

DRAFT MINUTES

2023/017



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall.

Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Rand (**CR**), Les Curtis (**LC**), Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**), Mark Wakeling (**MW**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**).

Parishioners: There were four Parishioners present including Buckinghamshire Councillor, Ashley Waite (**AW**).

Parishioners Question Time

There were no questions.

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 15th May 2023

The Draft Minutes of the May meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Chris Rand.

3. Matters Arising

- **Combined Village Website.** Venetia Davies, Richard Philips, and Peter Johnson have kindly agreed to be 'gatekeepers' of the website. **ACTION: CLERK** to write to clubs and societies asking for 'readymade' information to be sent to team for uploading on website.
- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** Positioned agreed with APFA. **ACTION: CR** to plant in Autumn.
- **Defibrillator.** **ACTION: CLERK** to investigate grant funding for a third defibrillator as requested by residents of Watbridge.
- **Community Allotment.** It was agreed there has been no interest in the Community Allotment. **ACTION: CLERK** to write to Ashendon Playing Field Association to return plot for private hire.
- **King Charles III's Coronation**
ACTION: SM to arrange working party for delivery of commemorative gift of Allium bulbs (in boxes, kindly donated by Aylesbury Box Company, with labels and message) for all Parishioners. The cost will be in the region of £400. Agreed.
- **Audit/Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 2.** Certificate of exemption returned to PKF Littlejohn. Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 published on website and notice board.

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4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Councillors voiced ongoing concerns about the unacceptable condition of roads. AW explained that HS2, East West Rail, housing developments and the wet, and then cold weather, has created the 'perfect storm' for roads throughout the county. He explained that Buckinghamshire Highways (now Balfour Beatty) is using a new vehicle, the [pothole pro](#), in the fight against potholes. He assured the meeting that the condition of roads, will get better. Councillors also asked that the communication concerning road closures be improved. AW reminded villages that all problems on the roads and footways should be reported using [Fix My Street](#). A Parishioner said that the response to the last 3 reports submitted, returned that *limited funding is insufficient to address each defect*. AW to clarify. The Freight Strategy is going to Cabinet before the end of Summer. The Bucks Local Cycling and Infrastructure Plan will improve local cycling routes to Haddenham Station. The new Lending Library will be promoted through FB. Nine schools have signed up to the new Bernie Bus for children.

6. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were none.

7. Correspondence

There was none outside the agenda items.

8. Overgrown Trees and Hedges

Permission has been granted for tree works. It was agreed for works to be carried out to the Sycamores in late Autumn. Works to the laurel hedge and bank will be carried out in the next fortnight. **ACTION: CLERK to notify householder that works will be imminent in next fortnight. CR to liaise with landowner for agreed contribution towards the costs of repairing the fallen hedge on Parish Council land.**

9. Speed Safety Projects

• Wotton Road footpath and HS2 Road Safety Fund

Correspondence from Buckinghamshire Council (received by CR) confirming that the Stage 2 Assessment process would take place on 21st May 2023. **ACTION: AW to follow up for update.**

• Speed Awareness

The Speed Watch team has received the first tranche of data from the corner on Wotton Road. 28% of traffic going passed the SID (not the speed limit sign) are speeding. This reduces to 8% when the SID is on. This data will be important for the Wotton Road footpath project. At the Pollicott junction, cars are travelling at approximately 54mph. Regular speed reports will be posted on the village website later. The group are also looking at lowering speed by signage. The idea of a competition for children to make signs was discussed. **ACTION: FJ to discuss with church.** AW suggested this initiative would be supported with funding by the Community Board. The Parish Council agreed to the replacement of a new tablet for recording SID data.

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10. Ultrafast Broadband

Ashendon is on the list to be looked at by Voneus but the area still needs to be surveyed, designed, and planned. No progress has been made with Gigaclear or BT Openreach. SM has heard from Rapid Rural who will confirm if there is a clear 'line of sight' for transmission of ultrafast broadband. **ACTION: AW to press for meeting with Greg Smith, MP, to discuss options with BT Openreach.**

11. Boughton's Peace Wilding Project

It was agreed there was a spirit to maintain the area but more community support is needed. Luke Jamieson has kindly agreed to help the existing working party in the coming weeks. **ACTION: SM to circulate dates for maintenance works and complete risk assessment.** It is noted that the Wilding Project is arranged under the instruction of the Council and volunteers are covered by the PC insurance. The sharing cart is now in position.

12. Children's Play Activity

The Bouncy Sunday Funday has kindly been arranged by Clare Cook and confirmed for Sunday 23rd July from 10.00-1.00pm on Ashendon Playing Fields. **ACTION: SM/CLERK to promote on Facebook and Village Website. Clare Cook to check Risk Assessment and Insurance with supplier.** Whilst the Parish Council is covered under its Public Liability Insurance, the provider must also have insurances.

13. The Hundred PH

Following a Village meeting (17th May 2023) on the future of The Hundred PH, the Ashendon Community Pub Steering Group has been formed and currently comprises 6 members. Member, Luke Jamieson informed the meeting that the Group had been on a 'fact finding mission' and stressed that as a community venture, considerations for establishing a Community Pub are being carefully and sensibly considered. The current owners are 100% supportive of the venture and are very keen that the village has a pub it owns. The Steering Group have been in touch with The Plunkett Foundation, a charitable foundation that supports communities to own their own facilities (shop, village halls and pubs) by offering experience and guidance. The Steering Group have also met with members of Oakley Pub, a community pub funded entirely through a Parish Council Public Works Loan. Other charitable organisations are being researched as well as mortgages. There are also grants to be researched and the opportunity for community funding. An initial village survey has been organised asking if the village want to do this and also, how much people are willing to give. The results (39 to date) will allow the Steering Group to decide if there is a chance for the pub to succeed. In order to make an informed decision, the Steering Group need to hear from everyone in the village, so will be making door to door visits. However, a much wider and comprehensive consultation, and subsequent membership to The Plunkett Foundation will need funding. The Steering Group asked the Parish Council to fund the preliminary tasks of the Steering Group's work (totalling approximately £1,000). The Parish Council **agreed** to fund this under Section 137 of The Local Government Act 1972 which permits funding of £9.97 per elector once in the financial year (there are 198 electors for Ashendon), and also unspent reserves from the Community Led Plan but only once the results of the survey are known. It was noted that the Coronation gifts also falls under Section 137. Proposed LS, seconded MW.

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14. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (15th May 2023): £42,410.18**
 - **Receipts: £3,243.36** (£1,843.36 VAT Return + £1,400.00 APFA overpayment returned)
 - **Debits: £36.04** – Npower (May)
 - **Plus, unrepresented cheques: £304.05** (BHIB Insurance)
 - **Less standing orders: £558.00** (Clerk Salary)
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £45,363.55** (as at 15th June 2023)
Available Funds: £45,059.50 (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)
- b. **Orders for Payment: £486.90**
 - **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)
 - **RTM Landscapes - £468.00** (£390.00 + £78.00 VAT) (May grass cutting)
BALANCE: £44,572.60 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
Also agreed:
Richard Philips - £54.95 (£47.00 + £7.95 VAT) (Android Tablet for SID data)
 - **BALANCE: £44,517.65** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- c. **Management Report. ACTION: CLERK to circulate.**

15. Planning

There have been no new planning applications since the March meeting.

16. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Grass Cutting schedules:** Verges: 10.07, 21.08, 02.10.23.
- **Town and Parish Survey.** To note the deadline for response is now 31st July 2023.
ACTION: CLERK to re circulate.
- **Bouncy Sunday Funday:** Sunday 23rd July from 10.00-1.00pm on Ashendon Playing Fields.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall