

DRAFT MINUTES

2015/2027

ASHENDON PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held in Ashendon Village Hall
Monday 21st December 2015 at 8pm

PRESENT: Chairman: Kevin Nash (**KN**), Councillors: Les Curtis (**LC**), Sian Miller (**SM**), Peter Smettem (**PS**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk**).

Parishioners: There were 3 Parishioners present including Councillor Paul Irwin (**PI**).

NB: Action points highlighted

Parishioners Question Time

There were no questions.

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Rand (**CR**)

2. Approval of Minutes – Monday 16th November 2015

Draft Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by Chairman, KN.

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes

- Clean for Queen (**Friday 4 to Sunday 6 March 2016**) – **ACTION: CLERK to agenda for January meeting.**

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

5. Planning

- **15/03859/ALB –Manor Farm, Lower Pollicott, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0HQ**
Demolition of existing farm buildings, extension and conversion of existing barns to form four dwellings, erection of associated garage, including erection of garage to serve the existing dwelling and retention of existing access. (Amendment to 12/00804/ALB). **ACTION: CLERK has submitted NO OBJECTIONS to AVDC.**
- **15/03402/COUAR - Former Dairy And Bull Pens, Upper Pollicott, Ashendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0HB. AVDC: Refused**

6. Correspondence

- Letter: Rachel Entwistle, Pharmacy application in Waddesdon (request for comments). Response made from KN concerning impact on current doctor surgery in terms of service and reduction in funding.
- Email: VALP Responses from Waddesdon LAF. Views from Waddesdon Parish Council noted. Note: Ashendon Parish Council resolved not to report on the draft Technical reports (to inform the VALP Issues and Options consultation) at its November meeting, so no further comment can be made.
- Email: Jean Fox, Community Impact Bucks re Rural Affordable Housing. Search for suitable land for a rural exception scheme ongoing. Jean to contact Ashendon Parish Council in New Year with a possible alternative solution such as a Community Right to Build Order. **ACTION: CLERK to follow up as necessary.**

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7. Contributions from BCC Cllr

Cllr PI informed Councillors that the Budget Freeze will be worse than originally anticipated with further cuts expected in 2017/2018. He also informed Councillors that the 'Plane and patch' treatment from Ashendon to crossroads and Pollicott will commence next year. Cannons Hill to also be included. **ACTION: PI to give Parish Council as much fore notice as possible.**

8. Finance

a. Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (16th November 2015): BALANCE: £13,312.57

- Receipts: £0.00
- Debits: £0.00
- Plus unpresented cheques: £275.00 (Venetia Davies) £17.00 (Royal British Legion)
- **Balance of Bank Account: £13,604.57** (as at 23rd November 2015).
Available Funds: £13,312.57 (balance of bank account less unpresented cheques).
(Business Saving Account: £142.23)

b. Orders for Payment: £5,485.00

- **Venetia Davies - £220.00**
- **L S Holder - £265.00** (Boughton's Peace - grass cutting and strimming April-October 2015)
- **FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd - £5,000** (Ashendon Playing Field MUGA – WREN Ref: CF-019)
- **BALANCE: £7,827.57** - (Available Funds less Orders for Payment)

ACTION: PS to post cheque to FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd enclosing signed grant conditions (signed by Clerk 22/12/15). CLERK to notify Barclay's Bank, again, of change of Clerk's address. To also inform of misspelling (Ashenden to Ashendon).

9. Replacement Bench located at Old Forge

Bench selected (Kennington bench from Broxap.com). £900 excluding VAT (cost £741 + fixings £60 + delivery £99). Microgrant Application Form for Community Chest completed. **ACTION: CLERK to add bank account details and send with relevant supporting document.**

10. Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan – public consultation until 29th January 2016.

It was agreed that it was more appropriate for individual responses to be made (rather than a collective response from the Parish Council). **ACTION: SM to publicise on Facebook page. CLERK to upload on News pages of Website.**

Items 11, 12 and 13 were discussed collectively.

11. BUDGET 2016/17 and Precept 2016/17 (return due Friday 22nd January 2016)

Prior to meeting, KN circulated note to Parishioners (regarding the budget 2016/17 and precept) highlighting financial challenges facing the Parish Council due essentially to paid employment of a Clerk and devolvement of services. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill will significantly change how England is governed with devolution of national services (at present grass cutting, hedge trimming, sign cleaning). KN presented budget and resulting precept requirement. It was resolved that the Precept required is £7,465 - an increase over 2015/16 of £2,920 and a percentage increase of 64.25%. Proposed by KN, seconded by LC. The grant entitlement for 2016/17 from AVDC will be

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£95.00. **ACTION: CLERK to return precept requirement to AVDC. KN to obtain quotations for grasscutting at Boughton Peace for 2016/17. Proposed by KN, seconded by LC.**

12. BCC Transportation Devolution Proposal for 2016, update.

PI informed Councillors that grass cutting is not a statutory requirement and highlighted the benefits of Parish Councils gaining more control over devolving services. He also confirmed that if Parish Councils enter an agreement for Trance 2 Devolution (by 1st April 2016), the BCC grant will be guaranteed for 3 years. KN presented four quotes obtained for grass cuttings (each averaged 6 cuts per year). One of these - informed as a request from Jacqueline Austin-Lavery at BCC – was the Stewkley Enterprise Agency who offers to create the same model for other Parishes through Tool Shed Bucks. It was agreed this was a highly competitive price, from an organisation used as a model for Devolution, and that Tool Shed should be instructed in principle and subject to contract. Proposed by PS, seconded by KN. **ACTION: CLERK to return "Expression of Interest" for Trance 2 Devolution.** Proposed by KN, seconded LC.

13. Play Around the Parishes 2016

In light of budget increases it was agreed to ascertain demand for sessions of Play around the Parishes. **ACTION: SM to enquire with Parishioners. CLERK to agenda for January meeting.** Note: Response form to be returned to AVDC by 1st February 2016.

14. Website

Clerk informed Councillors that updates had been made to current Website (Bucks Voice). The benefits of upgrading the site to Hugo Fox.com, an organisation that has developed a site for community organisations/Parish Councils to connect, share and promote news to parishioners in an easy format, for free, was discussed. It was agreed in principle to change the current website but further research is required. **ACTION: CLERK to investigate work required in transferring existing data and time required.**

15. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations including Village Walk Around

KN reported on Village walk around with Ivan Crome, Local Area Technician for TfB and Paul Irwin. Proposals were agreed although LC expressed concerns over creating an informal passing bay. **ACTION: PS and LC to revisit.**

16. Items for Information

- BCC - Budget consultation/survey (re council tax proposal of 3.99% rise for 2106/17). Closed 17/12/15.
- AVDC – Music in Quiet Places. No action required.

17. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 18th January 2016
Ashendon Village Hall