



Ashwell Parish Council

Chairman: Graham Lee (☎ 743126)
Office at Bear Farm, 6A Back Street (☎743706)
Clerk: Jane Porter, Deputy Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne
www.ashwell.gov.uk ✉ clerk@ashwell.gov.uk



'Catch-Up Notes' from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022 (full minutes on www.ashwell.gov.uk)

The following are highlights from what was a particularly full agenda of topics:

- **Annual General Meeting.** The May meeting was also the Parish Council's AGM. The meeting re-appointed Graham Lee as Chairman, and Norton Mahy as Vice Chairman. All Parish Councillors agreed to retain the particular responsibilities they had held during the previous year. Elections for a new Parish Council will be held in May 2023. In the meantime the Parish Council is aiming to co-opt a number of new Councillors so that they and will have experience of the role when deciding whether to stand for election and parishioners will have some context when deciding who to vote for in 12 months time. The current co-option process is being finalised by the Parish Council before deciding on the appointment of additional co-optees.
- **Pedestrian routes to the Station.** This project has been championed by Councillor Martin Hoffman for many years. Mr Christopher Fordham, the land owner of the section lacking a safe footpath, was invited to the meeting. Mr Fordham explained his concern about providing land that would make him responsible for public liability or the costs of construction and maintenance. He did confirm though that, subject to being freed of that responsibility, he would be pleased to supply land so that the hedge-line could be moved to provide space for a new section of footpath. It was agreed that District Cllr Tom Tyson and County Cllr Steve Jarvis would be asked to take this up with their relevant authorities.
- **Bygrave Solar Farm.** James Colegrave, a representative of the Bygrave action group opposing the development, gave an update on the application. The public consultation has been extended until 3rd June and would be decided by the NHC committee probably in July. Ashwell residents are urged to respond to the North Herts consultation by 3rd June. On the one hand there is clearly a need for extra non-carbon energy infrastructure, but on the other hand the proposed site is high quality Grade II agricultural land which by national planning policy is unsuitable for solar power generation. The Parish Council wants to hear your views on this matter so we can represent your views with NHC. So please contact us before 3rd June. But also please write separately to North Herts Planning Dep't or use the following link to register your views via the NHC website: [22/00741/FP | Ground mounted solar photovoltaic \(PV\) farm including battery energy storage; continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works. | Land West Of Ashwell Road Bygrave Hertfordshire SG7 5EB \(northherts.gov.uk\)](https://www.northherts.gov.uk/22/00741/FP)

- **Walking on Farmland.** The landowners of the field to the South of Ashwell Street and Partridge Hill have complained to the Parish Council about the dumping of dog waste in a bin on their land (see image). They have pointed out that their land does not contain a public footpath but that unauthorised, persistent use of their land has caused damage to crops and to set-aside field margins for which they risk being fined. There are approved footpaths closely adjacent which should be used instead to provide access to Arbury Banks. **PLEASE STOP USING THE FIELD AND USE THE DESIGNATED FOOTPATHS.**



- **Planning.** Four householder applications for a variety of works and permissions were considered by the Parish Council with the decision to support two of the applications with two on which comments (but not approvals) would be made to North Herts Planning department. One tree pruning was supported.
- **Next Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 1st June 2022**

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

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