

24th June 2019

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 24th June 2019, at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Steve Hayler, Victoria Moriarty, John Thorn and George Smith

Cllr. James De Vries (UDC), Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Simon Walsh (ECC), Philip Player and Jo Wheatley. The Chairman reported that Cllr. Player had been re-admitted to Addenbrookes Hospital. All present wished him a speedy and full recovery.

2. Public Representations. Mr. Chris Pardue reported that the litter bin at Fallowden Lane car park was being filled to overflowing with bags of dog faeces. This was attracting flies and was a possible health hazard. Cllr. De Vries would investigate as the bins were emptied by the District Council. He also reported that the regime for emptying the bins was under review at the District Council. Mr. Pardue requested that, should different bins be installed, they should be able to be closed to prevent the nuisance from flies.

3. County Councillor's Report. The June report had been previously circulated. There were no matters arising

4. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. De Vries had attended the village Speedwatch and had reported his findings to the police. In his opinion there is a speeding problem in the village, this is not borne out however, by official figures. This required investigation. He had attended the Gigaclear presentation in the village, having an interest in the project as an IT consultant. Following a question from the Clerk he stated that the Local Plan was in abeyance and was being studied by both the planners and legal Counsel as to its validity. The Clerk said that the plan was of great importance to villages to provide protection from developers and that ground rules and development limits needed to be in place as a matter of urgency. Cllr. De Vries stated that a decision would be made within 4 to 6 weeks.

5. Co-option of Mr. George Smith to the Council.

Resolved – that Mr. George Smith be co-opted to the Council. (Cllr. Hayler).

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Smith to the Council and wished him well. Members looked forward to working with him and to the expertise he would bring as a past councillor in Gt. Sampford.

6. Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interests in matters on this agenda.

7. Minutes.

Resolved – that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019, previously circulated, be signed as a true record. (Cllr. Elsey)

8. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

- a. All Saints Fitness Trail. Official opening. Cllr. Elsey would put forward suitable dates from which a final date would be decided upon and plans put in place. (Action Cllr. Elsey)
- b. Rectory Lane Playing Field. Renovations had been completed. Cllr. Elsey reported that it was much improved. A replacement climbing net had been ordered and received for the multi unit. This would be installed as soon as possible. (Action Clerk/Acorn Serv.)

ii Highways.

- a. Weight Limit –Spriggs Lane. Cllr. Walsh would investigate (mins 8/4/19). Nothing heard to date (Action Cllr. Walsh)
- b. Speeding. This was a perennial problem. The Chairman would convene a meeting with Cllr. De Vries and interested parties at UDC to discuss the problem and try to find a solution. To be advised. (Action, Cllr. Elsey/De Vries)
- c. Verge protection measures. Noted that part of the verge at Spriggs Lane now had protection signs in place (the verge is home to Bearded Cow Wheat a protected species. Reported to Dr. Adams at UDC by Ms. Jane Gray). Investigations would be made into other verges in the village that required protecting with a view to the Parish Council installing protection measure similar to those installed by the County Council. (Action Cllr. Moriarty)
- d. Grit Bin, Water End. Following protracted communications with the Chief Executive of the County Council, Mrs. Mary Green had received confirmation that the County Council would replace the grit bin at their expense. She had also managed to get some of the gullies emptied. The gully opposite the grit bin was still blocked. Assurances had been received that this would be done. Members congratulated and thanked Mrs. Green for her actions. To be monitored. (Action ECC)
- e. Footways in the village. The County Council would be undertaking a repair programme on damaged footways. Cllr. Thorn would take photographs of the footpath from the Chapel Car Park to The Old Bakery for submission for repair via Cllr. Walsh. (Action Cllr. Thorn/Cllr. Walsh)
- f. Overhanging Hedges. There were several places in the village, including Chapel Farm, Turpins and Apple Tree House, where over hanging hedges were impeding footpaths or the highway. The Chairman would compose a suitable letter to those residents concerned to ask if they could be cut back (Action Cllr. Elsey)

iii. Village Hall.

