

ASHMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Ashmore Village Hall on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7pm

Present:-

Chairman – Philip Hamilton (PH)

Councillors – Richard Evans (RE) and Andrew Featherstone (AF)

District Councillor – Catherine Langham,

County Councillor – Graham Carr-Jones

Clerk – Vivian Hitchmough

8 members of the public

2019.01 *Apologies* Gilly Forge (GF), Annette Ruff (AR) and Philippa Kelway-Bamber (PKB)

2019.02 Minutes of the meeting of Monday September 10th 2018 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

2019.03 As Cllr Catherine Langham had to leave the meeting early due to a prior engagement, the Chairman invited her to speak. Catherine reported that the Fontmell Magna neighbourhood development plan had been passed. Residents via their Parish Council will now have more control in regard to development within the village. She reported that there were development plans in place for the ex supermarket in Shaftesbury. Cllr Graham Carr-Jones said that any new structure will be a matter for the new council to decide. He said that until the transformation work at the New Dorset Council takes place, planning applications will be validated by much the same staff, by area. It is proposed that there be Three Area Planning Committees and Dorset divided up either known as Zones A/B/C or Areas 1/2/3 and one overarching committee to decide the more strategic sites such as schools etc. RE asked the difference between major or minor planning applications with regard to validation. Catherine said it would be more than 10 houses considered as major. Catherine thanked the Council and assured them of her commitment for the duration. The Chairman thanked her for attending the meetings and for the advice she had given throughout the period.

2019.04 *Matters Arising*
Defibrillator. AF explained the advantages of the defibrillator and its ease of use. He advised that it is the intention to house the equipment in the old telephone kiosk which has been purchased by the Parish Council. BT sponsor the Community Heart Beat Trust who have three defibrillators for sale each with slightly different specifications. There is an option to buy the equipment outright or an agreement to donate the value of the equipment to the charity. The latter carries a managed aftercare to check the equipment, train

individuals and set up a contact list for emergency action within the village. After a year there is the opportunity to purchase the equipment for £1.00. AF said the equipment should be the unlocked version to enable fast access. Cllr Graham Carr-Jones advised that Stalbridge was using this Trust and he reiterated that there was no price on a life and therefore advised the Council to go ahead with the purchase. RE said that Ashmore is 15 minutes the use of a defibrillator in an emergency and therefore dramatically improved if the equipment is used.

The Chairman proposed to go ahead with the purchase and RE seconded this. RE said that careful thought should go into the model choice of the defibrillator.

The Chairman said also careful thought as to where to house the equipment as dialling 999 there is a radius of 500 metres to ascertain where the equipment is housed.

A member of the public asked if there was proof that the equipment did save lives and both Cllr Graham Carr-Jones and the Chairman knew people whose lives had been saved by the use of the equipment.

The Chairman asked AF to speak to the Community Heartbeat Trust regarding model choice.

ACTION AF

2019.05 *Declarations of Interest*

None – Councillors were reminded of this requirement.

2019.06 *Updates from Officers*

Planning report.

There were no planning applications but PH reported that Mrs Baker had put in a pre-application consultation on routing of a footpath which the Council had had no objection to. Mrs Bakersaid this would be a lengthy process and as potential purchases seemed unconcerned she might not seek to change the route.

Tree Officer -

In GFs absence the Chairman advised that the Parish Council had had two applications neither of which they had objected to.

The Old School House – approval has been given to fell a whitebeam.

Hawthorn tree between Racedown Barn and the pond – approved.

Both have since been felled.

Pond Officer

Paul Whetham advised that the water level in the pond is very low due to a leak. The hole needs to be identified. He reported that there are funds of £7846, but a need to raise more money. He also said there was a need to involve younger volunteers to care for the pond. A member of the public thanked both Paul and the Chairman for their work on the pond. Mrs Gough questioned the reed clumps around the edge of the pond but Paul said clearing these would expose the orange drain pipes and this might be regretted.

Playground Officer

Paul Whetham advised that the playground is in good order.

Airfield Representative

AF had attended the meeting in September. He advised that there are to be four new shelters for the planes as pilots had reported condensation in the cockpit due to lack of shelters. With regard to the overflying of Ashmore it was considered to be due to Easterly winds and pilots were asked to bank left. There was concern regarding the potential for traveller incursion. He said the road works at Gore Clump were discussed under which one of the accesses to the C13 at the junction will no longer be in use.

2019.06

Finance

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has to notify North Dorset District Council the precept to be charged to council tax payers in 2019/20. The Chairman had given his estimate of the financial position of the Parish Council at the year end, 31st March 2019. On the basis of total expenditure of £1432.76 there will be total reserves of £ 6478.45 unless there is unbudgeted expenditure before then.

Expenditure in 2019/20 can be expected to be a little higher than 2018/19 because of inflation. No repairs are expected to be made to the playground and he did not expect any work to be needed to trees that are the responsibility of the parish. He said there were three potential areas of expenditure.

1. The purchase and installation of the defibrillator and the increase in insurance costs that may result.
2. The matter of a leak in the pond.
3. Parish Council elections take place on 2nd May 2019 and the Shadow Executive Committee has decided to pass on the costs of parish council elections to the relevant parish. Using a spreadsheet provided by the Shadow Dorset Council the cost might amount to £470. However, if there are fewer than seven candidates they will be returned uncontested and so there will be no charge. Should there be a contested election the charge could be met from reserves.

The Chairman said that it would be usual to set the precept at the level of expected expenditure and use the reserves for unexpected expenditure. "The Good Councillor's guide to finance and transparency 2017" advises that the council should hold between 2 to 3 months expenditure as a general reserve. The Chairman considered that the Council do hold too much in reserve and this should be run down. He therefore proposed to seek a lower precept of £1000 for 2019/20. This was seconded by RE.

2019.07

Payments

Cheques were signed for the internal audit and the Clerk's salary in arrears.

2019.08

County Councillor Graham Carr-Jones

Graham said this was his last meeting at Ashmore as his ward will be Marnhull and Stalbridge. He said he will be available until April 1st to

Ashmore and he had enjoyed attending the meetings. He said there will probably be a small % increase in Council tax. The new Chief Executive is Matt Prosser and he considered there will be some interesting times ahead for the new Dorset Council. There will certainly be redundancies. The Chairman said he was sorry that Ashmore would no longer be included in Graham's ward and thanked him for all his support and attendance at meetings.

2019.09 *Questions from the public*
There were no questions from the public

2019.10 *Correspondence*
There was none

2019.11 *Any other business*
The Chairman reminded everyone that before the May meeting *there* will be an election for the Parish Council and asked if anyone would like to stand or if they knew anyone to please advise a member of the Council.

2019.12 *Items for the next Agenda*
Defibrillator update

Date of next meeting

Monday May 13th 2019 plus AGM and Parish Meeting 7pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm