and traffic, large projects (capped at £15K with an element of match funding) and new micro grants (of up to £1,000). Tremendous support is being shown to Ukrainian families through Buckinghamshire. There are regular collections for Ukraine in Waddesdon Village Hall.



2022/02a

6. Parochial Church Council, Peter Smettem

[Report filed and available to view here.](#)

Thanks were given to Gemma and to Jenny and Peter Johnson in leading the services in Ashendon. Also to Peter Johnson and Imogen Holbrook for organising the weekly Compline service streamed live during the pandemic. Fiona Jacob and the Ashendon Voices were thanked for their singing during the Christmas Carol Service. A 'look back' was given. Peter Smettem, who will have been Churchward for 25 years, is stepping down from his role in 2023 and will not be seeking re-election to the PCC. The meeting thanked Peter Smettem for his long service and members of the Parochial Church Council.

7. Community Allotment, Mark Wakeling

In 2021, the playing field association allocated a couple of unused allotments to the PC to serve as a community allotment, it's purpose to grow food where people live and to educate and include villagers in a community initiative. One of the plots is currently being prepared with a no dig/mulching of hay. Villagers will be invited to get involved when it's time to plant. It is hoped the allotment will provide a Village vegetable box. Thanks were paid to Mark for leading a project that the community can get involved with.

8. Community Speed Watch, Richard Philips

Apologies from Richard Philips. Richard Bates read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

There are now 5 trained volunteers but a network of Volunteers is required so that more sessions can be set up to reduce speeding in Ashendon. Please get in touch with Richard on 07939 662040. Email: therichardphillips@hotmail.com

9. Dominoes, Kevin Nash

Apologies from Kevin Nash. Sian Miller read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here.](#)

If you would like to join the dominoes team or learn more about the game, please get in contact with Kevin Nash: kevinpnash@yahoo.co.uk

10. Gatehangers Association, Kevin Nash

Apologies from Kevin Nash. Sian Miller read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here.](#)

Diary Date: Supper on Friday 20th May at the Hundred PH.

11. Ashendon Parish Council, Chair, Sian Miller

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

Sian Miller provided an annual report on the Parish Council which gave a 'whistlestop tour' of the Parish Council's main achievements and priorities over the past 3 years. Villagers were reminded to report issues regarding road maintenance to:

<https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>. It is hoped to introduce the litter pick from April 2023.



2022/03a

A fond farewell was given to long standing Parish Councillors Kevin Nash and Peter Smettem in April 2021. Two new Parish Councillors, Fiona Jacob and Mark Wakeling were welcomed to the PC during 2021. Sian, who was voted Chair in May 2021, thanked the new Parish Council, the Parish Clerk and Parishioners for their support and commitment to the Parish, particularly during extremely challenging times. Sian encouraged Parishioners to sign up to the village website to receive planning applications and news alerts www.ashendonparish.org.uk. The website also details the recent Boughton's Peace Wildlife Project. Work to incorporate the existing Village website into the Parish Council website will commence in May/June this year. The Parish Council AGM takes place on Monday 16th May 2021 at 8pm. A Financial Report was circulated which detailed expenditure in 2021-22, grants and projects received (Pollicott Defibrillator and Boughton Peace Wildlife project) and secured (Speed Indicator Device) and planned expenditure for 2022-23. The precept remains at £16,000. [Filed and available to view here.](#)

12. Ashendon Playing Fields Association (APFA), David Crwys-Williams including Ashendon Playground

Apologies from Andy Theobald. Read by David Crwys-Williams.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

The Trustees of the APFA meet regularly and during the pandemic this was largely by Zoom. A new range of policies are now in place which were largely initiated by the requirements of funding applications for the new and accessible playground. The financial position of the Club is healthy, due mainly to the funding received for the playground project. The MUGA and future play equipment will be well insured. Sadly, for the first time, there has been some graffiti and vandalism. The Association set the playground project as its major focus during the pandemic. The project has raised approximately £108,000 (gross). Planning permission for the extended playground has been granted and the contract signed with the chosen supplier. The installation will commence in June and will take a period of approximately 6 weeks. Thanks was paid to Georgina Meddows-Smith for scoping the project. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up to Vale Lottery and to nominate Ashendon Playing Field as their chosen cause. A camping/BBQ date is being arranged for the summer. David Crwys-Williams thanked the PC for its grant towards the insurance each year.

13. Ashendon Village Hall, Richard Bates

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

A grant has secured the halls income which had been largely affected by a drop in rental income during the pandemic. A number of improvements have been made. Thanks were paid to Richard and to Rita for taking the bookings and preparing the hall for the PC meetings throughout the year.

Diary Date: Quiz Night, October 2022. Date to be confirmed.

14. Red Lion Social Club, Felicity Smettem.

Apologies from Luke Jamieson. Felicity Smettem read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)



2022/04a

Diary Date: The RLSC will be supporting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June from 12 noon on the playing field.

15. Danny Fahy, PSCO, Waddesdon & Haddenham Neighbourhood Police Team

Apologies from Danny Fahy. Report read by Mark Wakeling.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

16. Community Oil Buying, Roger Pike

Apologies from Roger Pike. Sian Miller read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

The Group has been running for 21 years and has purchased just over 1 million litres!. It costs £5 to join; £1 goes towards expenses with £4 going towards a charitable village organisation. Approximately £1,500 has gone to worthwhile Ashendon causes. Thanks were paid to Roger for co-ordinating the scheme.

17. Women's Institute, Vanessa Bates

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

The WI has the same number of members (19) as pre-Covid and is felt as a reflection of the groups effort to 'keep going' through the pandemic. Ashendon WI is in the process of preparing a Resolution on aspects of the NHS to be put forward to the national Federation, this initiated and driver by Sue Rand who is supported by a sub-committee. The WI continue to meet on the **second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**. Thanks were paid to Vanessa Bates.

18. Ashendon Voices, Fiona Jacobs

Apologies from Fiona Jacobs. Vanessa Bates read the report.

[Report filed and available to view here](#)

The Group hope to 'Sing for the Queen at the village Jubilee celebration. Ashendon Voices are tentatively planning a possible concert later in the year.

Closing Comments

The number of wide-ranging activities for Ashendon was pleasingly noted. Sian thanked contributors and attendees of the meeting.

Parish Council AGM – Monday 16th May 2022 at 8pm

Ashendon Village Hall