- a. Sign. In abeyance waiting for the return of Cllr. Player.
- b. WiFi. A request had been received from a group in the village requesting WiFi be installed in the village hall. Cllr. Thorn reported that Gigaclear would install WiFi free of charge with no connection costs in the first year after which the minimum charge would be £45.00 per month. He would take this up with the Village Hall Committee. (Action Cllr. Hayler)

- iv. Telephone Box, Steventon End. The paint and light had been received and passed to Graham Marsh. No action to date.

Telephone Box, Church End.

Resolved – that the Parish Council inform BT and the District Council that they wished to adopt the telephone box at Fallowden Lane Car Park for use as a village amenity. (Cllr. Thorn) (Action Clerk)

- v. Ashdon Village Neighbourhood Plan. In Cllr. Wheatley's absence, Ms. Jane Gray reported that work was progressing and that a web site had been set up. The steering group would be applying for funding.

Resolved – that the Terms of Reference between the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council be adopted (Appendix i) (Cllr. Hayler)

- vi. Community Led Housing. This was progressing well in liaison with the RCCE Housing Enabler.

- vii. Ashdon Windmill Trust. Progressing via Mr. David How, Chairman of the Windmill Trust. It was reported that Mrs. Eileen How was seriously ill in hospital. Members wished her well and a speedy recovery.

- viii. Village Community Hub. The Chairman reported that the feasibility of providing a community hub was being investigated.

- ix. Composting Compound at the Cemetery. The Clerk would obtain costings for providing a dedicated composting compound at the cemetery. (Action Clerk)

- x. 75th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day 2020. Members would begin to formulate ideas for a celebration to mark this event.

- xi. Superfast Broadband. The presentation by Gigaclear had gone well with thirty people attending. Gigaclear would provide the fibre optic cable in the highway and install junction boxes at each dwelling. Dwellings within 100m of the junction box would be connected free of charge. Separate companies would provide the final connection and charge accordingly on a monthly basis (300mb £45/month, 900mb £75/month). Work would start in July. Possible disruption to local farmers had been noted.

- xii. Risk Assessment Policy. Cllr. Wheatley had drawn up a Risk Assessment Policy

Resolved – that the Risk Assessment Policy (Appendix ii) be adopted. (Cllr. Elsey)

xiii. Council Protection Certificate. To be advised by the Internal Auditor

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Various emails distributed to Members. Members had been requested to raise any matters received by email under correspondence. No items were raised.

- i. CPRE Countryside Voice
- ii. Essex Heritage News

10. NEW ITEMS

- i. Member's Responsibilities:-

Resolved – that the following responsibilities be adopted. (Cllr. Elsey)

RCCE/N.P.	Cllr. Wheatley
Community Hub	Cllr. Elsey
Highways & related matters	Cllr. Elsey
Internet/Website/Broadband	Cllr. Thorn
Speedwatch	Cllr. Thorn
Recreation Grounds	Cllr. Moriarty
Village Hall	Cllr. Hayler
Telephone Boxes/telecom	Cllr. Smith

- ii. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllrs. Thorn and Hayler had attended the meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group. It was their intention to re-vitalise the Ashdon Group as, although Ashdon did not suffer excessive problems, there were low levels of crime in the village. They would set up a meeting with Mr. Derek Griffin, Chairman of the Uttlesford Group to seek further advice and put plans in place to improve communications and advice on line. (Action Cllrs. Thorn/Hayler)

11. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. UTT/19/1220/OP. Outline application with all matters reserved except access and scale for the erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with garage Land south of Kates Lane.

Object.

- i. Unsustainable location outside the settlement boundary of Ashdon
 - ii. Isolated location with unsuitable and sub-standard vehicular access
 - iii. Sets an undesirable precedent for future planning applications along this rural lane
 - iv. The intent of the Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan will be to guide development within the village in the right locations. It is **highly unlikely** that this location would be designated as an appropriate location for development.
- ii. UTT/19/1353/FUL. Erection of agricultural workers dwelling with associated outbuilding
Land East of White Cottage, Water End

Strongly Object.

