

Minutes of a meeting of the Ashwell Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th July 2012 in the Parish Room at 8.00pm

Present: Councillors Peter Long (Chairman except for item 32.4), Mike Berry, Martin Hoffman (Chairman for item 32.4), Bridget Macey, Daniel Mathews (part only), Christine Schwick, Mark White. The Clerk was also in attendance. Members of the public: None.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Jane Buxton (away), John Connolly (work commitment), David Cook (work commitment). Cllr Mathews apologised for late arrival due to a work commitment.

31. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 6th June 2012

It was *resolved* that these be approved and signed.

32. MATTERS OF REPORT

From previous meetings:

32.1 (June Council 21.1) Localism Act/new Code of Conduct. It was noted that a new code had been adopted at the May Council meeting as an interim measure and agreed to await further information from the Monitoring Officer at NHDC. It was reported that this would now be forthcoming after the NHDC meeting scheduled for 12th July. Once received a decision would then be made re the adoption of either the NALC model code or one proposed by NHDC. It was agreed that, once received, all material would be circulated for members' consideration. It was noted that members' registers of interests had been put on the website. It was reported that a letter had been received from the NHDC Acting Monitoring Officer inviting nominations from parish councillors to fill two co-opted, non-voting positions on its standards committee. Deadline for expressions of interest, Friday 6th July. **Clerk**

32.2 (June Council 22.5) North Herts Association of Parish, Town and Community Council meeting. It was reported that Cllrs Long and White had attended. Proposals for shared insurance and/or sharing of information had been discussed; details of the Parish Council's current policy schedule had been forwarded as requested. A request for agenda items for the NHDC/Town/Parish Conference in October had been made; it was agreed this would be considered at the August Council meeting.

32.3 (June Council, 21.6) Parking issues. Cllr Berry reported that the latest issue of the LibDem *Focus* distributed throughout the village had invited residents to send comments on the Parish Council's 'Plan for parking restrictions in Ashwell' to the Parish Clerk. Cllr Berry reported that he was not sure where the LibDem group got its information and it seemed to be causing some confusion. He had instructed the Clerk to send a standard response to all enquiries; this was for consistency and to minimise the Clerk's workload. To date some half dozen emails had been received and, on receiving the Parish Council's response, reactions had been positive.

'you should be aware that (i) whilst the Parish Council has for many years lobbied the county council for action over roads, traffic and parking issues (and encourages members of the public to do so too), it has no powers in this area. (ii) the recent 'Focus' article was correct in that the parish council has pushed the county council for some action but perhaps a little misleading re 'parking restrictions'.

Yellow lines have been discussed many times in the past, (i) they are a very contentious issue with residents, particularly those with no off-street parking; other parishioners object to them because they feel they would be unsightly in the conservation area, (ii) the county council's highways authority is not in favour, particularly if there is no consensus among residents, (iii) they would not be enforced.

What has recently been requested by the Parish Council is more white lines in places where parking is a problem. Having struggled unsuccessfully in the past to gain agreement from the highways authority with a 'whole village' approach, including widespread publicity and consultation, it was felt that a low-key route was preferable as it would have more chance of success. Outcome is pending'.

32.4 (June Council, 29.4) Further emails from Parishioner Stewart Reddaway requesting further information re publication of a register of councillors attendance at meetings.

The Chairman, Cllr Long, withdrew from the meeting and the Vice Chairman, Cllr Hoffman took the chair for this item.

Parishioner Reddaway had noted that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting had recorded what the Chairman had said 'Attendance was recorded at all meetings and this information was freely available in the published minutes. It was the view of this Parish Council that publishing a separate summary was not necessary or helpful.' Parishioner Reddaway questioned in his email "Was the PC view determined

previously, or on the fly at the APM by the Chairman?" It was agreed that the view of the Parish Council had been correctly stated, this view had been reiterated at the June Council meeting and 'the Parish Council did not wish to reconsider the matter'.
Clerk

33. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

33.1 Email from South Cambs District Council

Horse And Groom, Baldock Road, Litlington, Royston, Cambridgeshire, SG8 9NS Demolition of existing public house. Redevelopment of site and erection of a 70 bedroom hotel with associated parking for cars, coaches and delivery area. Ancillary food and drink facilities and conference rooms and works to vehicle access and a grass and landscaping. Details on www.plan.scambs.gov.uk

33.2 Email from HCC re consultation on Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hertfordshire details on www.hertsdirect.org/services/envplan/greenissues/climatechange/floodriskmgt/hertsifrmscons/

33.3 Emails from Central Bedfordshire re (i) consultation on the draft Development Strategy, (ii) consultation on the Houghton Regis North Framework Plan. Details on www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. Deadline for responses Wednesday 8th August 2012.

33.4 Email from Mrs Karen Jones, Company Secretary, on behalf of Merchant Taylors Residents Association (Ashwell) Ltd (i) informing that the association had recently held its inaugural meeting following the handover of responsibility for Merchant Taylors Close from Marchfield Ltd., (ii) requesting information on the Parish Council's land ownership and responsibilities. It was noted that the Clerk had responded.

33.5 Email from HAPTC re 'Connected Counties'; Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) have teamed up to try and increase the amount of superfast broadband coverage in the two counties.

'Hertfordshire residents and businesses are encouraged to register their demand for superfast broadband on our website www.superfastforherts.org'. Cllr Mathews agreed to review and report back as necessary.

DMM

33.6 Email from Anglian Water Services; hosepipe ban lifted from 14th June.

33.7 Email from HCC re survey to explore 'closer ways of working with Parish and Town Councils in order to further pursue our joint aspirations for localism.' Survey on www.hertsdirect.org/websurveys/surveys/GK5TW2/ until Friday 20th July.

33.8 Email re proposed event on Recreation Ground. Ashwell Gentlemen's Cricket, scheduled for Saturday 21st July 2012 (weather permitting); charity event to raise funds for Ashwell School and the Ashwell Accies. It was agreed that facilities be made available.

34. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE (next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1st August)

34.1 Decisions by NHDC as Planning Authority

34.1.1 Application no. 12/01059/1HH

10 John Sale Close. For Mr and Mrs Gordon Wright

Full Permission Householder: Replacement boundary wall

Standard conditional permission.

34.1.2 Application no. 12/00846/1HH

124 Ashwell Street. For Mr C Frazer-Smith

Full Permission Householder: Single storey front extension to provide internal link to existing garage to facilitate conversion to living accommodation. Single storey side extension to form link between living room and dining room. Detached single garage.

Standard conditional permission.

34.1.3 Application no. 12/00724/1

1 Newnham Way. For Mr R Parry

Full Planning Permission: Erection of 1 x four bedroom dwelling with attached double garage and widening of vehicular access following demolition of existing dwelling and garage.

Conditional permission.

34.2 Correspondence

34.2.1 Application no.12/00812/1 35 High Street and Whitby Farm, Silver Street. For Logan Homes Ltd. Response received from NHDC Planning Officer to Parish Council's request to be consulted on the detailed plans supplied by the developer before giving approval re conditions (i) drainage and flooding risk, (ii) prohibition of on-street parking of contractors' vehicles during the build process. 'When the details come in I will forward them to you for comment. However, the decision to discharge any conditional requirement must be taken by this Council in consultation with the Highway Authority and Anglian Water.'

34.3 Section 106 funds for Ashwell held by NHDC. It was noted that the Tennis and Sports Club application was still outstanding.

34.4 Application no. 12/01356/1HH

Land rear of 48 Ashwell Street. For Alexandre Developments

Full Planning Permission: Increase in roof heights to plots 1 and 2 and set deeper into slope of land. Insertion of two rear dormer windows, replacement of pitched roof over first floor front window with monopitch roof and insertion of two rooflights to front roof elevation to plots 1 and 2 (as a variation to Planning application 02/01927/1 granted 21/10/2003)

It was noted that the Planning Committee had resolved to recommend refusal of this application but understood that the Planning Officer was intending to recommend acceptance. It was agreed to delegate to the Chairman discussion with District Councillor Andrew Young the options available should the application be called-in and put before the NHDC Planning Control Committee for a decision. **WPL**

35. REPORT FROM STREETS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(Committee Chairman Cllr Mike Berry)

(Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18th July)

35.1 Highways/white lines (see also 32.3 above). Cllr Berry reported that whilst highways contractors had been in the village and had painted white lines at the Swan Street/ Mill Street junction, none of the Parish Council's requests had been progressed.

35.2 Footway lighting/conversion to part night lighting. Cllr Berry reported that he had received no further information from Herts Highways.

36. REPORT FROM RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(Committee Chairman Cllr Daniel Mathews)

(Draft minutes meeting Monday 11th June supplied. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 28th August)

Nothing further to report.

37. REPORT FROM CHARACTER AREAS COMMITTEE

(Committee Chairman Cllr Martin Hoffman)

37.1 Arbury Banks information sign. Cllr Hoffman reported some problems with siting this correctly; the contractor was scheduled to be on site again next week.

38. REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

38.1 2011-12 audit. It was noted that (i) the public notice period ended on 26th June, (ii) documents had been submitted to the external auditor for the audit scheduled for 2nd July, (iii) the annual report including the statement of accounts (unaudited) had been published (website, notice board and village newsletter).

38.2 Approval of July Accounts and Bills for Payment. Cllr Mathews declared a pecuniary interest re item 76; reimbursement for payment of print supplier re newsletter. (Chairman's dispensation was granted; Cllr Mathews remained in the room but did not participate in discussion or vote).

