

DRAFT MINUTES

2023/009



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

Parishioners: There were 5 Parishioners present.

Parishioners Question Time

- **Planning Application Consultation 23/00375/APP.** There have been a number of objections logged. Which include concerns relating to property ownership and Ofsted registration. The Parish Council reminded the meeting that it can only comment on material planning considerations. The PC comments, which has requested the application be 'called-in', were logged on 6th March. The Officer is aware of the PC's comments and they have been saved to file (10.03.23). If the Case Officer agrees to the application being called-in, the Parish Council, objectors, and supporters, will be made aware of the process.
- **Hundred PH.** Out of courtesy, the owners of the Hundred PH advised the meeting that they have advertised for a new tenant. The meeting was pleased to hear the owners intend to retain the Hundred of Ashendon as a Public House.

1. Apologies

Fiona Jacob (**FJ**) and Richard Phillips, Speed Watch. Les Curtis (**LC**) was absent.

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 16th January 2023 and Extraordinary Meeting – 3rd March 2023

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

3. Matters Arising

- **Combined Village Website.** Final amends made. **ACTION: CLERK to arrange editors meeting.**
- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** **ACTION: CR to plant in agreement with APFA.**
- **Defibrillator.** The CPR and Defibrillator training welcomed over 20 Parishioners and was very successful. Thanks were paid to Kevin Dennington, First Responder and Fiona Jacob and Venetia Davies for organising. **ACTION: CLERK to download and share demonstration with others at a Village meeting and/or via the website. ACTION: CLERK to investigate grant funding for a third defibrillator that has been requested by residents of Watbridge.**
- **Community Allotment.** **ACTION: MW/SM to send a note out in March asking for interested residents to meet for a planning session.**

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4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillors

There were no contributions.

6. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were none.

7. Correspondence

There was none.

8. 2023/24 Highways Devolution Variation/Extension - 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

The uplift of 9% (which is in line with Buckinghamshire Council's inflationary figure (equating to 23/24 payment being £625.10) was noted and the paperwork duly signed. **ACTION: CLERK to return to Buckinghamshire Council.**

9. Overgrown Trees and Hedges

Two quotations have been received by the Clerk for works to overgrown trees and hedges. It was agreed to instruct Lloyd Tree Services Ltd for works to the Three Sycamore Trees in Lower End, as well as the removal of the whole block of Laurel hedge opposite the post box in Lower End and the removal of all elder, holly and scrub growth on the bank from the end of the Laurel hedge for around 25 metres to include the Elders beside the telegraph pole. **ACTION: CLERK/CR to instruct and inform residents. CR to liaise with landowner for agreed contribution towards the costs of repairing the fallen hedge on Parish Council land.**

10. King Charles III's Coronation

A celebration is planned for Sunday 7th May on Ashendon Playing Fields. The Parish Council agreed to provide a commemorative gift for Parishioners. **ACTION: MW/SM to arrange.**

11. Local Plan for Buckinghamshire – Infrastructure Baseline

The main issues concerning infrastructure and services in Ashendon are concerned with roads and broadband. **ACTION: SM/CLERK to complete and return questionnaire to Buckinghamshire Council by 31st March 2023.**

12. Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Boards

In order to make a safer cycling route and network, it was agreed that Ashendon's aspirations is for the Greenway walking and cycling route be extended from Waddesdon to Westcott. It was noted that whilst Ashendon is on a marked cycle route, it is not cyclable due to failed maintenance. **ACTION: CLERK to return comments by Friday 24th March 2023**

13. Grass Cutting - APFA

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to continue its donation to APFA for grass cutting and agreed the quoted price of £1,500.00 (an increase of £300.00 due to the additional work

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around the play equipment added to the park) for 10 cuts starting in early April 2023.

ACTION: CLERK to notify APFA and remind the Committee that the management of the grass cutting be managed by the APFA. Costs to be met by the APFA for any additional cuts.

