

## DRAFT MINUTES

2020/12



**ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting**  
**held by VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 8.00pm**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Kevin Nash (**KN**), Les Curtis (**LC**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Chris Rand (**CR**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Councillors Paul Irwin and Ashley Waite were also present.

**Parishioners:** There was one Parishioners present.

**Parishioners Question Time**

There were no questions.

**1. Apologies**

Peter Smettem (**PS**) and PCSO Danny Fahy. Danny had provided a written report. Key points were as follows:

- Theft of farm equipment. There have been thefts of tractors, tele-lifters, JCB's and a Kubota ATV in the area (some machinery worth £100K).
- High value power tools are being taken from sheds in the area. It seems that the offenders are going across fields to enter rear gardens and break into sheds and some garages.
- Members of the public out walking and cycling during lock down are encouraged to wear brighter clothes and consider which side of the road makes them safer.

**2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Draft Minutes of the May meeting were accepted as a true record (and will be signed) by Chairman KN.

**3. Matters Arising**

- **Elder on road outside Church wall and old wood on Boughton's Peace.** All removed with thanks to Cllr Curtis and Cllr Rand. Peter Smettem also sent in thanks to those who cleared up the stump in the Churchyard.
- **Village repairs** (damaged road between Ashendon and Westcott, potholes from the Old Forge towards Pollicott, bank outside the Old Forge widened and ruined by tractors and lorries that are to be filled with tarmac scrapings). **ACTION: KN/PI to chase Colin Woolford for repairs.**

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- **Sentinel Speed Watch.** Staff at the Police station have been furloughed and so are unable to collect data (any data collected must be processed within 21 days). Ashendon PC will be notified when the situation changes.
- **Parish Council Audit.** **ACTION: CLERK to send to PKF Littlejohn on receipt of Internal Auditor's report.**
- **Grass Cutting.** The contractor has confirmed that the areas identified as being missed in the previous cut will be dealt with in the June cut (w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June). **ACTION: KN to check works.**
- **Silent Solider.** Requires repair. **ACTION: KN/SM to liaise.**

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

#### 5. Coronavirus Pandemic

As far as the Parish Council is aware, Ashendon has thankfully had no known cases of Coronavirus.

#### 6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillors

PI reported that the Westcott roundabout is well underway and is being well received. New boxes for the food donations collected by the Bernie Bus will be going into the bus stop and at Pollicott. The Bernie's Pantry is up and running for anyone in need of a food parcel. Please enquire at [info@bernwodebus.com](mailto:info@bernwodebus.com). Bucks Council's discretionary grant for businesses is now closed due to oversubscription. Grants of £10,000 and £25,000 are available for Village Halls who have suffered a loss of income. **ACTION: KN/SM to investigate.** Ashley Waite reported that High Street shops are now opening and that carparking in Bucks is still free. Recycling centres are now flowing more efficiently. Buckinghamshire parks have also reopened.

#### 7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisation

There were none.

#### 8. Correspondence

- A request to prune the overgrown trees on Boughton's Peace (Conservation area) has been received. The trees are reported to be blocking the pathway and light to the living room of a Parishioners house. **ACTION: CLERK to obtain quotations for pruning.**
- Overflowing bin on the corner of Wotton Road and Main Street. **ACTION: CLERK to raise with Street Scene at Buckinghamshire Council.**

#### 9. Footway Works

KN has submitted a scheme report to the Network Improvement Team for the footway (a 1.2 metre-wide footpath £22,000). KN is awaiting receipt of the Contractor's licence so that the PC can apply for a licence for a road closure. **ACTION: KN to keep Councillors updated.**

#### 10. Village Signage for Village Approaches

Signage for the four approaches to Village entrances was allocated a spend of £2,500 in the setting of the 2020/21 budget. Councillors **agreed** to contact Colin Woolford, LAT in the first

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instance to see if the existing signage could be updated and replaced. **ACTION: KN/CLERK to contact Colin Woolford/Dave Kearney.**

### 11. Community Led Plan

SM has circulated the findings of the survey to the relevant committees. In addition to priorities identified in the CLP (road maintenance, pedestrian safety, reduction in speed of traffic, reduction in HGV's, village maintenance, police presence, value of Parish Council), ways to improve Parish Council communications were discussed. **ACTION: CLERK to request number of subscribers to Parish Council website from Hugo Fox so that ways to improve awareness of the website/news alerts can be explored if necessary.**

### 12. Green Future Bucks/Chiltern Rangers

Councillors agreed to the booking of a workshop with Chiltern Rangers at a cost of £150. Proposed SM, Seconded CR. This workshop would explore environmental initiatives in the villages, such as a wildflower meadow (WI initiative), community allotments or a community orchard and include a feasibility study. There are grants available to Parish Councils for environment initiatives of up to £2,500 from Green Future Bucks. Other grants are also available from the new Community Boards, Heart of Bucks and Buckinghamshire Council. **ACTION: SM to arrange future workshop with Chiltern Rangers.**

### 13. Trees on Parish Land

The Parish Council are responsible for the trees on Boughton's Peace; this piece of land being owned by the Parish Council. PI confirmed that trees on the verges are the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council. Councillors agreed to have a look at the conditions of the trees and discuss any action at the meeting in September. **ACTION: COUNCILLORS to view trees on Boughton's Peace. CLERK to agenda for September meeting.**

### 14. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (18<sup>th</sup> May 2020): £26,430.30**
- **Receipts:** £8,145.00 (Precept – 1st instalment).
  - **Debits:** £0.00
  - **Plus unpresented cheques:** £39.39 (BMALC)
  - **Less standing orders:** £238.34 (Clerk salary)
  - **Balance of Bank Account: £34,376.35** (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020)  
**Available Funds: £34,336.96** (balance of bank account less unpresented cheques)
- b. **Orders for Payment: £451.54**
- **Venetia Davies - £9.45** (Clerk travel)
  - **Venetia Davies - £34.09** (Stationery – toners shared (1/3<sup>rd</sup>) with Cuddington PC)
  - **RTM Landscapes Ltd - £408.00** (£340 + £68 (VAT) Grass Cuttings – April)
  - **BALANCE: £33,885.42** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

### 15. Planning

- **20/01562/COUAR - Land At Upper Pollicott, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire**

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Determination as to whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise, contamination risk, flooding and locational considerations for the conversion of agricultural barn into three dwellinghouses (Class Q(a)) and in relation to design and external appearance of the building (Class Q(b)). Comments by: **17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**

### 16. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Grass Cutting dates:** during week of 13/7, 24/8, 5/10/2020.
- **Play Around the Parishes 2020** - Wednesday 19 August, 10am to 12 noon. **ACTION: CLERK to enquire what the plan is for Covid-19.**

### 17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 8pm In Ashendon Village Hall or by Video Conference (tbc)**  
Parishioners are invited to the meeting but are required to email the Clerk at [ashendonpc@gmail.com](mailto:ashendonpc@gmail.com) for a Zoom meeting ID number and password.