

**Minutes of the Ashwell Parish Council meeting
held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 in the Parish Room**

Present: Cllrs Mark White (Chairman), Gemma Allan, Norton Mahy, David Sims.
The Clerk (Jane Porter) and Deputy Clerk (Laura Brooks-Payne) were in attendance. Others present: Five members of the public, County Councillor Steve Jarvis and District Councillor Tom Tyson.

106. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Graham Lee (away), Martin Hoffman (unavailable due to medical procedure).

107. Declarations of Interest. None.

108. Proposal to approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting, 8th January 2020.

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

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

Standing Orders suspended to allow members of the public to speak.

109.1 New pavilion project/replacement of the existing pavilion at the Recreation Ground with enhanced facilities for sports and community use. The Chairman and Cllr Gemma Allan reported that this was going well and a further meeting of the working group was scheduled for next week.

109.2 Ashwell and Morden Station (South Cambridgeshire)/proposals by the local landowner (Mr Jeremy Fordham of Odsey Properties Ltd) for a car park, footways and housing development near the station; this to include an improved footway/cycleway with Ashwell. The Chairman reported on behalf of Cllr Martin Hoffman that the understanding was that the project was moving forward but there had not yet been a planning application.

109.3 Village hall/transfer to the Parish Council of the holding (or custodian) trusteeship. (*see previous minutes including February Council 2018, minute 98.1 for details*). The Chairman again expressed his disappointment at the lack of communication from the CDAHerts recommended solicitor. He reported that an alternative solicitor had been identified and approached and had already been in contact with outline proposals and costs. As the costs were similar he proposed that the alternative solicitor be commissioned to progress the matter; this was agreed.

Action: Clerk

109.4 Henry Colbron Trust. Cllr Gemma Allan reported that the proposals put to the trustees, the Merchant Taylors' Company, by a group of local residents for a new use of the former school netball courts off Gardiners Lane had been rejected by them.

See also 111.2 re the Recreation Ground.

109.5 Luton Airport consultation on proposals for expansion. The further information received from the HAPTC contact re a forthcoming consultation on flight path changes was noted.

109.6 Biogen digester at Slip End. The letter received from Biogen with information on the twice-yearly spreading of liquid manure by local farmers was noted. The Chairman expressed the view that any smell associated with this was no different to traditional muck spreading and use of the plant's product locally was environmentally friendly.

109.7 Items raised by parish councillors.

(i) Museum. The Chairman reported on behalf of Cllr Martin Hoffman (Chairman of the Museum trustees in his own right) that now funding was in place plans to enhance the front of the building were to proceed.

109.8 Items raised by parishioners.

(i) Safety concerns re the junction of Ashwell Street and Station Road. It was agreed that this be included on the list of matters to be raised at the next Highways Liaison meeting with County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

(ii) Parking at the rear of the School. A parishioner reported that a bus had blocked the road for some 5-10 minutes due to the number of parked cars along Ashwell Street. Cllr Gemma Allan reported that this had been a one-off incident following the later than planned return of pupils who had been on a school trip.

(iii) Street light not working in Gardiners Lane. The Chairman encouraged all residents to report any Highways faults directly to the county council. Details were on the green cards distributed by the Parish Council and in the Yearbook.

(iv) Consultation on the condition imposed re pedestrian access to the Claybush Hill development site granted permission by NHDC in September 2019. A local resident expressed her concerns. It was noted that this was a further consultation by NHDC following amendments. These would be considered by parish councillors and a response made to NHDC. *See 112.3 below.*

109.9 Matters re North Herts District Council (NHDC).

District Councillor Tom Tyson gave updates on planning matters (see *item 112 below*). The Parking Strategy Consultation was noted (see www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/parking/parking-strategy).

109.10 Matters re Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) including Highways.

County Councillor Steve Jarvis gave updates on the following:

(i) Bus services. Proposals to join the 90/91 Ashwell service with services for the Mordens villages, with the objective of raising user numbers, were now likely to proceed. The user numbers for the 202 taxibus service to the station were quite small; reasons for this had been investigated and were various. Raising user numbers was obviously important if the service was to be retained. It was agreed that promotion of the service was important.

(ii) Growth and Transport Plan consultation. There were no proposals that directly related to Ashwell although some for Baldock and Royston could have some impact. The road for the new housing development north of Baldock, for example, would impact Ashwell. He expressed a concern that the proposals were insufficient for 25% more people in North Herts.

The Rail Strategy Consultation was noted (see www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/RailStrategyConsultation).

109.11 Working Groups reports. (*Members include volunteer parishioners as well as parish councillors. Offers to join or start new groups are welcomed*)

109.11.1 Neighbourhood Plan Group (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Norton Mahy reported that parts of the plan had now been redrafted to incorporate agreed amendments (this had included removal of the three sites identified for housing development) and sent to the consultant for comment. Statistics such as the 2011 census and ONS (Office for National Statistics) surveys had been identified to support the results of the local housing survey. Draft proposals for the identified ‘Local Green Spaces’ had been circulated for parish councillors input. It was agreed that the proposals be supported in principle and that the final list, with any amendments, be circulated for approval prior to inclusion.

109.11.2 Yearbook Group (leader Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Norton Mahy reported that all was on plan for the 2020 edition with distribution scheduled for early March.

109.11.3 Local business support (leader Cllr Graham Lee) *See 110.1 below re new village map.*

109.11.4 Protection of valued trees (leader Cllr David Sims) *See also 112.3 below re the Claybush development..*

For other volunteer group reports see 111.3 below re the Springs and 109.1 above re the New Pavilion Project.

Standing orders reinstated from here.

110. Matters of report from previous meetings.

110.1 New village map. It was reported that proposals for the illustrations were being progressed.

111. PREMISES MANAGEMENT REPORTS

(individual parish councillor’s responsibilities shown in brackets)

111.1 Cemetery. Nothing to report.

111.2 Recreation Ground including the pavilion, public toilets and the playground.

(Responsible: Cllrs Mark White and Gemma Allan) It was noted that specifications and quotes had been circulated for two projects. Cllr Gemma Allan reported that funding bids were to be made to the Henry Colbron Trust. The quotations had been compared with other similar projects/suppliers and were considered to be reasonable.

(i) New MUGA including football goal and basketball net with associated all-weather surfacing to replace the existing skateboard area. Cllr Gemma Allan reported that the consultations that she had undertaken with children and parents had been in favour of this.

(ii) New 'trail' equipment items aimed at older children/teenagers to be installed at several locations around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Gemma Allan reported that the consultations that she had undertaken with children and parents were split between a preference for wooden versus metal equipment about 70:30. It was agreed that the 'mixed' option to reflect this preference be progressed. It was agreed that funding be sought from the Henry Colbron Trust for the two projects.

Action: Deputy Clerk

See also item 109.1 above re the new pavilion project.

111.3 The Springs. (Responsible: Cllr Martin Hoffman) Nothing to report.

111.4 Small Gains. Allotments, Accies sports field and shared car parking area.

(Responsible: Cllr David Sims)

(i) New hedge and tree planting It was noted that specifications and quotes had been circulated. It was agreed that, as the quote was higher than the sum available in the budget, further thought be given to this.

(ii) Repairs to Small Gains Lane. Cllr David Sims reported that users of the track had agreed to share the cost with the Parish Council. Works were dependent on the weather.

111.5 The Lock Up. (Responsible: Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Norton Mahy reported that installation of the new plaque was in hand.

111.6 Merchant Taylors' Green. (Responsible: Cllr Martin Hoffman) Nothing to report.

111.7 Carters' Pond. (Responsible: Cllr Martin Hoffman) Nothing to report.

111.8 Street furniture. Nothing to report.

111.9 St Mary's Churchyard grounds maintenance. (Responsible: Cllr Martin Hoffman) Nothing to report.

111.10 Parish Clock. (Responsible: Cllr Mark White) The Chairman reported that two matters had required attention and repairs had now been completed.

111.11 War Memorial. Nothing to report.

112. PLANNING MATTERS

See appendix below with a summary of recent NHDC consultations and their status.

112.1 New application received from NHDC for consultation.

51/53 Back Street. NHDC Case Ref. 19/03066/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Detached double garage, insertion of sliding boundary gate and ancillary works following demolition of existing garage.

A proposal was made that a recommendation be made to the Planning Officer that permission be granted.

It was *resolved* that the proposal be accepted.

Action: Clerk/Deputy Clerk

112.2 Land at the junction of Ashwell Street and Station Road. NHDC Case Ref.19/02691/S73.

Section 73 application, variation of condition 8 - footway.

District Councillor Tom Tyson reported that he had spoken with the Planning Officer re the Parish Council's proposal that would allow retention of the hedge and the tree as well as providing a new section of footway. He would keep the Parish Council informed.

112.3 Land rear of 4-14 Claybush Road. NHDC Case Ref. 16/01797/1.

(i) Public Open Space. The response from the NHDC Planning Officer was noted.

(ii) Discharge of Condition 24 (Pedestrian access from Ashwell Street). It was reported that a second consultation, with amendments, had just been received. A response would be drafted and circulated for agreement.

Action: Clerk/NWM/GEL

(iii) The requests to various organisations for information/support re the proposed application for a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) to cover all trees on the site was noted.

(iv) The further correspondence between local residents and the NHDC Planning Officer was noted.

112.4 Former Cooke Engineering site/Parish Council's proposal for planting and remedial works on the Highways verge adjacent to the site damaged during the build process.

The further communications with the HCC Officer/Land Management Services was noted. A license for works on the public highway would be needed from HCC.

