

## ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 **Time:** 7.30 pm  
**Place:** Ashmansworth Village Hall  
**Present:** Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black  
Cllr Andrew Bays Cllr Angela Harris  
Cllr Graham Falconer Lisa Hill  
**In Attendance:** Sadie Owen (Clerk) 1 resident  
Amy White (Incoming Clerk)

#### 1. Councillor Co-option

Cllr Cox proposed and Cllr Black seconded the co-option of Lisa Hill to the parish council.

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. Cllr Cox agreed to sign them and hand back to the Clerk.

**Cllr  
Cox**

#### 3. Planning applications

- a) Applications received since last meeting  
22/01465/HSE The Old Cottage, Bartletts Down. No objections.

**Clerk**

New planning application  
22/01978/FUL , Land at Manor Farm Barns. Cllr Bays declared an interest and did not participate in the debate, as his company had provided the planning application drawings. No objections.

**Clerk**

#### 4. Council business

- a) Clerk's report  
The Clerk noted that she had submitted her resignation due to work commitments and introduced Amy White, Clerk of East Woodhay and Highclere who was interested in taking on the role.

**Cllr  
Cox**

It was reported that the defibrillator batteries were flat and that the supplier was unable to currently source any replacements. It was agreed that Cllr Cox would inform AshyPC email distribution list and would put a sign on the defibrillator. Clerk and Cllr Cox to investigate the feasibility of purchasing batteries from an alternative source.

**Clerk**

It was suggested that a further defibrillator demonstration would be good, once batteries had been sourced. Cllr Hill noted that she was fully trained.

b) Lengthsman tasks

Cllr Cox reported that there were a couple of stiles that required repair and that he would forward details to the lengthsman if no alternative tasks were requested.

**Cllr  
Cox**

Cllr Harris to obtain permission and liaise with the lengthsman in the future to cut back the nettles at Crux Easton churchyard.

**Cllr  
Harris**

c) Outstanding actions from past minutes

All actions were currently up to date.

d) Update from Borough Councillor

Cllr Falconer reported that Cllr Samuel Carr had recently joined the Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Homes and Regeneration. Cllr John Izett remained as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property.

Cllr Falconer noted that he was now a full time member of the Development Control Committee, and that there was still a significant backlog of planning applications. The Local Plan was progressing, but with still a number of policy amendments for review. The local land supply figure was reported to be at 4.6 years. There were also a large number of major developments locally awaiting appeal decisions.

Cllr Falconer commented that the councillor grant scheme had returned and was due to commence on 1 August with grants of £1,000 available for projects community benefit.

Borough council finances were good and the council had recently committed to not raising council tax for a further two years.

5. **Local Roads**

Potholes/Road Repairs

There was reported to be a large pot hole outside Steele's Farm. To be reported. Cllr Harris noted that the Drove had still not been re-surfaced.

**Cllr  
Black**

6. **Footpaths**

There was no update.

7. **Police update report**

Cllr Cox read an update from PCSO Joshua Revett that reported no issues of concern locally.

8. **Ukrainian guests**

Amy White explained having applied for a grant on behalf of hosts to a Ukrainian family in East End who were setting up a language school to assist with English. Amy offered to assist should Ashmansworth Parish Council wish to apply for a grant on behalf of any host family projects.

9. **Financial Matters**

- a) To review and sign the Certificate of Exemption – Cllr Cox and the Clerk duly signed the Certificate of Exemption confirming that during the year 2021-22 neither the council's total gross income nor total gross expenditure exceeded £25,000.00.

**Clerk**

- b) To approve and sign the annual governance statement 2021-22- the Clerk presented the annual governance statement to the council. The council approved the annual governance statement and Cllr Cox and the Clerk duly signed the relevant section. **Clerk**
- c) To approve and sign the annual accounting statement 2021-22 – the council approved the annual accounting statements as an accurate representation of the council's financial position and its receipts and payments. Cllr Cox and the Clerk duly signed the relevant section. **Clerk**
- d) To review the internal audit findings – the Clerk reported that the council needed to approve its statutory documents on an annual basis. To be undertaken at the next meeting. **Clerk**
- e) To acknowledge payments and note receipts – the Clerk presented the financial statement (Appendix A). The payments were unanimously approved. **Clerk**

**10. Date of next meeting**

Cllr Cox regretfully reported that ex-Councillor Sally Burch's mother had died. The councillors all sent their deepest sympathies.

Cllr Cox thanked the Clerk for her excellent service over the past 7 years and this was applauded by the councillors.

Next meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm.

## Appendix A

**Financial Statement:** Ashmansworth Parish Council

**Meeting date:** 21/07/2022

Statement No: 21/07/22 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 21/07/22
<b>£4,823.53</b>	<b>£4,294.19</b>

**Payments since last meeting date:**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
04/07/22	Do the Numbers	Audit fee	£150.00
04/07/22	GLEAM	Membership	£15.00
04/07/22	HALC	Affiliation fees	£145.50
04/07/22	NALC	Levy	£12.96
04/07/22	HALC	Membership fees	£198.00
04/07/22	Jeff Clark	Invoice 618	£205.20
04/07/22	Insurance:	Yearly premium	£384.60
20/07/22	Ionos internet	Email	£10.80
06/07/22	Ionos internet	Email	£3.00
21/06/22	Ionos internet	Email	£10.80
08/06/22	Ionos internet	Email	£3.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,138.86</b>

**New items for payment**

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary June	£144.48
	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary July	£144.48
	J D Clark & Sons	Invoice	£205.20
	Insurance	To top up to correct payment	£35.18
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>529.34</b>

**Receipts since last meeting date:**

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
	HMRC	VAT reclaim	143.27
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>143.27</b>

**Payments not yet presented**

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>0.00</b>