14. Speed Awareness Project

- **Wotton Road Footpath and HS2 Road Safety Fund (RSF | |).**

An email has been received from Judith Wainwright, HS2 Community Engagement Officer, Buckinghamshire Council. TfB are currently awaiting the start of Buckinghamshire Council's new Highways contractors (Atkins) in April. A site visit has however been undertaken and TfB are now in the process of arranging a topographical survey to help better understand the risks and costs associated with the potential delivery of the proposed scheme. TfB hoped to conclude the RSF stage 2 assessment process by end May (although it is noted that this will depend upon the outputs from the survey and any additional investigations that may be required). The new maintenance contractor, Balfour Beatty Living Places will support highways maintenance and infrastructure projects.

- **Speed Awareness**

Due to apologies, a written report was received from the Speed Watch team. The SiD is now in full working order. Given the absence of any definitive information on main road traffic flow, in particular the situation around Pollicott, the SiD has been immediately tasked to conduct a traffic survey here. This will be done utilising newly installed update, funded by the PC. A Traffic Survey is now planned which will survey the whole of the village commencing in Pollicott. This has involved temporarily moving the support brackets to a suitable Pollicott site. The other proposed new site is on the East Farm end pedestrian sign, earmarked for use in due course. The PC will receive a report once enough data on the main road around Pollicott has been gathered (in a few weeks, and then monthly thereafter). The SiD will then be moved again, in stages around the village. Traffic will be observed in ALL directions, using all available recording modes. This will establish exactly what the true traffic flow is through the village and how best to use SiD to make a positive impact on driving behaviour, for the village's benefit. This in-depth traffic flow survey, to create an initial baseline of data and is expected to take around 3 to 4 months to complete. The group will report their findings and insights into observed traffic behaviour monthly on the new village website with the aim of creating further village awareness, interaction and engagement. The Speed Watch team is dedicated to fully utilise SiD's data for improvement to the quality of life for **everyone** in Ashendon Parish. An email was received from a Parishioner which will be responded to by the Speed Watch team in due course. The PC thanked the team for its work.

15. Ultrafast Broadband

A positive update has been received from Heather Thompson, Community Engagement Regional Manager at Voneus Limited. Ashendon is on a list of areas to be actively looked at to supply an alternative Broadband solution, offering higher speeds than Ashendon currently has. The area will need to be surveyed, designed, and planned but the exact time frame is unknown. **ACTION: SM** to continue to progress other list of BDUK contacts/companies – Rapid Rural Broadband, Cerberus, Ecom, Swish Fibre, BT Openreach and press for meeting with Greg Smith, MP.

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16. Boughton's Peace and Wilding project

FJ is organising a meeting for anyone interested in joining the Boughton's Peace wilding group on Saturday 1st April at 10am (on Boughton's Peace). Please get in touch with Fiona Jacob - fiona_jacob@hotmail.co.uk.

17. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (16th January 2023): £36,288.18**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **Debits: £55.68** (Npower: £28.29 January, £27.39 February)
- **Plus unrepresented cheques: £28.78** (Peter Johnson – Domain Name). **ACTION: SM/CR to arrange online payment.**
- **Less standing orders: £499.20** (Clerk: January and February)
- **Balance of Bank Account: £35,762.08** (as at 23rd February 2023)
- **Available Funds: £ 35,733.30** (balance of bank account less unrepresented cheques)

a. Orders for Payment: £687.35

- **Venetia Davies - £34.00** (Backdated pay - due to no readjustment on Standing Order with Bank (now set up 17.02.23).
- **Venetia Davies - £279.00** (finalising combined website, Defibrillator attendance, Extraordinary planning meeting)
- **Venetia Davies - £28.35** (Clerk travel)
- **Venetia Davies - £180.00** (annual Use of Home allowance).
- **South Central Ambulance - £100.00** (Donation for Defibrillator training)
- **Landscape Matters - £66.00** (£55.00 + £11.00 VAT) (Elm Tree and Shelter)
- **BALANCE: £35,045.95** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

18. Planning

There have been no new applications since the Extraordinary Planning meeting on 3rd March 2023.

19. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Parish Council briefing:** The transition to Buckinghamshire Highways and key information/contacts – 31st March 2023 at 6.30pm-8.00pm. **ACTION: SM to attend.**
- **Ashendon Village Litter - SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023 AT 9.30AM.** Please meet in the playing fields carpark.

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING: Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Monday 15th May 2023