

ASHMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Ashmore Village Hall on Monday 16th January 2016 at 7 pm **DRAFT**

Present:-

Chairman – Philip Hamilton (PH)

Councillors – Richard Evans (RE), Annette Ruff (AR), Philippa Kelway-Bamber (PKB)
Andrew Featherstone (AF)

District Councillor – Catherine Langham

Clerk – Vivian Hitchmough

6 members of the public

2017.1 *Apologies* Gilly Forge (GF)

2017.2 Minutes of the meeting of Monday 4th September 2016 were agreed as a true record and duly signed. Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Thursday 20th October 2016 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

2017.3 *Matters Arising*

The Chairman reported that he had instructed ICL Web Design to produce the Council website and they have produced a base design that councillors have had a view of over the internet. The site now needs documents and other information added to it before it goes live. All interested in the Parish Council will be able to register on the site which will result in them receiving an email each time a change is made to the website such as planning applications received, minutes of meetings etc.

2017.4 *Declaration of Interest*

RE declared he had an interest in the tree officer's report

2017.5 *Updates from Officers*

Planning report

PH reported that there have been four planning applications since the last Parish Council meeting in September 2016

<i>Two storey extension to The Commons, Green Lane</i>	<i>The Parish Council objected as to the poor quality of the drawings it was not possible to determine the effect on the property immediately to the south. NDDC have granted permission.</i>
<i>Erect replacement dwelling with carer's accommodation, garden storage and garaging, Meadow Cottage, Noade Street.</i>	<i>No comment made and a decision awaited.</i>

<p><i>Erect stable building for use as workshop and garden storage, Mullins Cottage, Noade Street.</i></p>	<p><i>No comment made and decision awaited.</i></p>
<p><i>Revision to internal alterations to kitchen, Manor Farm House, High Street. The small sections of wall (one 20th Century, one 1979) to be removed are not visible externally.</i></p>	<p><i>No comment made and decision awaited.</i></p>

Tree Officer

In her absence PH read the report submitted by GF.

“We have had two applications for work within the conservation area. One from Councillor RE for work in his beech tree and one from Manor Farm House to fell a holly. I do not think we should object to either. As a branch fell off the tree by the War Memorial we asked two tree surgeons for advice and a quote for maintenance work. The work was done for £210 plus VAT (which will be refunded) by Marcus Undery. We also asked both tree surgeons to look at the trees by the pond which do not seem to be flourishing. Marcus put in the best quote for maintenance work on these trees which is £100 plus VAT. I think that we should ask him to do this work, and then monitor the trees carefully this year to see if they recover. On a positive note it is lovely to see that new trees have been planted as you come into Ashmore from the West (presumably PKB’s family) I’m sure they will be much admired by future generations.”

PH proposed the work to be carried out. Seconded by RE

RE commented that it was heavy goods vehicles that damaged his beech tree.

Playground Officer

Paul Whetham reported that the matting was a little worn but there were no concerns.

Pond Maintenance

Paul Whetham reported that the algae in the pond had been reduced this year with the addition of an active ingredient. He thanked everyone for their hard work especially PH and announced that the pond account balance stood at £9718. The water levels were well down in the pond as there had been a lack of rainfall.

Airfield Rep

RE reported that the green plastic hanger did in fact need planning although the owners were unaware of this. They have since applied successfully for retrospective permission and in November this was granted. It is metal framed with a plastic cover and a concrete base.

Cllr Catherine Langham reported that the realignment of the runway will not take place as the tree line will be lopped.

2017.6 Finance

The Clerk had circulated a bank reconciliation and a spreadsheet for budget consideration.

Clerks remuneration and expenses	£ 874.81
Internal Audit	£ 25.00

Cheques were duly signed.

PH reported that expenditure had been lower than estimated. And whilst the website was to be set up it was expected to be less than £600.

Since the Clerk produced the figures two items have changed. The Village Hall Committee have decided not to charge the Parish Council for the meetings as they were doing Village business.