112.5 Land between Lucas Lane and Ashwell Street known as Hunts Close. The Chairman reported that the developer had now submitted a planning application to NHDC and the required consultation period had commenced. It was agreed that a meeting of the Planning Committee be held at the proposed site to agree the Parish Council's response (Sunday 16th February, 9am).

112.6 Trees in the Conservation Area and Tree Preservation Orders.

See 112.3 above re Claybush Hill development.

112.7 District Local Plan Examination.

The information from the Inspector re participation in the hearing sessions was noted. It was agreed that a request to speak be made and a statement drafted.

Action: Clerk/NWM/GEL

113. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

113.1 Monthly summary of accounts. Proposal for approval.

It was *resolved* that this be approved.

113.2 Local Government Pension Scheme. The further information and quote received re Ill Health Liability Insurance was noted.

It was *resolved* that the quote be accepted.

Action: Clerk

See 111.2 above re proposals for the Recreation Ground.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Forthcoming meeting dates:

March Council - Wednesday 4th March 2020, 8pm in the Parish Room.

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 25th March, 8pm at the school.

Appendix: Summary of recent planning consultations as of 5th February 2020.

Details of applications are sent from North Herts District Council (NHDC) to the Parish Council as a consultee. These are available on www.north-herts.gov.uk.

Address	Application Number	Brief description	Ashwell PC Comments	North Herts Decision
Land between Hunsridge and East Lodge, 22 Lucas Lane	20/00126/FP	24 new dwellings	Planning meeting 16/2/2020	Pending
51/53 Back Street	19/03066/FP	detached double garage, inseretion of sliding boundary gate and ancillary works following demolition of garage	PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be GRANTED	Pending
Barn Cottage, Popes Farm, Northfield Rd	19/02943/FP	Change of use of annexe to 3 bed dwelling with parking and amenity spaces	PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be GRANTED	Permission Granted 11/12/2019
1 Fordham Close	19/02840/FPH	Single side side/rear extension linking main dwelling to existing garage	PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be GRANTED	Pending
5 Swan Street	19/02798/LBC	rentention of 2 second floor windows on East & West elevations	PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be GRANTED	Permission Granted 9/1/2020
The Old Rectory, Hodwell	19/02675/LBC & 19/02674/FPH	1ST Floor & single storey extensions, conversion of garage to playroom/store & erection of detached opne bay garage & storage	PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be GRANTED	pending
Land rear 1-11 Back Street	19/01515/FP	Erection of two 3-bed detached bungalows with associated gardens and parking as variation of permission approved under ref 15/00962/1 (amended by drawings recived 14th October 2019).	Re-consultation on amended plans. PC to consider at November Council meeting.	Pending
Land rear 1-11 Back Street	19/01515/FP	Erection of two 3-bed detached bungalows with associated gardens and parking (as variation of permission approved under ref 15/00962/1)	Planning Committee Wed 3rd July PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that variations be approved	Pending

Appendix: Monthly accounts summary

ACCOUNTS - Summary for 01/01/2020 - 31/01/2020			
RECEIPTS			£
70	Nevilles Funeral Services	Rent for Chapel of Rest (November)	68.75
71	Santander Reserve account	Interest 01/01/2020	6.14
			TOTAL
			74.89
PAYMENTS			
186	ICO	Annual membership	35.00
187	NHDC	Recreation Ground Trade waste Bin (01/01/2020)	99.45
188	NHDC	Waste Collection Office (01/01/2020)	110.50
189	EON	Electricity for Toilets (5/01/2020)	8.85
190	Wayne Francis	Repairs to Clock	390.00
191	Home Builders	Gutter replacement and clearance on pavilion	35.00
192	Duo Design	Website Hosting 01/01/2020 inv 9003	30.00
193	Edwards Cleaning & Maintenance	Public Toilet Cleaning	188.00
194	Cllr David Sims	Reimbursement for membership for woodland trust	48.00
195	EON	Electricity for Pavilion (10/11/19)	57.62
196	HMRC accounts ref 321PF00003624	tax&NI to Inland Revenue	425.93
197	Wayne Francis	Repairs to clock	160.00
198	Brilliant Lawns	Herbicide application inv 7042	261.00
199	Arena Stationers	Office Stationery Supplies	166.08
200	Laura Brooks-Payne	reimbursement for 2 office chairs	37.18
201	Good Directions Ltd	Two new wooden square street waste bins	940.80
202	Clerk	Clerk's salary	1,300.82
203	HCC Pensions-LGPS Account,	Clerk & Deputy Clerk Pension to LGPS	723.78
204	Grounds Officer	Grounds Officer salary	165.20
205	Deputy Clerk	Deputy Clerk's Salary	793.93
206	ECO	Environmental Cleansing Officer salary	225.60
			TOTAL
			6,202.74
MONEY AT BANK			
			Current Account 31/01/2020
			£28,066.64
			Reserve Account 31/01/2020
			£20,663.60