

DRAFT MINUTES

2023/021



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Chris Rand (**CR**), Les Curtis (**LC**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**).

Parishioners: There were three Parishioners present.

Parishioners Question Time

Parishioners expressed concerns over the upkeep of the village verges, in several areas of the villages and the general condition of Boughton's Peace and commented that the village was looking 'shabby.' A similar concern has been expressed by email. Kevin Nash, previous Chair of the Parish Council, has met with the contractors to discuss the original agreement – that Lower Lane was cut after the cow parsley had died down, and that the area behind the footpath on the Causeway be cut to keep the edge clear. Kevin Nash has kindly offered to monitor the grass cutting. It was agreed to obtain further quotation for the grass cutting season for 2024/25 in the New Year. **ACTION: CR to tidy remaining areas of the Causeway and assess the salt bin on Wotton Road that needs repairing.**

1. Apologies

Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**) and Mark Wakeling (**MW**).

Due to a pending house move, Mark Wakeling has offered his resignation to the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked Mark for his contribution as a Councillor. **ACTION: CLERK to inform Buckinghamshire Council and publicise a Casual Vacancy.**

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 19th June 2023

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

3. Matters Arising

- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** Positioned agreed with APFA. **ACTION: CR to plant in November.**
- **Defibrillator.** Clerk has completed an expression of interest for grant funding for a third defibrillator for the residents of Watbridge and is awaiting outcome. Both Defibrillators have recently been checked. **ACTION: CLERK to update [The Circuit](#).**
- **King Charles III's Coronation.** **ACTION: SM to arrange delivery of commemorative gift of Allium bulbs for all Parishioners.** The cost is in the region of £400.
- **Children's Play Activity**
The Bouncy Sunday Funday has been rearranged for **Sunday 10th September from 10.00-1.00pm.** **Clare Cook to check Risk Assessment and Insurance with supplier.**

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4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Ashendon Village Community Pub Initiative

Ashendon Parish Council, as supporters of the Ashendon Village Community Pub Initiative and with prior consultation with Bucks Association for Local Councils, has agreed a donation of £1,000 of which £240 has been allocated for annual membership to The Plunkett Foundation. Luke Jamieson outlined the works of the Steering Group to date and requested that the remaining contribution (£760) be used towards an independent valuation of the pub. Councillors **agreed**. The Parish Council has received a formal request for a Letter of Support for the Ashendon Village Community Pub Initiative with background Information on the Ashendon Village Community Pub Initiative outlining project description and aims, and progress so far (the development of a business plan and extensive community research) which will aid its application for a major grant. **ACTION: CR to write letter of support.** Chris Rand thanked the Steering Group for its work and the significant amount of individual time that is going into the project.

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

There were no contributions.

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were none.

8. Correspondence

There was none outside the agenda items.

9. Overgrown Trees and Hedges

Works to the laurel hedge and bank have been carried out but there is debris that needs clearing. **ACTION: LS to clear.** The meeting was reminded that the trimming of hedges impeding/overhang footpaths and roads is the responsibility of the homeowner.

10. Speed Safety Projects

• Wotton Road footpath and HS2 Road Safety Fund

Judith Wainwright, HS2 Community Engagement Officer, Communities Directorate Buckinghamshire Council has written to CR (12.07.23) confirming that the Topographical Survey has been completed and that the scheme is going forward for detailed design and pricing, following which a final decision to proceed to delivery, will be made by the Project Board.

• Speed Awareness Update. A report was received from the Speed Watch team, as summarised below:

- The Speed Watch team have asked the PC to fund an additional SiD bracket from Traffic Technology so that the SiD can be placed at new locations/used in conjunction with the heavy tripod for "POP UP" work. **Agreed. ACTION: CLERK/Richard Philips to order additional bracket.**

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- When SiD is in operation in covert, data shows roughly 4 out of 10 vehicles passing the monitoring point at East Farm footpath are travelling at more than 30mph (very roughly 1 of these 4 at 35+). When SiD is live, this reduces to 2 out of 10.
- Various research on SiD and other traffic management results, shows 7% reductions in speed are regarded as good. Ashendon's results far exceed this.
- The team are combining sign management with a "SiD Sitting" program that encourages better driving. This consists of positively greeting good drivers only (a green 'thank you' from SiD). To date, about 8 people are on the SiD Sitting rota.
- MP Greg Smith has been approached for a "One Policeman, One Hour, Once a month, to target regular speeders. PSCO, Ken Stephenson is very supportive of the 'preventive' approach and has endorsed the idea of being present for peak/predicted speeding times. He is keen for the team to contact other community groups about Ashendon's program and results.
- A calibration certificate for SiD from Traffic Technology has been obtained to assist this work. The former Community Speed watch radar equipment is being stored with Richard Philips. An inventory and access information has been distributed.
- With the continuing help of Peter Johnson and Chris Pullin, there is good analysis and data extracts are now being published on the PC site.

11. Ultrafast Broadband

Ashendon is on the list to be looked at by Voneus but the area still needs to be surveyed, designed, and planned. SM has spoken to Greg Smith who has agreed to put Ultrafast Broadband back on his agenda and raise in Parliament.

12. Boughton's Peace Wilding Project

Whilst the aspirations of the Parish Council was to create a wildflower area, without community support, this has been difficult to achieve. The area has been tidied and the Parish Council will seek further help but it was agreed to obtain contractor quotes for the 2024/25 season. **ACTION: SM/CLERK to obtain quotations.**

13. Ashendon Parish Council and Village Website

The Hugo Fox platform will become a paid subscription platform due to increasing costs. The Parish Council **agreed** to the Silver Package at £19.99 per month which includes the Planning Tracker. The cost of the website per annum will now be £239.88 per annum. **ACTION: CLERK to inform Hugo Fox and include the additional cost in the precept planning for 2024/25.**

14. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (19th June 2023): £44,517.65**
 - **Receipts: £0.00**
 - **Debits: £333.27** (Npower - £33.44 June, £29.60 July, £30.23 August), The Plunkett Foundation £240.00 (£200.00 + £40.00 VAT). Community Business Membership.
 - **Plus unrepresented cheques: £0.00**
 - **Less standing orders: £558.00** (Clerk Salary – June and July)
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £43,626.38** (as at 23rd August 2023)
 - **Available Funds: £43,626.38** (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)

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b. **Orders for Payment: £1,076.70**

- Venetia Davies - **£18.90** (Clerk travel)
- Venetia Davies - **£8.80** (Postage)
- RTM Landscapes - **£468.00** (£390.00 + £78.00 VAT) (July grass cutting)
- RTM Landscapes - **£468.00** (£390.00 + £78.00 VAT) (August grass cutting)
- Society of Local Council Clerks - **£73.00** (Membership £146.00 with Cuddington PC)
- Information Commissioners Office - **£40.00** – Data Protection Renewal Fee

Also Agreed:

Lloyds Tree Services - £1,830.00 (1,525.00 + £305.00). ACTION: CR to ask for contribution from landowner.

BALANCE: £40,719.68 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

c. **Management Report.** September report circulated.

15. Planning

There have been no new applications since the last meeting.

16. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Bouncy Castle Fun Day** - Sunday 10th September from 10.00-1.00pm in Ashendon Playing Fields.
- **Parish Workshop** - 7th September 2023 at 6.30pm, Brill School.
- **Community Board Meeting** - 14th September at 6.30pm, Cheersley Village Hall
- **Grass Cutting schedules:** Verges: 02.10.23. Kevin Nash has kindly agreed to monitor.
- **Parish Workshop** - 16th November at 6.30pm, Westcott Cricket Club.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 20th November 2023 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall