



Ashwell Parish Council

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'Catch-Up Notes' from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2022 (full minutes on www.ashwell.gov.uk)

The following are highlights from the June meeting and subsequent news:

- **Parish Council Co-options.** The June meeting finalised the co-option process which clarifies the brief list of criteria that are required for someone to become a Parish Councillor, and the sequence of events that can lead to a person becoming a Parish Councillor between the 4 yearly local elections. As a result of completing this process ***the Parish Council then unanimously voted to appoint Ian Duffy as a Parish Councillor with effect from the July meeting. In his early 30s we whole heartedly welcome Ian as a more youthful member of the Council along with the ideas and communication knowledge that his generation can bring.***

- **Walk & Discover – Ashwell farmer guided talk – 3pm on 17th July**

Land at Whitby Farm (adjacent Partridge Hill) is managed by Tim & Sandra Gawthrop who live in the heart of Ashwell. On this 3km farm walk Tim will talk about the unusual crops he grows and why and the wholefood brand (www.hodmedods.co.uk) which takes & sells their produce. You'll discover the other issues faced by farmers and the choices they have to make. As a local farmer their actions have a major impact on our local environment and Tim will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The walk will be of interest to all ages and will take approximately 1 ½ hours.

The walk will start from the junction of Partridge Hill BOAT and the Public Footpath leading to Arbury Banks. Please come suitably prepared for the weather on the day and the footpaths. If you are a dog owner please do not bring dogs on the walk as it will involve livestock. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any additional questions.



- **Ashwell Community Land Trust/Community Benefit Society.** The application for review by the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) and the list of objects (that define the purpose of the CLT) had been drafted. To meet the FCA requirements there need to be three individuals appointed as Member directors. It was proposed that two of these be parish councillors (the Chairman and Vice-chairman) and one an independent. ***Applicants from Ashwell Residents are invited for the 3rd Founder Member. The criteria for a Member are simply that the applicant is over 18 years old and an Ashwell resident. However, given the nature of the legal process to set up the CLT to acquire land and other assets for the benefit of the Ashwell community, the individual would most likely have relevant skills – such as legal, financial, land management or administrative experience.*** **Applicants – please contact the Parish Office.**

Final drafts of the FCA Application and the document detailing Objects will be publicized and the Member directors to be approved will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

- **Planning:**

- Two householder applications for a variety of works and permissions were considered by the Parish Council with the decision to support them.
- **5G Telecoms Mast application opposite 41 Ashwell St.** This application was almost identical to an application made in 2021 and refused by North Herts. The Parish Council objected to the previous application and the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application.
- **Bygrave Solar Farm application.** A significant number (approaching 100) of Ashwell residents had registered objections with North Herts Council. Although the Parish Council is in favour of environmentally beneficial and 'green energy' initiatives, the Parish Council unanimously objected to this application because of its unsuitable siting.

- **Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 6th July 2022**

- **Please get in touch with us about any comments or questions you have about Ashwell.**

- **Also stay in touch with what's happening in Ashwell. Register for updates at www.ashwell.gov.uk**