

Report from Parish Council to Village Meeting – Monday 16th April 2018

The Parish Council met seven times during the year and co-ordinated the Village meeting. Councillors also attended a number of meetings including Local Area Forum (LAF) meetings, the Vale of Aylesbury Plan parish seminar (as a smaller village we are not due to have any large scale property development), draft Transport Development plan, Calvert Landfill meetings and HS2 Community Fund meetings and training on General Data Protection Regulations and Freedom of Information requests

In conjunction with the District Council, we held one Play Around the Parishes session for under 10s in the Playing Field on 24th July and you might want to note that we have another planned for 14 August this year. Attendance largely depends on the weather and this year 38 attended. For those a bit older (teenagers and adults) in conjunction with the LAF Village Health & Fitness Programme we held a Zorb football session in the Playing Field, Fun Football & Multi-sport Coaching with Hercules Sport and six sessions with Ian Kink Fitness.

Following a questionnaire which we delivered to properties in the Village, we have set up two No Doorstep Selling Zones, one in Main Street and the other in Lower Pollicott. I don't recall having any uninvited sales people visit since.

We have continued to take what action we can to reduce speeding. A number of volunteers have been trained in the use of the Sentinel speed camera and it has been use on a number of occasion with good effect. We are monitoring HGVs coming through the village and would like weight restriction and we await the findings of the Transport Development Plan. We are planning some works with Transport for Bucks, to prevent further erosion of the grass verges in the village especially along the Causeway where we want to preserve the grass footway. We are also concerned about the hedge opposite the old shop which is overhanging the road and intend to take action to have it cut back.

You will receive a report from the Broadband Working Group who have put in a great deal of work to bring superfast broadband to Ashendon. They will, no doubt tell you how difficult it was to extract money towards the project from Thames Water and how this was achieved only after we involved our MP, John Bercow. I am well aware of the time and effort that has been put in by the Group and I would particularly like to thank David Crwys-Williams, Sian Miller and all and I would ask that you show your appreciation now and when they give their report.

There have been a number of planning applications over the year including the development of three dwellings at Upper Pollicott and another three at Valley Farm and one at Watbridge Farm and the construction of a new barn at East Farm. The Parish Council has not objected to any of these but has raised concerns if necessary. We encourage those who want information about planning and other issues in Ashendon to register with the Parish Council website. It's free!

We have continued to assist Ashendon Playing Fields Association by paying for the grass cutting and given other financial assistance and we have employed Toolshed, a social enterprise, to cut the verges and have been pleased with their work. We have also employed Len Holder to cut Boughton's Peace. Incidentally, we are aware that we have a phone box there with no phone. Openreach tell us that they will remove it but that there a two-year programme so it may be there for some time yet.

And finally, AVDC have confirmed that, following the development of four new houses at Lower Pollicott, we will receive £13,000 which is to be spent before April 2028 on sporting or leisure

facilities. The Parish Council has informed AVDC of possible projects – lighting of the MUGA, a boules court and new play equipment - and they have advised us that it may be worth considering using funds to help secure additional funding. The Playing Fields may cover this in their report.

There are a number of people I wish to thank: Parish Councillors for their support and for giving up their time both for meetings and work behind the scenes. Venetia, our clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and webmaster for her invaluable contribution and Robert Muggeridge, honorary internal auditor. Our District and County Councillor, Paul Irwin, is always on hand and we are grateful for the way he serves Ashendon.

I know that our official litter picks did not happen because of the weather but some people have collected bags of waste in their own time so I thank them and those who attended the Sentinel training and gave their time in monitoring the camera.

We will shortly receive reports from all the village organisations. You will learn of the amount of time they put in to maintain village facilities and to make Ashendon a fantastic place to live and I am sure we will thank each and everyone of them when they give their individual reports.

I am very happy to take questions.