

DRAFT MINUTES

2023/025



ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 20th November 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Les Curtis (**LC**), Fiona Jacobs (**FJ**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**).

Parishioners: There were three Parishioners present plus Buckinghamshire Councillor, Ashley Waite.

The meeting was Chaired by Sian Miller.

Parishioners Question Time

There were no questions.

1. Apologies

Chris Rand (**CR**).

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 4th September 2023

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

3. Matters Arising

- **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Elm.** Positioned agreed with APFA. **ACTION: CR to plant in November.**
- **Defibrillator.** Whilst Ashendon PC was unsuccessful in obtaining a fully funded defibrillator for the residents of Watbridge (from the DHSC Community Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Fund, where selection was based on areas that are most in need of AED throughout England), Ashendon has been invited to apply for a match funded defibrillator through this scheme. After the funding is applied the cost of the Defibrillator and External Heated Cabinet with keypad lock (for installation on an external wall & cabinet requires a power supply) is £750.00 including P&P. **ACTION: CLERK to contact Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board for match funding and write to hello@defibgrant.co.uk to express an interest in its match funding offer. SM to agree location.** It was suggested a sign also be purchased to highlight defibrillator location. Whilst the Parish Council receives prompts, and actions, from the Circuit regarding the maintenance of the defibrillator, for extra safety, it was agreed to check the existing defibrillators before/after each PC meeting.
- **King Charles III's Coronation.** The commemorative gift of Allium bulbs have been delivered and well received.

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- **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. Ongoing.
- **Ashendon Parish Council and Village Website.** **ACTION: CLERK** to note additional cost from Hugo Fox of £239.88 per annum (£19.99 per month) to be included in budget planning for 2024/25 and enquire with Hugo Fox about security/back up if pages ever became corrupt.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Councillor Vacancy/Co-option

Following the resignation of Cllr Mark Wakeling, the Parish Council has publicised the Notice of Casual Vacancy (ended 5th October). There had been no request to fill the vacancy by election, so the Parish Council was able to co-opt for position of Councillor. One expression of interest had been received. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Luke Jamieson. **ACTION: LJ** to complete registration of interest. **CLERK** to send to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. and organise a Councillor training course. Luke Jamieson joined the meeting.

6. Ashendon Village Community Pub Initiative

The Market Appraisal has been completed, with costs met by the Parish Council as part of its donation. The owners are very supportive of what the village is doing and the Steering Group is constantly surprised by the number of people who have got involved and stepped forward. A huge amount of work is being done to Save the Pub. The Community Pub village meeting on 27th October was well attended. Greg Smith, MP who also attended the meeting, is fully supportive of the initiative. Villagers have now been invited to pledge their intention to buy shares to become a co-owner of the pub as a community asset. The success of the government grant hinges on the villages ability to show a willingness in Ashendon and surrounding villages to contribute sufficient funds for success. **ACTION: CLERK** to seek guidance from BALC on the giving of a further PC donation. **AW** to seek guidance from Joe Houston, Buckinghamshire Council regarding use of S106 monies as sports and leisure contribution.

7. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Councillor

AW updated the meeting. Buckinghamshire Council has informed local councils in the former Aylesbury Vale area ('north and central') that it has recently lost its five-year housing land supply position, which now stands at 4.5 years. This will mean that there may be more speculative applications for housing developments on sites not included in the Local Plan. The water leak at Pollicott has been repaired, and Thames Water fined for failure to complete repair within agreed SLA. The new Freight Strategy goes to consultation on 8th January for 6 weeks. The extension to the Greenway to Waddesdon School Lane, opens on Wednesday, 22nd November 2023. The Bernie Hamper Appeal is going ahead again for a third year. The Quanton Lending Library is now open.

8. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations.

There were none.

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9. Correspondence

There was none outside the agenda items.