The application does not meet the criteria for the granting of an agricultural workers dwelling (see letter dated 25/6/2019 to UDC)

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

- i. UTT/19/0633/HHF. Extension of bungalow to form annexe and addition of porch. Sterlingdales, Water End

Conditional Approval

13. ACCOUNTS (Appendix iii)

- i. To receive the end of year accounts from the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk presented the end of year accounts. The cardinal point arising was that the Council's General Reserve was very low due to funds being made available for over costs at All Saints Field. The Internal Auditor recommended that the General Reserve should be £7.5K.

Resolved – that the end of year accounts for the fiscal year 2018/2019 be approved (Cllr. Elsey)

To review the General Reserve.

Resolved – that monies be put in the General Reserve to bring it up to the recommended level of 7.5K (Cllr. Elsey)

To resolve the movement of monies from earmarked reserves to the General Reserve to cover the cost of the fitness equipment at All Saints Playing Field.

Resolved – that the movement of monies from the earmarked reserve to the General Reserve to cover the unexpected over costs at All Saints Field be approved (Cllr. Elsey)

- ii. To approve the work of the Internal Auditor.

Resolved – that the work of the Internal auditor be approved and that the current Internal Auditor (Mrs. Anne Mangham) be appointed as Internal Auditor for the fiscal year 2019/2020 (Cllr. Hayler)

Members thanked Mrs. Mangham for her help in preparing the accounts and for her sound advice and recommendations to the Council.

- iii. To review the Financial Regulations

Resolved – that the Financial Regulations having been reviewed be approved (Cllr. Thorn)

- iv. To review Standing Orders

Resolved – that the Standing Orders having been reviewed be approved (Cllr. Thorn)

- v. To review the Parish Council Insurance Policy

Resolved – that the levels of the Parish Council Insurance having been reviewed be approved (Cllr. Thorn)

- vi. Accounts for payment

Resolved – that the accounts, Appendix iv, be passed for payment (Cllr. Elsey)

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA . There were no Items for the Next Agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix iv

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 24th JUNE 2019
13th MAY 2019 to 24th JUNE 2019

Monies Received	£
Mrs. R.S. Lamb. Purchase of grave	100.00
H.J. Paintin. Purchase of grave/Interment fee re Peter Lamb	150.00
Blyth & Sons. Purchase of grave/interment fee re Rev.Michael Yorke	150.00
Monies passed for Payment	£
M. Griffin. Light Village Hall	68.00 Ch.No. 102408
Sovereign Play. Final Invoice	249.84 Ch.No. 102409
David Green. Stamps	13.96 Ch.No. 102410
David Green. Copy Paper	18.75 Ch.No. 102411
David Green. Memorial plaque, oak trees at Recreation Ground	33.99 Ch.No. 102412
David Green. 3 x Ink cartridge	51.50 Ch.No. 102413
MD Landscapes (Anglia) Grass cutting May 3 cuts	1,137.60 Ch.No. 102414
E.ON. Electricity. May Account	83.53 Ch.No. 102415
Playsafety Ltd. RoSPA report play equipment	244.20 Ch.No. 102416
D. Green. Stationery	2.97 Ch.No. 102417
D. Green. Post Mix. Sign Playing Field	5.17 Ch.No. 102418
X2Connect. Light telephone box Steventon End	47.40 Ch.No. 102419
Acorn Services. Refurbish Play equipment Rectory Lane	3,127.20
Replace ceiling White Horse House	456.00
	3,583.20 Ch.No. 102420
B&S Chains. Combi rope net. Rectory Lane play area	306.07 Ch.No. 102421
Greenbarnes. 2 x noticeboards	1641.73 Ch.No. 102422
Grasshopper. Summer treatment. War memorial	24.00 Ch.No. 102433
Grasshopper Lawncare. Spring treatment War memorial	24.00 Ch.No. 102444
Balances at Bank 24 th June 2019	
Current Account	£9,213.08
Savings Account	£1,068.77
Savings Account	£21,426.60

