

**Ashmansworth Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 09 March 2023
Ashmansworth Village Hall, 7:30pm**

Chairman: Cllr Alan Cox

Present: Cllr Andrew Bays, Cllr Angela Harris, Cllr Kieron Black

In attendance: Four parishioners

Clerk: Amy White

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hill, Cllr Thacker, Cllr Falconer.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 09 January 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 09 January 2023 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair, Cllr Cox.

4. Actions from previous meeting

- Clerk to escalate The Drove, Crux Easton issue to Cllr Thacker and log on the HCC system- **Actioned**: Response received from Mandy Ware of HCC:

This is currently with the local highways team, Dan Beasant, and our Asset Management team. I'm sure they will update you once they have a better understanding of the timescales for work. However I will add this note and the photos you sent through to the enquiry record.

- Signage: Clerk to ask Mandy Ware about new signage on The Drove, Crux Easton to help alleviate issues- **Actioned**- see above.
- Clerk to request precept with BDBC- **Actioned**.

5. Update from County and Borough Councillors (if present)

Cllr Thacker provided a written update (see end of the minutes).

6. To note receipt of Planning Applications received since last meeting:

- T/00061/23/TCA- Ashmansworth House (No objection)

There is a planning application a couple of hundred metres outside of the parish (23/00472/FUL). This has not yet been formally received by the Parish Council but the applicant gave an overview of their plans for which the Parish Council was grateful.

7. Grass cutting- notice of decision after tender deadline

The Clerk sent out a tender email on 01/02/23 to three companies. Only two companies provided a quote:

Quote A: £59.90 plus VAT per cut (x 14 cuts per year = £838.60 plus VAT)

Quote B £82.50 plus VAT per cut (x 14 cuts per year = £1155 plus VAT)

The Council voted unanimously to award the contract to AD Clark with a start date of 20 March 2023.

Action: Clerk to provide grass cutting contract confirmation to AD Clark.

8. Local Roads issues update

Cllr Thacker provided an update on the Drove, Crux Easton on 21/02/23:

HCC has agreed that The Drove, Crux Easton should be reclassified from a Highway Track to an Unclassified Road. I understand this change is still in the process of being made and the relevant records updated. HCC's Asset Management Team have also added it to the carriageway submission list for possible inclusion in a future surface treatment programme. The previous HCC engineer asked, given its current condition that this is prioritised but at the time was unable to give any specific timescales this might happen.

Action: The four parishioners attending and the Parish Council agreed to write a collective letter to HCC, Tom Thacker and Kit Malthouse to complain about the unsolved highways issues within the Parish and the lack of action. The Clerk will then send this to the relevant parties.

9. Footpaths- issues update

Footpath FP3 requires new way markers to highlight the correct footpath.

Action: Clerk to request new way markers from Hampshire Rangers or purchase new ones if required.

10. Financial matters:

a. To acknowledge payments and note receipts:

The Clerk presented the following information:

Payments made 09/01/23

<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>Info</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Payment</u>
20-Dec-22	3-Jan-22	Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034066185		£ 2.50
20-Dec-22	3-Jan-23	VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034066185		£ 0.50

2-Jan-23	16-Jan-23	Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034233064		£ 17.00
2-Jan-23	16-Jan-23	VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034233064		£ 3.40
27-Jan-23	27-Jan-23	Clerk's Salary	January salary		£ 136.36
27-Jan-23	27-Jan-23	PAYE	HMRC Month 10		£ 33.00
1-Jan-23	10-Jan-23	Payroll	Red76 Payroll Services Dec 2022		£ 7.00
1-Jan-23	10-Jan-23	VAT	Red76 Payroll Services Dec 2022		£ 1.40
Total:					£ 201.16

**Funds
Received**

20-Jan-23	20-Jan-23	Other Grants	HCC Grant from Cllr Tom Thacker (for purchase of defibrillator)	£ 1,000.00	
Total:					£ 1,000.00

**Payments
made
10/02/23**

20-Jan-23	7-Feb-23	Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034498008		£ 3.50
20-Jan-23	7-Feb-23	VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034498008		£ 0.70
26-Jan-23	15-Feb-23	Grants & Sec 137	Deposit for Coronation barn dance 1st April-31st March 2023		£ 125.00
28-Jan-23	15-Feb-23	Hall Hire	Ashmansworth Village Hall hire		£ 98.00
31-Jan-23	15-Feb-23	Admin/Office	Red76 Payroll Services Jan 2023		£ 7.00
31-Jan-23	15-Feb-23	VAT	Red76 Payroll Services Jan 2023		£ 1.40
2-Feb-23	20-Feb-23	Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034678697		£ 7.00
2-Feb-23	20-Feb-23	VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034678697		£ 1.40
27-Feb-23	27-Feb-23	Clerk's Salary			£ 136.56
27-Feb-23	15-Feb-23	PAYE	HMRC Month 11		£ 32.80
Total:					£ 413.36

Payments to be made 09/3/23

20-Feb-23		Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034958037		£ 3.50
20-Feb-23		VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203034958037		£ 0.70
6-Mar-23		Admin/Office	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203035137601		£ 7.00
6-Mar-23		VAT	Ionos Email (Direct Debit) 203035137601		£ 1.40
27-Mar-23		Clerk's Salary	March Salary		£ 136.56

