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ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held in the Village Hall.
Monday 20th September 2021 at 8.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Sian Miller (**SM**), Chris Rand (**CR**), Les Cutis (**LC**), Mark Wakeling (**MW**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Councillor Ashely Waite (**AW**) was also present.

Parishioners: There were 5 Parishioners present including Fiona Jacob (**FJ**).

Parishioners Question Time

- **APFA Play Equipment Project.** David Crwys-Williams (DCW) updated the Parish Council on the Play Equipment project. The Association has identified that the existing small play area needs replacing with specially designed fully accessible equipment. The quote from suppliers is in the region of £90,000. The Association has made many funding applications and, to date, achieved funding of £59,000.00. There are some outstanding bids from larger funding bodies including FCC and the National Lottery that could be dependent on the Association obtaining planning permission for the new playground. Preplanning advice has been sought, with the caveat that Covid could interrupt advice, but it is now 5 months since the application was made. Although the footprint and level of work remains similar, a site visit to ascertain if planning permission is required, is now crucial.
- **Footpaths.** Footpath markers (such as the posts with yellow caps that Waddesdon use) are required as a marker on a field to prevent walkers coming into a resident's garden. There are brambles over a new footpath that require cutting back. **ACTION: SM to raise with neighbour.** A Parishioner made a plea to farmers that the larger amount of industrial packaging be removed from fields. It was noted that there was a marked increase in the number of plastics compared to last year, these not far from public footpaths. The packaging was **agreed** to be cleared.

1. Apologies

Paul Irwin (PI).

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 21st June 2021

The Draft Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by Chairman Sian Miller.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Co-option of Councillor

The Parish Council co-opted Fiona Jacob (**FJ**) to fill the vacancy of Councillor and welcomed Fiona to the Parish Council. **ACTION: FJ to complete Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests form. CLERK to**

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notify and return forms to Bucks Council. **CLERK** to circulate Parish Council procedures (Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Risk Assessment, etc) to FJ.

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Clr Ashley Waite. The Helping Hand for Afghanistan campaign has received pledges over £20,000 since it was launched two weeks ago. Bucks Council is welcoming two families a month. The Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VALP) has been adopted and will protect the County from unwanted development. Due to HGV shortages, there are waste collection problems in the South. There has been a 2% increase in Covid number with school age children and 16–18-year-olds amongst the highest infection cases. Bernie the Bus is up and running but uptake is low as a result of the pandemic and its effect on wellbeing and confidence. **ACTION: AW to forward details of Bernie the Bus for promotion of its services.**

7. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

- Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board (30.06.21, MW). [Minutes attached](#). There were several comments concerning the complicated online funding application process.
- CLG Meeting Greatmore (23.08.21, CR). There have been fires in lorries caused by the disposal of batteries in household bins. There was a plea to dispose of these safely. A planning application has been submitted for a sculpture. Second-hand heat is being used to grow vegetables.
- Community Board subgroup (SM). There is a move to bring environment and wellbeing together with projects and enthusiasm for initiatives such as the Wild Aylesbury Vale initiative.

8. Correspondence

Email from Waddesdon PC. There will be a sentinel hire fee of £15 to cover maintenance of equipment. This was **agreed** but it was noted the equipment must be in *good shape* when hired.

9. PC Governance

There is a recommendation from Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils to adopt the new Code of Conduct ratified by Bucks Council, so that any complaints passed to the Monitoring Officer will be easier for Bucks Council to investigate any breaches. **ACTION: Councillors to review. CLERK to re-agenda for November meeting.**

10. Play Around the Parishes

The event was well attended with approximately 50 attendees, with the majority thought to come from neighbouring villages. The offer this year appeared to be downscaled (no face painting, for example, due to the pandemic). The bouncy castle previously provided was replaced with a much smaller bouncy slide. As a result, it was felt that the event, without further provision for older children, was more suited to 1–6-year-olds (rather than its promoted age range of 1–11-year-olds). Without the availability of the playground equipment and MUGA in Ashendon, it was felt that many families would have left after a short time. Value for money was a concern. It was **agreed** to review participation in the scheme in 2022 and perhaps use the funding instead for a play session instigated by Ashendon.

