

# DRAFT MINUTES

2016/01a

**ASHENDON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting**  
**held in The Village Hall**  
**Monday 25th April 2016 at 8pm**

**Chair:** Kevin Nash  
**Clerk:** Venetia Davies  
**Attendance:** 22 Villagers

**1. Apologies**

Sue Jones (PSCO).

**2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2015**

Minutes were accepted by the meeting as a true record and signed by Chairman, Kevin Nash.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that were not covered during the subsequent meeting.

**4. Written Reports**

- Reports were circulated and included:
  - Financial Report, including Parish Council Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and Proposed Budget for 2016/17.

**5. Open Discussions**

Kevin Nash explained that Ashendon Parish Council had resolved to enter the Local Council Devolution Scheme. After considering three service providers, the Parish Council engaged Toolshed as the service provider for Ashendon. There will be six cuts during the cutting season, the first of which took place on the day of the AVM (25<sup>th</sup> March). Kevin introduced David Letts, Founding Director/ Operations Director for Toolshed.

**David Letts, Toolshed**

David gave a brief background to Toolshed, a social enterprise that prides itself in helping young people aged 16-24 “construct meaningful lives through training, personal development, employment and business mentoring” with the aim of enabling these young people “to become positive role models in the community and inspire other young people to take charge of their lives.” Six villages near Stewkley have been running a similar scheme for the last twelve months and this has expanded in the last year to Buckingham Town. The SEA has agreed with BCC to offer the same model to other Parishes. BCC contribute to the scheme by way of a grant to Ashendon PC. Ashendon entered the contract on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. David welcomed feedback on grass cutting to [info@toolshedbucks.co.uk](mailto:info@toolshedbucks.co.uk) or directly to Venetia, Clerk at [ashendonpc@gmail.com](mailto:ashendonpc@gmail.com). A Parishioner commented on the politeness of Tom and Jade, students of Toolshed who will be cutting Ashendon’s grass verges over the coming months.

**Kevin Nash, Chairman, Ashendon Parish Council**

Kevin introduced the Parish Councillors: Kevin Nash, Chairman, Peter Smetten, Vice Chairman and Councillors Les Curtis, Sian Miller and Chris Rand. He informed Parishioners that Cllr Geoff Pimm resigned at the end of the last Council year and Cllr John Bonson was not re-elected. Michael Rand resigned as Clerk in October. Venetia Davies was appointed as Clerk.

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Eight ordinary meetings were held last year in addition to the Annual Parish Meeting. A schedule of meetings is on the website: [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc). Extraordinary meetings may be called if required.

Kevin outlined the business of the Council over the last year and this year, which has included:

- A visit was made to the Energy from Waste Plant giving villagers the opportunity to see over it and ask questions.
- **Rural Affordable Housing** – a number of sites have been identified although these, for one reason or another, have been rejected. There is one site left which may be big enough to accommodate some housing but needs to be investigated further.
- **Community Speed Watch** – volunteers have been trained and some sessions organised. Thames Valley Police now have a new, easier to use camera and availability is being checked.
- **Broadband.** The Parish Council has been lobbying hard for improved broadband. Last year, Roger Carey, Village Networks, spoke about the improved service they intended to introduce but this has not happened. Several people have said the service is worse than before and a number speak regularly to the company, but the speeds have not improved and so there is some anxiety for an alternative service.
- **Playing Field.** The Parish Council continues to pay for the grass cutting and make small additional contributions to running costs. A grant of £5,000 was made to the Playing Field Association for the MUGA. The Parish Council is delighted that work has now commenced.
- **Best Kept Village.** Ashendon was entered last year but were not placed. The village has been entered again and judging takes place in June. Everyone's efforts to keep the village tidy are appreciated. Thanks were paid to Villagers for last year's Best Kept Village tidy up and for those who participated in the Clean for the Queen on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- **Planning Applications.** Applications continue to be monitored and commented on as appropriate.
- **Village Walk Around.** Several walks have been undertaken with Ivan Crome, Local Area Technician for Transport for Bucks and Paul Irwin with Councillors and the Clerk. These have given opportunities to point out erosion and damage to grass verges, blocked drains and other remedial work required.
- **Bench.** A new bench has replaced the old bench. A grant from The Community Chest covered most of the cost.
- **HGV Traffic.** At the moment, there is nothing preventing HGV's being driven through the village. The signs at Winchendon crossroads and at Westcott Venture Park are advisory only. Some companies in the Venture Park, as part of their planning permission, should not be driving through Ashendon other than for access, e.g. Bucks Recycling. A large number of HGVs travelling to the landfill site at Calvert are now driving through and the Parish Council is meeting with BCC, Chearsley, Cuddington and Westcott to see what can be done to reduce the number of heavy vehicles using village routes.
- **Website.** The Parish Council is setting up a new Parish Council website. A logo is needed and a competition has been initiated.
- **Play Around the Parishes.** Two sessions were run last year, with a session booked on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm this year.
- Councillors have attended numerous outside meetings including the Local Area Forum, meetings on Community Transport and a Councillors training session organised by Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils.

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- A Bonfire to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday took place on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Thanks were paid to Chris Rand for building and lighting the fire and giving use of the field.

The Receipts and Payment Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was circulated along with the Proposed Budget for 2016/17. Kevin explained the financial challenges faced by the Parish Council and the two main reasons behind the increase in Precept resolved as necessary to account for devolved services (cost of six urban grass cuts (£1,130 less BCC subsidy £467, giving £663 to find) and clerk's salary; £2,860. Special thanks were paid to Michael Rand for his time and effort, which he gave free. Kevin also thanked Andy Howes for being the honorary Internal Auditor and Venetia Davies for her assistance and advice and considerable time and effort she devotes to Parish Council work including maintenance of the Parish Council website.

