

**Minutes of the Ashwell Parish Council meeting
held on Wednesday 8th January 2020 in the Parish Room**

Present: Cllrs Mark White (Chairman), Gemma Allan, Norton Mahy, Graham Lee, David Sims.
The Clerk (Jane Porter) was in attendance. Others present: Four members of the public, County Councillor Steve Jarvis and District Councillor Tom Tyson.

96. Apologies for absence. Cllr Martin Hoffman (unwell).

97. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Graham Lee item 104.3 (resident of Ashwell Street).

98. Proposal to approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting, 4th December 2019.

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

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

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

99.1 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 a further meeting of the working group had been held. Input from the main sports clubs was good and this would be widened to others. The project was in the very early stages and the next actions were to, (i) progress a design specification, (ii) identify additional funding sources.

99.2 Ashwell and Morden Station/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. No further information received.

99.3 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 reported that as the solicitor recommended by CDAHerts and ACRE had still not responded he had asked to Clerk to investigate alternatives. **Action: Clerk**

99.4 Henry Colbron Trust. No further information received.

99.5 Luton Airport consultation on proposals for expansion. No further information received.

99.6 Items raised by parish councillors.

See items below.

99.7 Matters re other authorities and organisations.

99.7.1 North Herts District Council (NHDC)

District Councillor Tom Tyson reported that he had received no further concerns re waste/recycling.

(i) Consultation on the NHDC Draft Parking Operational Guidelines document. Guidance on this was requested from Cllr Tom Tyson and County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

(ii) Ashwell Conservation Area Character Statement. The Chairman reported that Cllr Martin Hoffman had asked him to raise this and to request further information. The document had been approved by NHDC in December but there had been no local consultation. There was also concern at the number of errors and omissions. It was agreed to request Cllr Tom Tyson to investigate.

See also item 94 below re Planning matters.

99.7.2 Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and Herts Highways/County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

Cllr Steve Jarvis reported:

(i) Local bus services. Talks were ongoing with Cambridgeshire to link routes and provide more options/better services for passengers. Combining routes with school services was also being looked into. Concerns re the viability of the 202 taxibus link to the station still existed. All attempts were being made to increase/optimize use for the funding available. (ii) Flooding issues. Engineers were still carrying out

investigations; survey work on land drains was to be progressed. (iii) Restricted time parking spaces outside retail outlets. Following the amendment to the spaces outside the pharmacy/estate agent, there had been a further objection from a local resident and thus a further delay. This would have to be dealt with but he was confident that the scheme would be progressed. (iv) Footway lighting. He would investigate concerns that some units with power source problems had been out for a considerable time. (v) Bollards. It was confirmed that the request for reflectors on these was on the list for the next liaison meeting.

See also item 94 below re Planning matters.

100. Items raised by parishioners.

See 99.7.2 above re flooding and footway lighting.

See 104.3 re the Claybush development.

101. Working Groups reports.

(Members include volunteer parishioners as well as parish councillors. Offers to join or start new groups welcomed)

101.1 Neighbourhood Plan Group (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Graham Lee reported: (i) A member of the group was progressing with the registration of Community Assets. (ii) A catch-up meeting with Cllr Norton Mahy, himself and the consultant had taken place. (iii) Grant funding for the next stage had been applied for. (iv) Actions from the last group meeting were being progressed.

101.2 Yearbook Group (leader Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Norton Mahy reported that the final deadline for the inclusion of copy was 27th January; distribution was scheduled for 7/8th March.

101.3 Local business support (leader Cllr Graham Lee) The Chairman noted the ongoing concerns re all three pubs and the shop.

See also 99.7.2 above re parking spaces.

101.4 Protection of valued trees (leader Cllr David Sims) *See also 104.2 below.*

Cllr David Sims reported:

(i) Membership of the Woodland Trust had been completed. (ii) No further information had been received from the parishioner hoping to co-ordinate tree and hedge planting around the village. (iii) A suitable site for planting adjacent to the car park at Small Gains had been identified and a site visit with a potential supplier scheduled.

See 103.4 below re the Springs volunteer working group and 99.1 above re the New Pavilion Project.

Standing orders reinstated from here.

102. Matters of report from previous meetings.

102.1 New village map. Cllr Graham Lee reported on progress with the illustrations to be included.

103. PREMISES MANAGEMENT REPORTS

(individual parish councillor's responsibilities shown in brackets)

The Chairman reported that the regular tree inspections for the Cemetery, The Springs, the Recreation Ground and St Marys Churchyard had been commissioned and would take place on 14th January.

103.1 Cemetery. Nothing to report.

103.2 Recreation Ground including the pavilion and public toilets. (Responsible: Cllrs Mark White and Gemma Allan) The Chairman reported that vandals had pulled down a further section of guttering and roof at the rear of the pavilion; this had been repaired.

See also item 99.1 above.

103.3 Playground. (Responsible: Cllr Gemma Allan) Cllr Gemma Allan reported further consultation on new equipment aimed at older children.

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

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

(Responsible: Cllr David Sims) *See 101.4 above.*

103.6 The Lock Up. (Responsible: Cllr Norton Mahy) Cllr Norton Mahy reported that the new information sign was pending installation.

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

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

103.9 Street furniture. Nothing to report.

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

103.11 Parish Clock. (Responsible: Cllr Mark White) The Chairman reported that the chimes were running out of sync; the supplier was scheduled to visit and repair.

103.12 War Memorial. Nothing to report.

104. PLANNING MATTERS

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

104.1 New applications received from NHDC for consultation.

104.1.1 No. 1 Fordham Close. NHDC Case Ref. 19/02840/FPH.

Full Permission Householder: Single storey side/rear extension linking main dwelling to existing garage and modification to the fenestration.

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**

104.1.2 Barn Cottage, Popes Farm, Northfield Road. NHDC Case Ref. 19/02943/FP.

Full Planning Permission: Change of use of annexe to 3-bed dwelling with associated parking and amenity spaces.

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**

104.1.3 Section 73. Land Adjacent To 2, Ashwell Street. NHDC Case Ref. 19/02868/

Application: Erection of a detached 3-bedroom dwelling, and single garage; ancillary works and, new vehicular access onto Ashwell Street 9 (Section 73 Application - Variation of conditions 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and removal of conditions 5 and 11 of previously approved planning permission 19/01809/FP granted 07/11/2019).

The communications with the NHDC Planning Officer were noted; no concerns were raised.

104.1.4 Listed Building Consent, 5 Swan Street. NHDC Case Ref. 19/02798/LBC

Retention of two second floor windows on East and West Elevations.

The response sent to the Conservation Officer recommending approval was noted.

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

Section 73 Application: Erection of 9 (6 No. Three Bedroom, 3 No. Four bedroom) dwellings with associated parking, amenity space and associated ancillary works, following demolition of existing redundant structures. Creation of new access from Station Road (Section 73 application, variation of condition 8 - footway).

Cllr Tom Tyson reported that he had discussed the options with the head of planning and would continue to press for the retention of the hedge and trees as well as installation of a new section of footway to serve the new development.

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

(See also planning summary below and October Council, 74.2)

104.3.1 Public Open Space. The request to the NHDC Planning Officer (letter 18th December 2019) for further clarification was noted.

104.3.2 Discharge of Condition 4 (Landscape)/NHDC Case Ref. 19/02844/DOC. Documents submitted by the developer were noted.

It was agreed that the Planning Officer be questioned re the proximity of the access route to the public open space and the junction of the roadway; this should be repositioned away from the corner.

104.3.3 Discharge of Condition 24 (Pedestrian access from Ashwell Street)/consultation received from the NHDC Planning Officer (deadline 10th January). It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Planning Officer: (i) Reiterating the Parish Council's previously stated concerns re the provision of safe pedestrian access for all users. (ii) Questioning the proposals to resurface the access road and extend its width – was this wide enough to safely accommodate users, eg a mobility appliance and a delivery van? Were the proposals to resurface and extend the width compatible with the tree constraints identified in the drawings approved for

the planning permission? Was the proposed new lighting compatible with footway standards for a rural area and not constitute a nuisance to local residents?