A second lower quote has been received for work to the Sycamore tree by the War Memorial and the trees by the pond.

As a result PH reported that the estimate for 2017/18 precept is £1925; this is a reduction on the figure applied for last year.

AF questioned the donation to CAB but it was felt the donation should remain as CAB relies entirely on donations and is used by the public for information and advice on many issues.

Precept at £1925 proposed by PH

Seconded by RE

The Clerk will now complete the application forms to be returned to NDDC

ACTION CLERK

2017.7

Reports

County Councillor - Deborah Croney was not present and no report had been received.

District Councillor – Catherine Langham

Catherine Langham said there was to be a full council meeting on the 27th January. A reduction in Councillors will take place when Dorset becomes a Unitary Authority in 2019.

She said there was a Keep Britain Tidy event in early March. RE said Ashmore dealt with this on an ad hoc basis.

She had visited a recycling eco centre and gave a very interesting talk on how our waste locally was dealt with. Dorset is doing well dealing with waste.

She reminded Councillors that there was a County Council election this May.

Chairman – BT Superfast Broadband

PH reported that a new, green cabinet had been installed opposite the old Bowling Green and to which there is a fibre optic cable from BT's exchange in process" – checking the work, updating records so that internet providers can offer a service, etc. The time taken to complete this final step before residents can take a service varies considerably so I am unable to give a firm date I'm afraid. Previous experience has told us that this process can take weeks or sometimes months"

NALC Dependent Carer's Allowance Survey.

PH completed the form with help from Councillors and the public. It was generally felt that whilst some Councillors with young children or in a caring capacity may need support financially as Ashmore has three meetings a year there was probably not an issue.

Westminster Memorial Hospital

PH reported that Simon Hoare MP has called a meeting of Parish Council Chairman for Friday 20th January to discuss and agree if possible a collective response to the CCG's proposals for Westminster Memorial Hospital. He asked attending residents for their views on the change of use from one with beds to a Community hub dealing with outpatient appointments only. (information and consultative documents can be found on www.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk and in libraries with a questionnaire to be returned by 28th February.

PH said that because of the need to reduce costs and ease recruitment of staff, CCG want to concentrate care into specialist units. Rather than use local hospitals for patients needing care before returning home they intend using Nursing Homes. Westminster Hospital is said to be in an awkward location and is expensive to run so is earmarked for a Community Hub without beds. Members of the public felt that there was a need for local beds in the hospital to enable relatives to visit with ease and in the case of terminal illness to provide the quiet care needed.

PH said that the increase in population in Gillingham and Shaftesbury would require a more central Community Hub than Blandford.

2017.8

Questions from the public

Following on from the Chairman's report on the future of Westminster Memorial a member of the public asked how many beds were available in local nursing homes. It was said that the Cedars had a 95% occupancy rate but could take short term respite patients. It had been suggested that the CCG had not taken the population expansion into account. RE said that by 2020 there will be a 30% increase in people over 70 years of age and North Dorset was in fact the most elderly part of Dorset. It was said that Care Homes should leave beds open for respite.

A member of the public asked what would replace the 16 bed care at Westminster. PH answered it would be better equipped outpatient services

and you would need to be referred. Catherine Langham said the D Doc (Duty or On Call Doctor on Rota) may be based at Blandford or Shaftesbury.

A member of the public asked about the state of Zig Zag Hill and PH didn't think it qualified for repair at the moment. RE said resurfacing had been carried out on top of concrete and the layer was moving off.

PH said that if anyone had any issues with potholes to refer to him to report and follow up.

2017.9 *Correspondence*

A letter from Simon Hoare had been received with confirmation that he would deal with any issue the public felt needed attention.

Dorset Community Action was issuing awards for a variety of community or environment schemes and PH suggested the public may wish to be involved.

2017.10 *Items for next agenda*

None specified

2017.11 *Dates of next meeting*

Monday May 8th 2017

Annual General Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8 pm