

NOTES

In lieu of the Ashwell Parish Council meeting April 2020 cancelled due to the coronavirus/Covid-19 emergency.

Parish councillors: Cllrs Mark White (Chairman), Martin Hoffman (Vice-chairman), Gemma Allan, Graham Lee, Norton Mahy, David Sims.

Clerk (Jane Porter) and Deputy Clerk (Laura Brooks-Payne).

District Councillor Tom Tyson. County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

The numbers in brackets following each item are the references to the March council minutes.

1. (118) Approval and signature of the minutes of the previous meeting, 5th March 2020.

To be actioned at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

2. (119) **PARISH AFFAIRS, REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES AND OPEN FORUM**

2.1 (119.1) **New pavilion project**/replacement of the existing pavilion at the Recreation Ground with enhanced facilities for sports and community use.

MNW – Agreed that the working group meetings would be suspended for three months. Contact would continue online as would investigations to identify/progress funding sources.

2.2 (119.2) **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.

MGH – Nothing further to report.

2.3 (119.3) **Village hall**/transfer to the Parish Council of the holding (or custodian) trusteeship.

MNW - Progress is now being made since the appointment of a new solicitor. Various documents have been received from them and are being reviewed.

2.4 (119.4) **Henry Colbron Trust**/future use of the now disused school netball courts off Gardiners Lane. The trustees, the Merchant Taylors' Company, have posted a notice re this on their website (see link below).

<https://www.merchant-taylors.co.uk/philanthropy/the-henry-colborn-trust>

The Clerk to the trustees has been emailed requesting further information but to date no response received.

2.5 (119.5) **Post Office service hosted by St Mary's Church in the Parish Room.**

MGH – Letter of thanks received from St Mary's PCC for the Parish Council's offer of funding.

2.6 Items from parishioners and village groups.

2.6.1 (119.6.1) **Greening Ashwell group** (a village volunteer group led by parishioner Ken Coyne) Following the Parish Council's request for input, they successfully completed new planting on the HCC verge adjacent to the old Cooke's site. The group has regular newsletters sent to members.

2.6.2 (119.6.2) **Climate Change – Ashwell Climate Conversations group.** No further information received.

2.6.3 (119.6.3) **Neighbourhood Watch/Village Facebook page.** Parishioner Janice Willis has reported that the Crime Prevention Day to be organised by PCSO Chris Brabrook has been postponed.

2.6.4 Moss Cottage Homes charity. A response has been sent to the Chairman of the trustees, Madeleine Legg, endorsing the proposal that Ann Robertshaw re appointed as a trustee.

2.6.5 The **Annual Parish Meeting** due to be held on Wednesday 25th March, has been cancelled.

2.6.6 Coronavirus/Covid-19 emergency. The Parish Council has joined with St Marys and the United Reformed Churches in promoting the 'Hello, if you are self-isolating I can help' system. The Ashwell Voluntary Delivery Service group is working with local retailers to support anyone who needs goods delivered. The Parish Council has assisted with production of leaflets to go to our satellite villages, has liaised with Community Development at NHDC and has offered to help in any other way it can.

2.7 (119.8) **Matters re other authorities and organisations**/reports and updates.

2.7.1 North Herts District Council (NHDC) District Councillor Tom Tyson.

TT – see Planning matters below.

2.7.2 Herts County Council (HCC) County Councillor Steve Jarvis.

SJ - The planned implementation date for both the 20mph speed limit and the waiting restrictions at the shops is 11th May but this may change due to current circumstances.

2.8 (119.10) Working Groups reports.

2.8.1 Neighbourhood Plan (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy and parishioners)

GEL -With the assistance of a Planning Consultant who specialises in preparing Neighbourhood Plans, plus valuable input from members of the NP Group we have re-drafted the Neighbourhood Plan. On the advice of Clare Skeels of NHDC this is being sent to Historic England to assess whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required prior to issuing for Regulation 14 Consultation. That Consultation period lasts for 6 weeks, so the next milestone is likely to be reached during June. The cost of the Consultant's input has been fully covered by a Grant from Groundwork UK.

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

2.8.3 Trees. (leader Cllr David Sims) *See item 2.6.1 above re planting at the old Cooke's site and below re Small Gains.*

2.8.4 Village Sports Day (parishioners) Cancelled due to the coronavirus/Covid-19 emergency.

2.8.5 Litter Picking (leader Cllr Norton Mahy and parishioners) Postponed due to the coronavirus/Covid-19 emergency.

3. Matters of report from previous meetings.

New village map.

GEL- Work continues on the design of the new Map which is focussed on highlighting local retail businesses and visitor places of interest. It is hoped that the Map will be ready for printing to be available for local residents and village visitors by the time that freedom of movement returns to normal following the Covid 19 pandemic.

4. (121) PREMISES MANAGEMENT REPORTS

MGH – The tree surveys for The Springs and St Mary's Churchyard have now been completed and the reports received from the supplier. No major works are required and the items recommended to be progressed will be actioned as necessary.

MNW -Tree reports have also been received for the Recreation Ground and the Cemetery. Action as for the sites above.

DRS- Small Gains. The new planting has been partly completed and will now be finished in the autumn. The repairs to the lane are pending the contractor's return to work.

5. (122) PLANNING MATTERS

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

5.1 (122.3) Land rear of 4-14 Claybush Road. NHDC Case Ref. 16/01797/1.

Request from NHDC for name suggestions. Anything that could possibly be confused with existing street names would be disallowed (this would exclude 'Claybush' and 'Mill' but not 'Windmill').

5.2 (122.6) Chestnut tree/development in front of Townsend House opposite the Recreation Ground.

The Chestnut tree has been felled. Following the independent report commissioned by NHDC they withdrew the temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO). In addition to the Parish Council's objections there were many from parishioners/local residents.

5.3 (122.7) District Local Plan Examination.

The further hearings have been postponed due to the coronavirus/Covid-19 emergency.

6. FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

6.1 (123.1) Monthly summary of accounts. *See appendix below.*

6.2 Audit for 2019-20. The auditors have advised that the deadline for submission has been extended to 30th September. The deadline for councils to sign off their return is 31st August.

Forthcoming meeting dates:

May Council, Wednesday 6th May 2020, 8pm - online via Zoom. Members of the public will be invited to join. A link with log on details will be emailed to all who have signed up to the website and any others who we are aware of/who request.

Appendix: Summary of recent planning consultations as of 6th April 2020.

Address	Application Number	Brief description	Ashwell PC Comments	North Herts Decision
Westbury Farm House, West End	20/00735/LBC & FPH	Extension, alterations and internal alterations to garden room between Westbury Moat House and Westbury Farm House.	PC recommendation sent to NHDC: that permission be GRANTED	Pending
Land rear 1-11 Back Street, Dixies Close	20/00737/S73	Erection of two 3-bed detached bungalows with associated gardens and parking as variation of permission approved under ref 15/00962/1 - the Section 73 application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 19/01515/fp granted 19/12/2019 to reduce canopy above front entrance door, change to front elevation, change to Gable at the front elevation and enlargement of windows 5 on plot 2	PC recommendation sent to NHDC: that permission be GRANTED	Pending
Townsend House, 24 Lucas lane	20/00622/FP	rection of 4 bay cart shed to provide 8 covered space	PC objection sent to NHDC on the grounds of adverse impact on parking	Pending
Land between Huntsridge and East Lodge, 22 Lucas Lane	20/00126/FP	24 new dwellings	Planning meeting 16/2/2020 PC to NHDC: request for further information	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	Permission Granted 26/03/2020
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.	25/3/2020 - SPLIT DECISION - Proposed alterations to roofs cannot be carried out as nonmaterial amendments. These NEED AN application under Section 73. The enlargement to Window 5 relating to Plot 2 can, however be carried out as a non-material amendment.