10. Speed Safety Projects

- **Wotton Road footpath and HS2 Road Safety Fund**
Judith Wainwright, HS2 Community Engagement Officer, Communities Directorate Buckinghamshire Council wrote to CR (12.07.23) confirming that the Topographical Survey had been completed and that the scheme was going forward for detailed design and pricing. **ACTION: CR/CLERK to contact Judith Wainwright to ascertain if a final decision to proceed to delivery, has been made.**
- **Speed Awareness Update.** Further volunteers have come forward for the 'SiD Sitting' rota. It is estimated that the sitting programme results in a further 10% reduction in traffic speeds. Regular data is being uploaded on the website. The team is exploring 20mph traffic calming measures. **ACTION: CLERK to order additional SiD bracket from Traffic Technology Ltd and arrange delivery to Richard Philips. FJ to present speed limit signage/artwork proposals at January meeting. CR/RP to refit the speed indicator post.**

11. Grass Cutting 2024/2025 Season

There have been a number of negative comments about the grass cutting for this season. It was agreed to obtain additional quotes for the 2024/25 season. As well as the devolved grass cutting, this will include Boughton's Peace. Venetia Davies and Kevin Nash (who kindly monitors the grass cutting) has met with one contractor and is awaiting a quote. **ACTION: CLERK to obtain further quotations and circulate the devolved maps to Councillors.**

12. Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023

Councillors agreed the new pay agreement for 2023/24 for Clerks (to be backdated from April 1st, 2023). **ACTION: CLERK to advise JE Accountants who administers the payroll.**

13. Projects for 2024/25

A number of suggestions for projects for the new financial year were discussed including dog bins, salt bin repairs and footpath improvements (replacement of wooden stiles to gates). **ACTION: CLERK to obtain costs of dog bins and circulate to Councillors in advance of January meeting. COUNCILLORS to put forward any other projects for discussion at the January meeting.**

14. Finance

- a. **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (4th September 2023): £40,719.68**
 - **Receipts: £8,500.00** (Precept)
 - **Debits: £86.02** (Npower - £29.81 September, £44.22 October) (Hugo Fox £11.99)
 - **Plus unrepresented BACS: £40.00*** (ICO – Data Protection fee, payment by Sian Miller)
 - **Less standing orders: £558.00** (Clerk Salary – August and September)
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £48,615.66** (as at 23rd August 2023)
Available Funds: £48,575.66 (balance of bank account less unrepresented BACS)

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b. **Orders for Payment: £2,151.50**

- **Venetia Davies - £18.90** (Clerk travel)
- **RTM Landscapes - £468.00** (£390.00 + £78.00 VAT) (October grass cutting)
- **Clare Cook - £270.00** (Bouncy Castle hire)
- **Roger Coplestone - £960.00** (£800.00 + £160.00 VAT) (Market Appraisal Valuation Report on The Hundred of Ashendon)
- **Sian Miller - £175.60** (Allium Bulbs £142.99 (£119.16 + £23.83 VAT) + Postcards £32.61 (£27.18 + £5.43 VAT) – King’s Coronation souvenir gift.
- **Traffic Technology Ltd - £234.00** (£195.00 + £39.00 VAT) (Additional SID bracket)
- **Royal British Legion - £25.00** (Donation for Remembrance Wreath)
- **BALANCE: £46,424.16.** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

c. **Management Report.** November 2023 circulated.

d. **Budget/Precept 2024/25.** **ACTION: CLERK to bring forward to January meeting for precept setting.**

15. Planning

- **23/03322/VRC - Barns Off Main Road, Upper Pollicott, HP18 0HH**
Variation of condition 19 (approved plans) relating to application 21/03165/APP (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 by: 6th December 2023.
ACTION: CLERK to return No Objections to Buckinghamshire Council but comment that the Parish Council responded to the original application 21/03165/APP with concerns that the middle access of the development showed no provision of planting/landscaping or closure of the access. The continued inclusion of a gateway directly onto a national speed limit road, from the planned garden area, without it being closed off and hedge reinstated is a very major safety issue concern to the Parish Council.

16. Items for Information including Diary Dates:

- **Buckinghamshire Council new housing strategy consultation.** Have your say on the draft Housing Strategy at [Your Voice Bucks](#). **ACTION: CLERK to upload on website.**
- **Litter Pick.** To be arranged for March 2024. High vis jackets and litter pickers to be sourced.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Ashendon Village Hall