### **Cllr Paul Irwin, County and District Councillor. Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation, Bucks County Council**

Paul informed Parishioners that the AVDC Lottery had generated £60,000 for local charities since its implementation in October 2015. 111 causes have signed up receiving 58p out of every £1 ticket sold. Paul informed of progress with the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. 21,000 new houses are required but through Government requirement, Aylesbury Vale will accommodate an additional 10,000, to make a total of 31,000. The next stage of the consultation process is due to take place from early July through to early September, for a period of eight weeks. Paul encouraged Parishioners to comment. With regard to Roadworks, £25m has been spent by Bucks County Council (BCC) on a road improvement programme with another £500,000 ring-fenced for the repair of pot holes. Paul informed Parishioners that a 'plane and patch' repair is planned for Ashendon. A surface dressing is also planned to take place in 2017. Rachael Shimmin has been announced as the new Chief Executive of BCC. Rachael's background is in key sectors of children's services, adult social care and health. A new community bus scheme has been set-up to replace the reducing bus services and the demise of Dial a Ride and is available for use. Participating Parish Councils will assign a Trustee to the Board. Volunteer drivers are required. The ongoing issue of HGV and large agricultural vehicles 'churning' up the verges was also highlighted. Paul informed Parishioners that this is also a concern to neighbouring villages and a meeting between Ashendon, Westcott, Chearsley and Cuddington Parish Council has been set for early May. Paul also informed Parishioners of the implementation of a cycle network, funded by Department of Transport, from London to Birmingham. The first phase is from Waddesdon via Berryfields to Aylesbury Parkway Station. Exhibition plans were on display at the meeting.

### **Liz Smith, Bucks County Council. Transport Survey**

Liz informed Parishioners that as part of the review of transport services provided by the County Council, BCC are seeking the views of residents of Chesham, Waddesdon, Buckingham and surrounding rural areas and High Wycombe about its transport needs. The four pilot areas have been carefully chosen as representative of principal Buckinghamshire characteristics, North, South, rural and urban. Liz encouraged Parishioners to complete the survey at [www.research.net/r/TransportNeedsSurvey](http://www.research.net/r/TransportNeedsSurvey). 750 responses have been received to date but the aim is to achieve over 1,000 in order to obtain a real understanding of the priorities.

### **Sue Jones, Police Community Support Officer**

Apologies.

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### **Navin Sankersingh (Broadband Programme Manager, Bucks Business First) and Matthew Clifton**

Navin (Outgoing Broadband Manager) and Matthew (Incoming Broadband Manger) spoke on the emotive topic of broadband – no longer considered a luxury service essential. Whilst Ashendon was not included in Phase 1, it could be included in Phase 2 (which will give up to 95% coverage). A series of postponements has however occurred. Three Ashendon postcodes are expected to be included (it was said that Impact Assessment can give more information about coverage). Parishioners expressed concerns that Ashendon would be in the last 5%. It was stressed that the lack of broadband is not only affecting businesses but also impacting house prices too and Parishioners ask what needs to be done to get clearer information and what practical solutions were available. Suggestions included approaching other providers (BT are not the only provider), to setting up a Community broadband project and raising funds, to physically digging a trench across the field. The Parish Council will continue to lobby.

### **Community Organisation**

Representatives from the following Ashendon community organisations contributed and addressed the meeting:

#### **Ashendon Playing Fields Association, Andy Theobald**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Ashendon Village Hall, Richard Bates**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Gatehangers Association, Kevin Nash**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Book Group, Sue Lewin**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Parochial Church Council, Imogen Holbrook**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Red Lion Social Club, Luke Jamieson**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

#### **Women's Institute, Ruth Pimm**

Report Filed and available to view at [www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc](http://www.bucksvoice.net/ashendonpc) (under Annual Reports)

Apologies to Sue Rand for omitting to invite the WI to the Annual Village Meeting.

### **The Hundred of Ashendon**

**Aylesbury Vale Village Pub Competition 2016. ACTION: KN to nominate The Hundred of Ashendon for competition. Closing date for nomination, Friday 6th May**

### **Logo Competition**

There were six entries for the Logo competition. Parishioners judged the competition by way of voting. The two winning entries will be recreated, as necessary, to a suitable finish, format and size for the new website. Winners will be presented with a display replica of their design. Thanks were paid to all contributors for taking part in the competition.

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### 6. Closing Comments

Kevin Nash thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting. Kevin ended the meeting with extracts from the archives of the Parish Council Minutes:

- **1 January 1970**  
The Council noted that the County Council had received the Council's request for the imposition of a speed limit and that the same would be considered as part of the review of speed limits being carried out in the County.
- **2 June 1970**  
The County Council could not at this time, through lack of finance, provide a footpath on road C66 from East Farm to the telephone box
- **22 February 1973**  
Proposed provision of seats at Old Forge Corner: the Clerk reported that the County Council would make available the necessary land subject to the Council entering into the appropriate agreement and the site would be discussed with the divisional surveyor in due course.
- **22 January 1976**  
As an experiment, the next meeting of the Parish Council should be advertised by leaflet in the newspapers to be distributed throughout the village in such a way that it is hoped that more members of the public might attend
- **9 November 1976**  
Roadside seat: it was reported that the seat and litter basket had now arrived and were ready for erection and it was agreed that members would attend to this as soon as possible
- **16 May 1979**  
Erosion of grass verges: the Clerk reported the response from the County Council and, the matter having been debated, the Council requested the clerk to undertake a site visit and meet representatives of the Parish Council.

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

**Parish Council AGM – Monday 16th May 2016 at 8pm**

**Ashendon Village Hall**