Appendix: Monthly accounts summary

ACCOUNTS - Summary for 01/03/2020 - 31/03/2020				
RECEIPTS			£	
81	Nevilles Funeral Services	Rent for Chapel of Rest (March)	68.75	
82	Collings Electrical	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	125.00	
83	Holmes Marketing	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
84	Groundwork UK	Neighbourhood Plan Grant	5,600.00	
85	Laura Brooks-Payne	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
86	Vanessa Jenkinson	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
87	Allotment Tenant	Payment for Allotment plot number 2 & 13a for 2020	20.00	
88	Paul Norman	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
89	Jane Buxton	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	70.00	
90	R&A Transport	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	70.00	
91	Mantles	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	300.00	
92	Amazing Feet	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
93	Liric Accountants	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	125.00	
94	Karen Perry (Feetcare plus)	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	70.00	
95	Wright Accounts	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	40.00	
96	Allotment Tenant	Payment for Allotment plot number 7a for 2020	10.00	
97	Allotment Tenant	Payment for Allotment plot number 6 for 2020	20.00	
98	Allotment Tenant	Payment for Allotment plot number 13b for 2020	10.00	
99	Bradleys Hairdressing	Payment for Yearbook 2020 Advert	125.00	
100	Santander reserve account	Santander Reserve Account 02/03/2020	5.73	
TOTAL			6,859.48	
PAYMENTS				
222	Affinity Water	Water for Cemetery (22/01/2020)	16.62	
223	Affinity Water	Water for Small gains (22/01/20)	44.65	
224	Mick Huggins	Installation of 2 new wooden litter bins	170.00	
225	Duo Design	Website Hosting 01/03/2020	30.00	
226	Edwards Cleaning & Maintenance	Public Toilet Cleaning & unblocking Ladies toilet	293.00	
227	Collings Electrical	Pavilion Electrical Inspection	420.00	
228	Wave	Rec Ground Sewage Charge 16/08/2019 - 15/02/2020	104.49	
229	ECO	Environmental Cleansing Officer salary (Feb 2020)	225.60	
230	Collings Electrical	Pavilion Electrical Inspection	450.19	
231	Local Resident	Purchases for planting in Chalk Bank Close	276.00	
232	Local Resident	Purchases for planting in Chalk Bank Close	35.92	
233	The Green Revival	Hedgerow planting at Small Gains	130.00	
234	The Green Revival	Hedgerow planting at Small Gains	534.00	
235	Deputy Clerk	Reimbursement for postage, Yearbook 2020	46.44	
236	Edwards Cleaning & Maintenance	Public Toilets - unblocking Gents toilet	60.00	
237	EON	Electricity for Public Toilets (05/03/2020)	8.32	
238	Local resident via Rochfords	Hedgerow planting at Chalk Bank Close	126.30	
239	Parkes Printers	Design & Printing of yearbook 2020	4,523.93	
240	Brilliant Lawns	Fertilising of football pitches	435.00	
241	HCC Pensions-LGPS Account,	Clerk & Deputy Clerk Pension to LGPS	723.78	
242	HMRC accounts ref 321PF00003624	tax&NI to Inland Revenue	422.13	
243	EON	Electricity for Pavilion (10/03/20)	82.93	
244	D J Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Grounds Maintenance sheet 65	444.00	
245	R&D C Transport	PC Donation towards the service	200.00	
246	Brilliant Lawns	Grass cutting 23/03/2020	115.00	
247	Edwards Cleaning & Maintenance	Public Toilet Cleaning	200.00	
248	Clerk	Clerk's salary	1,300.82	
249	Deputy Clerk	Deputy Clerk's Salary	793.93	
250	Grounds Officer	Grounds Officer salary	149.00	
TOTAL			12,362.05	
MONEY AT BANK				
			Current Account 31/03/2020	£19,306.55
			Reserve Account 31/03/2020	£20,675.46