

# DRAFT MINUTES

2021/36



## ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall. Monday 17th January 2022 at 8.00pm**

#### **PRESENT:**

**Councillors:** Sian Miller (**SM**), Fiona Jacob (**FJ**), Les Curtis (**LC**), Mark Wakeling (**MW**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Paul Irwin (PI) Buckinghamshire Councillor was also present.

**Parishioners:** There were two Parishioners present.

#### **Parishioners Question Time**

Andy Theobald explained to Councillors the intentions and benefits of the improved and extended playground. He expressed the degree of urgency for approval of the planning application (due to some grants being time sensitive) and asked the PC to endorse the planning application on behalf of the community, lobbying also where possible others (Councillors) for support. He summarised the benefits as follows:

- Current equipment 20 years old and now difficult to main and keep safe.
- Urgent need for children's activities identified in Ashendon Community Led Plan.
- Recent village survey showed overwhelming support for new equipment, with no objections.
- New equipment would be within current play area footprint save for a small extension to accommodate a zipwire (voted the most popular enhancement by children during consultation).
- Noted that this small area initially allocated for allotments in 1973, but never used as such, and there are other plots available if needed.
- Noted that Bucks CC Environmental Health officer has concerned about possible noise form the zipwire. However, overall benefit outweighs any unsubstantiated nuisance to the few houses in the area. There is no alternative site available for this much-requested item.

#### **1. Apologies**

Chris Rand (**CR**), Ashley Waite (**AW**). Parishioner Sue Rand. MW apologised for missing the December meeting.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The Draft Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chair, Sian Miller.

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### 3. Matters Arising

- **Wotton Road Footpath.** There has been no response from Thames Water regarding the request for the pathway to be located on Thames Water ground. It was agreed the project is dependent on Thames Water and needs to be approached differently.  
**ACTION: CR to write to MP Greg Smith asking for his support.**
- **Community Allotment.** Project ongoing.
- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** The Trustees of APFA are supportive of the planting of a commemorative tree on the playing fields but asked that the PC be responsible for watering.  
**ACTION: APFA and PC to meet to agree a suitable location. SM/CLERK to research trees. PI to also enquire with Cllr Ashley Waite. MW to arrange watering party (perhaps with those involved with the community allotment).**

### 4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

### 5. Playground Project – updated and accessible play equipment

The planning application (21/04668/APP) is pending consideration by Bucks Council. To date £108,924 has been secured for the project. Joe Houston has confirmed the recommending of S106 contributions (£12,924) be released directly to Ashendon Playing Fields Association (APFA). As the Association is unable to claim VAT, the gross amount on any invoices (including VAT) will be paid to APFA out of the available contribution. The monies have been requested for the 2022/23 financial year. Contact details and bank details have been provided.

### 6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

PI updated the meeting. Covid numbers were 1561 per 100,000 (on 4<sup>th</sup> January) but are steadily reducing with Plan B appearing to be working reasonably well. Paul thanked Ashendon for its support with the Christmas Toy Appeal and the Bernie Food Collection. Over 200 families were fed over the Christmas week. The next food collection is week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Ashendon is scheduled for the plane and patch programme this year. More investment is planned for C routes. The Community Boards budget is being reduced as budget pressures on the Council continue. A Library of Things, in association with Bernie the Bus, will be located at the Quanton Railway Centre.

### 7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations

There were no meetings.

### 8. Speed Indicator Device (SID)

- **Speed Indicator Device (SID).** Grant of £4,959.60 awarded. **ACTION: SM to order unit. CLERK to instruct Colin Woolford to erect posts in agreed locations. CLERK to invoice Buckinghamshire Council to reclaim agreed funding and check the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance (£5m).** A risk assessment is required upon installation. A training session will be arranged with provider, Traffic Technology.

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- **Community Speed Watch.** Richard Phillips, lead for Ashendon Community Speed Watch group, is progressing the community speed watch despite some difficulties with its central organisation. Richard will be appealing for a team of volunteers who will be required to complete online training.