9-Mar-23		PAYE	HMRC Month 12		£ 32.80
28-Feb-23		Admin/Office	Red76 Payroll Services Jan 2023		£ 7.00
28-Feb-23		VAT	Red76 Payroll Services Jan 2023		£ 1.40
Total:					£ 190.36

Current bank balance as at 09/03/23: £4465.12

b. The Clerk presented the final budget:

**Ashmansworth Parish
Council
2023-24 Budget**

	2022/23	2023	Budget 2023/24	
	Budgeted	Actual 09/03/23	PRECEPT INCREASE of 8%, LENGTHSMAN	
<u>Income</u>				
Precept	4,123.00	4,250.00	4,590.00	Based on 8% increase
Grant from BDBC - Grass Cutting	288.00	290.88	300.00	Based on figures received from BDBC
VAT recovery	120.00	143.27	100.00	Based on current year VAT spend
Other (bank interest)		2.40	3.00	
Other grants		1,000.00	1,500.00	King's Coronation/County Councillor grants
<i>Total Income</i>	<u>4,531.00</u>	<u>5,686.55</u>	<u>6,493.00</u>	
<u>Expenditure</u>				
King's Coronation			500.00	One off event
Auditors	150.00	150.00	150.00	Internal audit fee.
Clerk's Salary inc PAYE	1,733.76	1,908.12	2,100.00	Based on 4% increase
Clerk's Expenses	0.00		59.52	Home office and broadband (£4.96pm)
Hire of meeting room	100.00	98.00	140.00	Expected increase
Training	50.00	0.00	50.00	Variable
Stationery	50.00	0.00	0.00	Variable
Insurance	330.00	419.78	440.00	Based on last year.

Ionos email and web hosting		150.47	155.00	
Payroll		35.00	89.00	
Subscriptions HALC, NALC, CPRE, GLEAM	249.00	338.46	150.00	Based on this year
Grass Cutting etc	1,600.00	1,626.40	1,400.00	£1235 spent in 21/22
Other Section 137 donations	500.00	125.00	500.00	Based on previous years.
VAT spend	100.00	92.57	100.00	Variable
Poppy wreath	40.00	39.99	40.00	Based on current year.
Miscellaneous buffer	500.00	0.00	500.00	Miscellaneous buffer
Lengthsman	50.00	217.00	0.00	
Defibrillator			1,800.00	Includes £1000 HCC grant and expected £500 BDBC grant
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>5,452.76</u>	<u>5,200.79</u>	<u>8,173.52</u>	
<u>Net Difference between income and expenditure</u>	<u>-£921.76</u>	<u>£485.76</u>	<u>-£1,680.52</u>	
-				

The Budget was approved by the council.

11. Update on defibrillator- grants applied for and received

The Parish Council has been successful in applying for a grant from Cllr Thacker- £1000 was granted and the PC is very grateful. It is hoped that the application for the remaining approximate cost (£600) will be awarded by Cllr Falconer's Councillor fund at BDBC. Should this be awarded by the end of March, the Clerk will purchase the defibrillator within the current financial year.

12. King's Coronation Grant

The Clerk has also applied to the BDBC King's Coronation Fund for the full cost of the Village Barn Dance (£575).

A discussion was also held on applying for a defib from Crux Easton- this is on hold but noted.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish 16 May 2023, 7:30pm at Ashmansworth Village Hall.

Cllr Cox has volunteered to be a patient representative for Kintbury and Woolton Hill Surgery.

Actions from 09 March 2023 Meeting:

- Clerk to provide grass cutting contract confirmation to AD Clark.
- The four parishioners attending and the Parish Council to write a collective letter to HCC, Tom Thacker Kit Malthouse to complain about the unsolved highways issues within the Parish and the lack of action. The Clerk will then send this to the relevant parties.
- Clerk to request new way markers from Hampshire Rangers or purchase new ones if required.

County Councillor Update March 2023
Tom Thacker

Budget and Council Tax

At the meeting of the full County Council, budget plans for the upcoming financial year were agreed. Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding.

"We are also acutely aware of the very difficult decisions Hampshire residents face in their own household budgets to make ends meet, but reluctantly, in order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. This is a decision we have not taken lightly. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls."

Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

The increase still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

Alongside revenue budget plans, the County Council has approved new capital spending of £645.3 million over the next three years. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire, to £927.3 million.

It is worth noting that all opposition parties did not put forward any alternative budget, yet some still voted against setting a budget that we are legally bound to do.

King Charles III Coronation grants – Councillor Grant Scheme

My 2023/2024 member grants stream opens in early May this year. Any applications for helping with events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III can be submitted earlier.

HCC grants team will create an extra tile on the website below the current Member's Grants tile and call it 'Member's Grants for the Coronation'. Any application should be below £1,000 - that will allow the team to use the simpler, short version of the application form that will be available through the tile.

HCC will open the grant window from 1 April to 21 April. This provides a clear cut off date in good time to get all applications approved, processed and paid before the date of the Coronation. Applicants will fill out the form and it will go through to the grants team. Bank details are captured at this point.

The grants team will then contact the relevant Member to ask if they wish to approve the application.