104.3.4 Proposal to submit a bid for a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) to cover all trees on the site. The requests to various organisations for information/guidance was noted.

104.3.5 Further concerns of local residents and their correspondence with the NHDC Planning Officer were noted.

104.4 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 site meeting with the HCC Officer/Land Management Services was noted. He had agreed to draft a specification for some native hedging to improve the site and to make a request for their Rights of Way volunteer team to undertake the planting. Any Ashwell volunteers would be welcome to join in this. Details were to follow.

104.5 Pre-application sites. Nothing further to report.

104.6 Trees in the Conservation Area and Tree Preservation Orders.

(See also 101.4 and 104.3)

Chestnut tree/Land adjacent to Townsend House, 24 Lucas Lane. NHDC Case Ref. 19/02185/TCA. Nothing further to report.

104.7 District Local Plan Examination.

Information from the Inspector re the timetable for the next stages and further opportunities to comment/take part in hearing sessions was noted.

105. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

105.1 Monthly summary of accounts. Proposal for approval.

It was *resolved* that this be approved.

105.2 Local Government Pension Scheme. The following were noted: (i) Further information received re Ill Health Liability Insurance. (ii) The 2019 Triennial Valuation Employer Results for the Town and Parish Councils Pool.

105.3 Website accessibility compliance. The further information received and the proposals for compliance were noted.

See 99.1 above re proposals for funding of the pavilion replacement project.

Meeting closed 9.35pm

Forthcoming meeting dates:

February Council - Wednesday 5th February 2020, 8pm in the Parish Room.

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 8th January 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.

Consultations on recent planning and listed building applications received from NHDC				
Address	Application Number	Brief description	Ashwell PC Comments	North Herts Decision
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	Pending
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	retention of 2 second floor windows on East & West elevations	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).	Planning Committee Wed 3rd July PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that variations be approved	Permission Granted
Land Jct of Ashwell St & Station Rd	19/00455/FP	Amendments to previous application -see below	Previous objections to NHDC were reiterated. See minutes July Council meeting.	Permission Granted with Conditions at committee on 19/9/19
Land Jct of Ashwell St & Station Rd	19/00455/FP	Erection of 9 (6 No. Three Bedroom, 3 No. Four bedroom) dwellings with associated parking, amenity space and associated ancillary works, following demolition of existing redundant structures. Creation of new access from Station Road.	Planning Committee Wed 3rd April. PC Decision sent to NHDC: recommendation that permission be REFUSED	

Appendix: Monthly accounts summary

ACCOUNTS - Summary for 01/12/2019 - 31/12/2019			
RECEIPTS			£
67	Nevilles Funeral Services	Rent for Chapel of Rest (November)	68.75
68	Ashwell Cricket Club	Annual Rent for Rec Ground	1750.00
TOTAL			1,818.75
PAYMENTS			
171	D J Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grounds Maintenance sheet 64	1,041.60
172	D J Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grounds Maintenance sheet 63	673.20
173	Duo Design	Website Hosting 01/12/2019 inv 8966	30.00
174	Edwards Cleaning & Maintenance	Public Toilet Cleaning	255.00
175	Hockerill Engraving Ltd	Plaques for bench and lock up	169.80
176	Clerk (J C M Porter)	Clerk reimbursements	93.39
177	HMRC accounts ref 321PF00003624	tax&NI to Inland Revenue	421.73
178	HCC Pensions-LGPS Account,	Clerk & Deputy Clerk Pension to LGPS	723.78
179	EON	Electricity for Toilets (05/12/19)	8.58
180	NHDC	Dog waste bin emptying 01/04/19-31/03/20	1,162.51
181	Clerk (J C M Porter)	Clerk's salary	1,301.02
182	Deputy Clerk (L Brooks-Payne)	Deputy Clerk's Salary	793.93
183	Grounds Officer (M Chandler)	Grounds Officer salary	149.20
184	ECO (A Beddall)	Environmental Cleansing Officer salary	225.60
185	EON	Electricity for Pavilion (10/12/19)	73.03
TOTAL			7,122.37
MONEY AT BANK			
			Current Account 31/12/2019
			£34,200.63
			Reserve Account 31/12/2019
			£20,657.46