### 9. Defibrillator for Pollicott

Grant of £2,332.00 awarded. The defibrillator has been ordered and will shortly be installed.

**CLERK to return the VAHT monitoring form and register the unit with Emergency Services UK. CLERK/SM to arrange training session with London Hearts and parishioners.**

### 10. Boughton's Peace Wildlife Project

Grant of £463.00 awarded. A working party is required on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January for the installation/positioning of bird boxes, composter, a small log pile and planting of fruit trees. A bring and share unit is going to be constructed. **ACTION: SM to appeal for Volunteers for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. CLERK to invoice Community Board for payment once complete. SM/CLERK to publicise on website and include a learning piece.** This will include publication of the BBOWT case study, once available.

### 11. 2022/23 Grass Cutting

Councillors agreed to instruct the existing contractor for 2022/23 at a cost of £2,160.00 for 6 cuts per year (£360.00 per cut). This represents a small RPI increase (an additional £20 per cut) to cover increased costs. **ACTION: CLERK to instruct RTM Landscape for 2022/23. SM/CLERK to sign Bucks Council Devolution Agreement 2022/23.**

### 12. Boundary Commission for England

The Commission has announced that it is minded to recommend that the Council has 98 councillors in the future. It is interested in views (from residents and local organisation alike) on which communities should be part of the same ward so that proposals for new electoral arrangements reflect communities. More details here: [Consultation on Ward Boundaries for Buckinghamshire \(closes 4th April 2022\)](#).

### 13. Correspondence

Email from Parishioner requesting regard for setting of precept. This was considered under Item 15.

### 14. Finance

#### a. Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (6<sup>th</sup> December 2021): £35,266.82

- Receipts: £0.00
- Debits: £56.20 – Npower Business (previously E-on),
- Plus unrepresented cheques: £88.52 (Stationery and Clerk travel)
- Less standing orders: £249.60 (Clerk Salary)
- Balance of Bank Account: £35,049.54 as at 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021)
- Available Funds: £34,961.02 (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)

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**b. Orders for Payment: £1,807.55**

- Venetia Davies - **£9.45** (Clerk travel)
- Venetia Davies - **£25.10** (stationery including files and postage)
- RTM Landscapes - **£408.00** (back payment for grass cutting, June 2021)
- London Hearts - **£1,237.00** (Defibrillator for Pollicott)
- Ashendon Village Hall - **£128.00** (Hall hire for 2021 meetings)
- **BALANCE: £33,153.47** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

**c. Management Report, January 2022. ACTION: CLERK to circulate.**

### 15. Parish Precept setting 2022/23

It was agreed the Precept should include an allowance for increased devolved services/grass cutting in addition to projects previously supported: the extension of the footpath to Wotton Road/White City (considered a high priority given volume of traffic and parishioner safety), the possible renewal of the tarmac path through Boughton's Peace to Lower End, footpath improvements and the combining of the existing village website with the Parish Council website. Considering these projects Councillors (and the competition for grant funding), it was **agreed** to set the precept for 2022/23 at £16,000, the resulting Band D to remain at £121.41 (as 2021/22). Proposed MW, Seconded FJ. **ACTION: CLERK to return the Precept Request to Buckinghamshire Council (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021).**

### 16. Planning

- **21/04668/APP - Recreation Ground Lower End Ashendon Buckinghamshire** Replacement of play equipment. Agreed extended comment date: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 **ACTION: CLERK to return SUPPORTS the application to Buckinghamshire Council.** Full comment will be able to be viewed under the application number on the Bucks Council planning portal.

### 17. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **CLG meeting** – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. **ACTION: CR to attend.**
- **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – Lighting of Beacon - 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
- **RLSC village website.** **ACTION: CLERK/SM to liaise with Peter Johnson re the incorporation of the village website into the Parish Council website.**
- **Annual Village Meeting.** **ACTION: CLERK to invite Village organisations to participate.**

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

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> March at 8pm in Ashendon Village Hall**  
**Annual Village Meeting – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**