

2016/016

ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held in Ashendon Village Hall
Monday 21st November 2016 at 8pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Kevin Nash (KN), Les Curtis (LC), Sian Miller (SM), Peter Smettem (PS), Venetia Davies (Clerk and RFO).

Parishioners: There were 16 Parishioners present including Cllr Paul Irwin

Parishioners Question Time

- Road closures. A parishioner asked if the road closures would continue through the Christmas period. An incident, which resulted in postponing the roadworks, was noted. **ACTION: PI to enquire.**

NB: Action points highlighted

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Rand (CR)

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 19th September 2016

Amended to Finances. Balance should read £7,040.23. Draft Minutes were then accepted as a true record and signed by Chairman, KN.

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes

- **Standing Order, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment.** **ACTION: CLERK to agenda review of above at AGM 2017.**

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Presentation from Outside Bodies

1. Korinne Leney, BCC - Streamlining local government in Buckinghamshire.

Korinne outlined the County Council's proposal to abolish County Council and all four District Councils to create a single unitary authority for Bucks that is 'more local, has a single voice and provides quality services'. Demand on public services, coupled with 50,000 new homes by 2033, large demographic changes (growing population of over 65s and growing levels of disability) and zero revenue support in 2020, means that the traditional approach is no longer sustainable. The County Council has to date saved £145m with further savings predicted of £30m by 2020. There are no proposals to alter or review the structure of town and parish councils. However the business case does propose that a unitary council would offer further devolved services to town and parish councils (including planning) and details proposals for a new Council's approach to community boards and hubs which could provide town and parish councillors with opportunities to influence the work of the new Council. The County Council has voted to approve the business case for a single unitary authority in the county. The final business case has now been published online, along with an executive summary: <http://futurebucks.co.uk/business-case/>. The case has been submitted for a decision to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.

2. Paul Irwin – measures for reducing speed limit within the designated area of Pollicott.

PI explained that a change in speed limit would be difficult to justify - Ashendon is in a rural location with only one collision recorded in 5 years. He recommended obtaining speed data first and outlined the options available including the installation of a set of pneumatic tubes (where data is collected by a temporary automatic traffic counter for a period of approximately 10 days - at a cost of £380), a more detailed measure which would include the Police (at a cost of £700) or through the new sentinel speed

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equipment, operated by a rota of volunteers in Spring. Other suggestions from attendees and Parish Councillors included improving visibility by hedge cutting, trimming overgrowth at the 30mph, the installation of two traffic warning signs signing the sharp bend and the purchase of Vehicle Activated Signs. Councillors **resolved** to book the sentinel speed equipment for March and appeal for volunteers, request overgrowth is cut at the 30mph signs, request BCC install sharp bend signs and ensure the hedge is cut back (as part of planning permission). **ACTION: CLERK to agenda progress for December meeting.**

6. Contributions from BCC Cllr and AVDC Cllr

There were no further contributions.

7. Broadband

Cllr SM outlined the Terms of Reference for the Working Broadband Group (BWG) and its members. A report on supplying Ashendon with superfast broadband was circulated to Councillors, options presented (5 possible means – Fibre to Home/Premises (FTTH or FTTP), Fibre to Cabinet, Wireless Broadband, Satellite Distribution, and Mobile Broadband) and recommendations given. In summary:

1. A technology leading 'mainstream' supplier is likely to be best placed to provide timely, robust performance improvements.
2. To continue in dialogue with Bucks Business First and AV Broadband to ensure future plans do not exclude Ashendon as plans are developed.
3. That the BWG should pursue the Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme with a view to installation of Fibre to the Cabinet. This can be done independently of Parish Council through a Limited or Community Interest Company. This solution offers potential for a fast installation. Costs are not confirmed. The BWG will include identification of suitable funding.

ACTION: CLERK to upload Options on www.ashendonparish.org.uk. SM to update Councillors at the December meeting.

8. A 'No Door Step Selling' Zone

A draft survey, to determine resident's agreement for this initiative was **approved** by Councillors (Name and Address being added to the insert version). An increase in signage as a result of a no door stop selling zone was voiced. **ACTION: CLERK/SM to arrange circulation of flyer in December issue of Bernwode News and advertise on Facebook and Notice Board.**

9. Parish Council Website – www.ashendonparish.org.uk

A flyer (to be distributed via Bernwode News) announcing the new website was **approved** by Councillors. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for email alerts to keep villagers informed of Parish Council activity and news including planning. **ACTION: CLERK/SM to arrange circulation of flyer in December issue of Bernwode News and advertise on Facebook and Notice Board.**

10. Waddesdon LAF - Local Priorities funding for Village Health and Fitness Project

Confirmation of Local Area Forum grant (Reference: AWDLAP04-E) noted. **ACTION: SM to arrange purchase of sports equipment to value of £500 +VAT on behalf of Ashendon Parish Council. SM to provide photograph of equipment to PI. ACTION: CLERK to invoice BCC for reimbursement once purchased.** PI outlined new *Sports around Parishes* scheme. This scheme is free to users but PC to allow for cost of hall hire.

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11. Devolved Services

Councillors reviewed the seasons grass cutting service from ToolShed and **resolved** to continue with using ToolShed as the service provider. **ACTION: KN to amend map to some of grass cutting areas. CLERK to request quotation from ToolShed for 2017.**

12. Bernwode Community Bus – 16 seater bus

It was thought the WI and Red Lion Social Club could make use of the Bernwode Community Bus. The cost to hire the bus is over half of commercial hire – approximately £20 per hour or £100 a day plus fuel.

13. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations

1. Cllr Peter Smettem reported on the recent meeting at the Calvert Landfill Liaison Committee meeting and the TfB Autumn/Winter conference which included a report given by the HGV Traffic Watch Group. Further villages are also hoping to tackle the HGV problem and all are asking BCC how it will address concerns over safety and damage by HGV traffic. FCC is continuing to discourage firms using the landfill site – the registration number of one HGV was obtained and reported and subsequently banned from using the landfill site for 1 week. **ACTION: PS to also to determine the process and costs of applying a weight restriction on C66 Ashendon/Wescott road.**
2. An outline of the AVDC briefing for Town and Parish Councils on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and Modernising Local Government (14/11/16) was summarised:
 - **VALP:** The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment has been revised and has lowered. The net effect is that Aylesbury Vale’s overall housing need is now 26,800 or 1,340 per annum, a reduction of just over 6,000 houses. The timetable for bringing the final Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan to council meetings will shift by around eight weeks, to March next year. Haddenham is now a reserve site.
 - **Modernising Local Government:** A copy of the district councils’ report and summary brochure on the future of local government in Bucks is available at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mlg. Parish Councils are encouraged to complete the online feedback form – this can be done by individual parish councillors or on behalf of the parish council. The link to the form is www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/districtsMLG.
3. Cllr Kevin Nash reported on the Waddesdon LAF meeting (16/11/16) and summarised its content: Salt runs (44% of roads are salted). Waddesdon LAF is in lowest crime area in Aylesbury. Waddesdon Police station could be sold. Funding for Police Community Support Officers could be reduced. A roundabout at Westcott is being proposed. LimeCart and Incgen are two new commercial ventures from AVDC set-up to generate a substantial income stream for the Council. Changes to recycling dates went well. APFA is registered as a beneficiary with the Vale Lottery. Facebook users are encouraged to follow Waddesdon LAF. The last date for final applications to Community Chest Fund is 15th December. 20,000 people have signed up to My Account at AVDC.
4. LED Street Lamps and increasing price of sodium lamps. The Parish Council **agreed** it was interested in discussing options with BCC and consider investigating further a proposal from Charles Harris, Edgcott Parish Councillor for a possible joint venture to commission a contract to purchase a large quantity of LED street lamps to reduce installation costs. **ACTION: CLERK to inform. PI to also obtain a price from TfB.**

14. Correspondence (outside Agenda items)

- Email from Parishioner regarding street light in carpark opposite pub. Clerk has responded that the car park is private property owned by VAHT and therefore outside the remit of the Parish Council.

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- Parish Council correspondence to John Bercow MP (opposing possible capping of local councils precept increases (at 2% maximum) or a referendum if above), noted.

15. Finance

- a. List of payments were **agreed**. Proposed by PS and seconded by SM.
Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (19th September 2016): BALANCE: £6,814.23
Note: Balance of current Bank Account and Available Funds will appear on www.ashendonparish.org.uk when the bank statement becomes available from Barclays.
ACTION: CLERK to obtain bank statement now that Mandate Forms have been submitted.
Orders for Payment:
 - **Venetia Davies - £238.34** (September Clerk Salary) and **£238.34** (October Clerk Salary) – by standing Order
 - **Venetia Davies - £9.45** (Clerk travel)
 - **Venetia Davies - £384.85** (Computer equipment covered by Transparency Funding of £487.00)
 - **Venetia Davies - £28.75** (123-Reg for ashendonparish.org.uk Domain name and domain privacy (2 years) £23.96 + £4.79 (VAT)
 - **ToolShed - £452.00** (£188.33 + £37.66 (VAT) – September Grass Verge Cutting and (£188.33 + £37.66 (VAT) – October Grass Verge Cutting)
 - **Mazars - £150.00** (£125 + £25.00 (VAT) – External Audit works
 - **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £17.00** (Donation for Wreath of Poppies).
 - **Reg Porter - £1,062.00 (£885.00 + £177.00 VAT)** – for mowing and strimming of Ashendon Recreation ground and car park for 2016 season.
- b. To consider Pension auto enrolment obligations (to commence on 1st February 2017).
ACTION: KN and CLERK to discuss.
- c. Budget update from Clerk and RFO. **ACTION: CLERK to agenda for December meeting, once statement has been received.**
- d. The Parish Tax Base figure for 2017/18 as £122.91 was **noted** together with the precept request submission date of Friday 20/01/2017.
- e. Internal Auditor. KN thanked Andy Howes for acting as the Parish Council Internal Auditor for many years and welcomed Robert Muggeridge as the new Internal Auditor for 2016/17.

Thanks were paid to PI for laying Remembrance Wreath on behalf of County Council.

16. Planning

No applications received.

17. Items for Information

1. Road Closures continues - 27th October to 22nd December and from 3rd January to 27th February – Main Street Ashendon between East Farm and Gypsy Bottom, Ashendon.
2. 3rd HGV Traffic Watch (Cheersley and Cuddington only), 25th November 2016 – 8am-4pm
3. Working Together for Buckinghamshire Town & Parish Council Conference, 12th December 2016 – 2pm-7pm – Waterside Theatre. **ACTION: CLERK to attend clerk's workshop.**
4. BCC budget consultation. Residents and communities are encouraged to take part in the survey at www.bucksc.gov.uk/budget.
5. A major survey aimed at gathering Aylesbury Vale residents' views on what they think about living in their local area and their views on how AVDC is changing is ongoing until 7/12/16.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 19th December 2016, 8pm - Ashendon Village Hall