11. Traffic Calming Measures

Speed Indicator Device (SID). Feedback from the funding application has received a favourable response but there was a comment that a small contribution from the PC would be appreciated. Councillors **agreed** a contribution of £250.00. **ACTION: CLERK to notify Elaine Hassell. White lines.** Full re-lining through the main road of Ashendon has been completed. **ACTION: CLERK to thank LAT, Colin Woolford.**

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12. Wotton Road Footpath

Chris Rand reported that the landowner of the verge is Thames Water and is attempting to arrange a meeting with the Property Officer. It was suggested that the principle of a footway would very much depend on the level of goodwill. It was suggested an easement may have to be granted laying down conditions/peppercorn charges etc. **ACTION: DCW to forward Thames Water contact to CR.**

13. Defibrillator for Pollicott

The Parish Council has applied for a grant for the defibrillator to the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust but due to resourcing constraints, the July/August round of grant applications have been postponed to end September. **ACTION: CLERK to inform outcome of grant. SM to obtain quotes from electrician.**

14. Footpaths.

Diversion of Footpath 7 (ASH/7/1). The Right of Way Officer has inspected the path and confirmed that there is nothing wrong. The path does not follow the definitive alignment after it leaves the track by Pollicott Manor instead it turns sharp left and follows the fence line over a stile. The Officer has explained that the definitive map is not wrong unless evidence showing it to be wrong such as a mapping error is proven. *'Where people walk and the definitive line of a public right of way can often differ especially in cases where ground conditions are difficult and there is a more practical way to walk.'*

15. Wildlife Project

A grant of £463.00 has been awarded (and acknowledged) from the Wild Aylesbury Vale initiative for Ashendon's wildlife project on Boughton's Peace. Sian Miller has order bird boxes, flowering shrubs, and edible trees from the Lindengate charity, and a composter. A working party is required for the installation. Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) would like to do a case study on Ashendon's wildlife project. **ACTION: SM to appeal for Volunteers in Bernwode News, Website, FB and publicise BBOWT case study when available.**

16. Nomination of the Hundred PH as an Asset of Community Value

The Hundred PH was nominated and registered as a community asset until its registration expired on 5th September 2018 (the building was registered on AVDC Register of Assets for a period of 5 years). The re-nomination by the Parish Council was unsuccessful, and despite detailing the social interests of the PH in more depth in a second nomination (2019), the proposal was unsuccessful. SM outlined the purpose of Assets of Community Value - the benefit and 'rolling' protection of registering the pub as an asset of Community Value so that it is safe as a PH for the community for a period of time, the chance it gives for a community group to put together funding to bid to purchase the property (on the open market) and the two moratorium processes (6 weeks to decide for a community group to decide if they want to be consider as a potential buyer and 6 months during which a community group can develop a proposal and raise funds to bid to buy the asset). It was noted that the pub was a high priority in the Community Led Plan. Some Councillors felt a better understanding of the process, and in addition to the need to do so, was required. It was **agreed** to defer the decision to the November meeting. **ACTION: CLERK to re-agenda for November.**

17. Ashendon Playing Fields Association

- **Grass Cutting arrangement.** Subject to assurance from Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils that the PC can donate monies to APFA to manage its grass cutting and expectations, it was **agreed** to formalise the grass cutting arrangement and donation amount with APFA; this a result of a series of complaints and demands from the Football team. **ACTION: CLERK to contact BMALC. SM/CLERK to then propose formal agreement to Trustees of APFA.**

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- **S106 - Lower Pollicott 15/03575/APP.** The Parish Council has submitted the authorisation form for S106 contribution (£12,924) towards the proposed new Ashendon playground and awaits a decision on the funds being committed to the play equipment project. The current/previous S106 approval process now must go through a 'key decision' process, as per Bucks Council Finance regulations. It was noted that this could potentially affect monies from funding bodies that require third party payment as part of its bid. **ACTION: CLERK to seek prompt approval.**

18. Community Allotments

The Parish Council **agreed** the provision of a community allotment for residents. This will be provided free of charge to those who perhaps want an allotment but don't have the time to be solely responsible for a plot. **ACTION: MW to lead the project and promote to residents in Bernwode News/Website/Facebook.**

19. Queen Platinum Jubilee Beacon

The Parish Council **agreed** to the lighting of a Beacon (2nd June 2022). Councillors **agreed** to plant a tree as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. Whilst free saplings are available free of charge from the Woodland Trust, funding is available from the Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Boards for a more substantial specimen tree. It was suggested this be planted in Ashendon Playing Fields. **ACTION: SM/DCW to propose the legacy of a tree to the Trustees of APFA. CLERK to notify Elaine Hassell of Ashendon's support and proposed location.**

20. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (21st June 2021): £30,387.02**
 - **Receipts:** £0.00
 - **Debits:** £72.94 (E-on)
 - **Plus unrepresented cheques:** 0.00
 - **Less standing orders:** £748.80 (Clerk Salary – June, July, August)
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £29,565.23** (as at 23rd August 2021)
Available Funds: £29,565.28* (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)
After minor overpayment (£0.05) this is corrected in below Orders for Payment.*
- b. **Orders for Payment: £1,914.86**
 - **Venetia Davies** - £28.35 (Clerk travel)
 - **Venetia Davies** - £2.34 (£2.39 less 0.05* discrepancy) - postage of plans
 - **Venetia Davies** - £65.00 Society of Local Council Clerk membership (shared Cuddington with PC)
 - **RTM Landscapes Ltd** - £408.00 (£340.00 + £68.00 VAT) - July grass cutting
 - **RTM Landscapes Ltd** - £408.00 (£340.00 + £68.00 VAT) - August grass cutting
 - **Aylesbury Mains Ltd** - £211.20 (£176.00 + £35.20 VAT) - Street Light Repair opposite Village Hall (to LED)
 - **Bucks Council** - £67.97 (Costs of uncontested election May 2021)
 - **Bucks Council** - £444.00 (£370.00 + £74.00 VAT) - Play Around the Parishes
 - **Information Commissioner's Office** - £40.00 (Data protection fee renewal)
 - **PKF Littlejohn LLP** - £240.00 (£200.00 + £40.00) – Audit for year ended 31st March 2021
 - **BALANCE: £27,650.37** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)
- c. **Notice of conclusion of audit.** The Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 is now complete and has been publicised.
- d. **Online Banking.** **ACTION: SM to register for online banking.**
- e. **Management Report, September 2021 circular.** **ACTION: CLERK to circulate.**

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21. Planning

- **21/02809/APP - Warmstone House, Main Street, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire HP18 0HB**
Single storey rear extension. Comment date: 5th August 2021. **NO OBJECTIONS** ratified.
- **Planning Application CM/0037/21. Bucks Recycling**
Continuation of the development at Hangar 5 and on adjoining land at variance to conditions 6 (Vehicle Movements) & 11 (Waste Throughput) attached to planning permission CM/0022/19, to increase vehicle movements & the annual waste throughput limit. **OBJECTION** ratified as follows: *Ashendon Parish Council, together with neighbouring parish councils have worked closely with Bucks Council to focus on the issue of HGV's using routes already agreed to be unsuitable for heavy vehicles. We cannot agree with statement section 4.26 A routing agreement was entered into as part of the original planning permission. This required vehicles not to pass through Westcott village, but only use the northern end of the High Street. With the new roundabout access off the A41 to serve the Venture Park, it was considered that the routing agreement was no longer required under the planning permission CM/0022/19. The routing agreement was in place to stop vehicles travelling through Westcott and onwards through the small hill village of Ashendon (where the highway reduces to single track in places). The construction of the roundabout on the A41 has not changed the potential impact that any heavy goods vehicles, choosing to route through Westcott and Ashendon, would have on highway and pedestrian safety and capacity or in terms of the impact on the amenity of other road users, residents and the environment. We, therefore, request that the restriction remains in place.*
- **21/03165/APP - Barns Off Main Road, Upper Pollicott, HP18 0HH**
Conversion and minor extension/rebuild of a range of agricultural barns to create five dwellings with access arrangements, vehicle parking, landscaping and all associated works. Comment date: extended to Tuesday 21st September.
ACTION: CLERK to return OPPOSES the application to Bucks Council. *Ashendon Parish Council opposes this application. The application is considered to be an overdevelopment. The additional access onto a national speed limit road, creating 5 access points close together on a short stretch of road that has reduced visibility, is considered unsafe. The PC notes that there is no facility for off road school bus pick up, which means children would need to be driven to Ashendon for school travel.*

22. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Freight Advisory Group Meeting:** 05.10.21 at 18.30 by Zoom. **ACTION: CR to attend.**
- **Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board meeting:** 04.11.21 at 7 pm by MS Teams.
ACTION: CR to attend
- **Greatmoor CLG meeting:** Wednesday 17.11.21, Greatmoor. **ACTION: LC to attend.**
- **Bucks Council.** Consultation on council size and electoral boundaries. Closes: 02.11.21
- **Annual Village Meeting.** **ACTION: CLERK to propose April date.**

23. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER at 8pm in Ashendon Village Hall