It was *resolved* that these be approved and paid.

Clerk

39. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

39.1 Website Group Cllr Mathews reported that a further meeting with the potential supplier was to be scheduled.

39.2 Quality Status Group Nothing to report.

39.3 Yearbook Group Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18th July. It was reported that Cllr Connolly had volunteered to join the group to assist with collection of advert income.

39.4 Design Statement Review Group Nothing to report.

39.5 Community Housing Group It was agreed that an update be requested from Howard Cottage Housing association for the August Council meeting.

39.6 Olympics 2012 Group Cllr Long reported that plans for Sunday 8th July had been publicised to all residents in the latest newsletter.

40. PARISH AFFAIRS, REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES AND OPEN FORUM

Item taken at 8.30pm

40.1 Police matters. Cllr Macey reported that, following police advice, the St. Mary's PCC had been contacted re the use of Smart Water, their having had experience of its use on the church buildings. Good information had been forthcoming but her recommendation was that its use would not be cost-effective for small areas. This was agreed.

40.2 Speeding. Cllr Hoffman reported that patrols were continuing. Direct access to the police database was pending a further training course.

40.3 Sewerage issues. Cllr Schwick reported problems at her shop and neighbouring properties in the High Street on Friday 29th June. Sewage had 'backed-up' from the drains; a private contractor and Anglian Water had been called out to attend. It was agreed that this be noted on the register that was being kept to record all such incidents and used when lobbying authorities in relation to new development in the village.

40.4 Cllr Schwick reported that she had been made aware of allegations by a Hinxworth parish councillor that Ashwell Parish Council had not responded to a resident's complaints re overgrown hedges on the Hinxworth Road. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Hinxworth Parish Council informing that this was not the case. It was reported that, following a request, details of land ownership along the Hinxworth Road had been forwarded to Herts Highways, as the authority responsible, by the Ashwell Clerk and the Hinxworth Clerk who had liaised on the matter.

Clerk

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Appendix 1 – General material received

Hard copy – 'Items on the table'

1. North Herts District Council 'Members Information' w/e 1, 8, 15, 22, 29th June.

By Email

2. HAPTC Briefings and Bulletins.

3. *Rural News* from PC Marina

APPENDIX 2							
ACCOUNTS AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT				Date		4th July 2012	
Proposed by Cllr White		Seconded by Cllr Schwic		Declared interest - 76 Cllr Mathews			
				£	£	£	£
Income				Grants	Precept	Other	Total
36	Santander interest a/c	bank interest					
37	Neville Funeral Service	chapel rent April				68.75	68.75
38	Ashwell Youth & Commur	yearbook advert				65.00	65.00
39	DSH Plumbing	yearbook advert				25.00	25.00
40	M R Carter & Sons	yearbook advert				40.00	40.00
41	Rhubarb & Mustard	yearbook advert				125.00	125.00
42	Mr M Vorley	allotment rent				10.00	10.00
43	Mr B Busby	allotment rent				5.00	5.00
Total				-		338.75	338.75
				Committees			
Expenses		A&O	CA	S & E	R&F	VAT	Total
By Direct Debit							
63	Veolia (01/07/12)	allotments water			13.31		13.31
64	Veolia (01/07/12)	pavilion water			71.92		71.92
By cheque							
65	J C M Porter	Clerk's salary	1,069.44				1,069.44
66	J C M Porter	reimbursement office e	22.37			3.91	26.28
67	M Fox	Environmental Cleansing		38.92	167.60	38.92	245.44
68	M Fox	reimbursement expenses			8.39		8.39
69	M Chandler	Duties at Pavilion and Rec				70.12	70.12
70	N Karen	Groundskeeper duties				58.50	58.50
71	Post Office	tax&NI to Inland Reve	280.60		27.00		307.60
72	D J Granger	grounds maintenance (workshee		30.00	45.00	270.00	69.00
73	Mrs J Powell	jubilee group reimburs	25.00				25.00
74	Ms C Chambers	jubilee group reimburs	81.76			16.34	98.10
75	The Liberty Corporation	cleaning toilets 8th-30th June				80.00	16.00
76	Cllr D Mathews	reimbursement newlett	130.00				130.00
Total		1,609.17	68.92	247.99	602.77	105.25	2,504.10
Outstanding Accounts							
Yearbook 2012 adverts -misc						1,485.00	
Football Club		rec/pavilion rent Q3 and Q4				450.00	
Allotment rents		one half plot				5.00	
Total							1,940.00
Money at bank		25th June 2012					
Current Account						36,847.54	
Deposit Account						29,511.37	
Total							66,358.91
Cheques banked after/BACS transfers after							
Cheques drawn but not cleared/DD's outstanding							
Total		63,651.38					
Total after paying this months cheques		61,147.28					
Total in current a/c after paying this months cheques		34,140.01					