

24th February 2020

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 24th February 2020, at 7.30pm.

Present.

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

Cllr. Simon Walsh (ECC), Cllr. James De Vries (UDC) and Mr. David Green (Clerk)
Ms. Sophie Winter, Gigaclear.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllr. Philip Player who was recovering from heart surgery. Members wished to pass on their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

2. Public Representations

Mrs. Sue Patrick, Holden End. Mrs. Patrick informed the meeting that the Ashdon Flood Group had been reinstated. There were 25+ Members mostly living along the river and who were at risk of flooding. The group were investigating the possibility of installing an early warning device to allow members of the group to take preventive action before the river had risen to a dangerous level. Currently there was no early warning system other than the Environment Agency, whose advice was invariably delayed and received after the river level had reached dangerous levels. Members had visited Stansted where such a device had been installed and was working well giving adequate early warning. A device such as that in Stansted would cost approximately £1,900 installed. Sim cards were £100. The group had secured £500 from the District Council New Homes Bonus and was now seeking further funding from the Parish Council.

The Chairman replied that the Budget and Precept for 2020/21 had been set and at this late stage could not be changed to include an additional sum. The Parish Council would, however, take Mrs. Patrick's request into consideration should funds become available.

Mrs. Julia Goodwin, Steventon End. Mrs. Goodwin voiced her concerns about traffic problems at Steventon End particularly speeding (no speed limit at Steventon End), large vehicles using it as a rat run, verges becoming eroded, no pavement and flood problems, particularly with the recent very wet weather.

The Chairman fully concurred with Mrs. Goodwin's concerns and pointed out that these matters had been raised continually with Highways to no avail. Councillor Walsh said that he would take these matters up with the relevant authorities on Mrs. Goodwin's behalf.

Mrs. Emily Meakin, Fallowden Lane. Mrs. Meakin was concerned that the Superfast Broadband project was on hold and that she required it for business purposes.

The Chairman passed this matter to Ms. Sophie Winter (Gigaclear) who was in attendance for her to try and resolve Mrs. Meakin's concerns.

Mrs. Mary-Anne Matthews, Church End. Mrs. Matthews requested that the Green Skip contract be renewed for 2020/21 as it was a great asset to the village. The Chairman said that this would be so.

3. Presentation by Ms. Sophie Winter, Gigaclear.

Ms. Winter addressed the meeting and apologised for the delay in the installation in the village. This was due to the installation contractors Keir resigning from the job in late 2019. A new contractor, TELEC, had been appointed and was in the process of validating the Ashdon build to date. The installation works were 30% completed, the outstanding works would be put in hand as soon as possible with an estimated completion date of July 2020. Ms Winter did point out, however, that the installers could encounter unexpected difficulties. Ms. Winter explained that the circuit supplying Mrs. Meakin's property was, in fact, from Lt. Walden and not Ashdon and that she would take Mrs. Meakin's problems up with her Principals and revert back with her findings.

Ms. Winter took questions from the floor. The Chairman thanked Ms. Winter for attending and explaining the situation. Ms. Winter left the meeting at this point.

4. County Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Walsh reported that Stansted Airport and the CAA were in consultation regarding airspace and the re-routing of flights under 7000ft. He advised that Members should monitor the situation carefully as it could affect flight paths over Ashdon.

He advised Members to be aware of the Science and Creativity Events being held by the County Council in 2020. There would be a cycle event in September 2020 with up to 15,000 cyclists taking part. The route would take some cyclists through Ashdon and he advised that the village may wish to make the best of this event as other villages had done with the recent Tour de France.

Cllr. Walsh advised that there would be an increase in Council Tax, this was necessary in some part due to the increase costs of adult care.

Cllr. Walsh took questions from the floor including those matters regarding Highways and safety, particularly at Steventon End and Superfast Broadband.

5. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. De Vries said that he was representing the District Council in matters concerning Gigaclear and the installation of Superfast Broadband. He also noted Mrs. Meakin's problems. He noted that the recent planning application from Stansted Airport for the increase in numbers had been refused by the District Council. No appeal had been lodged to date. The Local Plan was a major concern and the District Council had two options:-

- i. To seek suggestions from the Inspector on what would be acceptable - time frame 2 years;
- ii. to start a completely new Local Plan - time frame 6 years

He advised that option i. would be the preferred option.

Cllr. De Vries took questions from the floor.

6. Declarations of Interest. There were no Declarations of Interest in matters to be raised at this meeting

7. Minutes.

Resolved – that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020, previously circulated, be signed as a true record. (Cllr. Smith)

8. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Field Rectory Lane.

The Clerk reported that he had received quotations for the replacement of the bark surfacing under the climbing frame which ranged from approximately £4000.00 to £9,000.00. A recent inspection by Acorn Services had shown that the timber was decaying particularly at ground level. Members questioned if it was prudent to commit funding to replacing the surfacing when the complete unit, including surfacing, would require replacing in the medium term (2-5 years).

Resolved - that;

- i. the in-situ bark surfacing be made good and maintained as such in 2020/21;
 - ii. quotations be sought for the replacement of the complete unit, including surfacing in 2021/22 (Cllr. Elsey)
- ### ii Highways. Outstanding Highway matters, speeding, pot holes, flooding, verges, pavement at Radwinter Road had been discussed at length in the Public Forum, Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. De Vries Reports. Members hoped that, as the four parties concerned, County, District, Parish and Public had been involved in these very important matters that they could now be progressed as soon as possible.
- a. Weight Limit –Spriggs Lane. Nothing to report.
 - b. Verge protection measures. Cllr. Smith had nothing to report
 - c. Footway – Chapel Car Park to Crown Hill. Reported to, and under investigation by, Cllr. Walsh and Cllr. De Vries
(Action Cllrs. Walsh, De Vries)
 - d. Footpath network in the parish. Ms. Victoria Moriarty (Footpath Representative) was not in attendance. There was no report.
- ### iii. Village Hall. Cllr. Hayler was concerned that hirers of the Village Hall were not using the overflow car park but parking and obstructing the highway. He would take this up with the Village Hall Committee.
- ### iv. Telephone Kiosks.
- a. Steventon End. It was noted that a small bookcase had been installed and that the "Walden Local" would now be available on Wednesdays for residents to collect.
 - b. Church End. Notification had been received from the District Council that BT would not be replacing the kiosk at Church End. This matter was now closed.
- ### v. Ashdon Village Neighbourhood Plan.

The following report had been received:-

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group – 20 February 2020 - Summary of progress for the PC and community.

Present: Jane Gray and Jo Wheatley

Several groups have been set up:

i. The Flood Group

Sue Patrick has kindly agreed to take on the group's administration. The Flood Group is an autonomous group, but with interests aligned to the Neighbourhood Plan. They will produce a report that will be encompassed within the Neighbourhood Plan, as flooding and the lack of a flood group was raised as a concern at the first public consultation.

ii. Tree and Hedgerow Group

This is in the very early stages of formation.

This group will report on key hedgerows and statement trees within the village.

iii. Streetscape Group

This group have completed nearly all their area surveys within the village, including photographs. These will be collated and will be integral to the neighbourhood plan.

These surveys will also inform a 'Design Statement' for inclusion in the final document.

iv. Roads and Traffic Group

This will be the next group that emerges and is likely to include looking at current traffic levels, speeding and parking.

v. Landscape Appraisal

Alison Farmer has produced her first draft of the landscape appraisal, which has been shared with Streetscape Group for review and comment. Her finalised report should be available in the next few weeks.

vi. Historic Assessment

The NP is looking into how to do this and will be attending a training course later this month to find out more.

vii. Second Consultation

Whilst a date is yet to be agreed, it is likely that this will take place in early summer. Amongst various reports it will consist of feedback from the first consultation, a review of some initial draft policies and a draft Vision Statement for discussion.

- vi. Community Led Housing. There would be a meeting with Laura Atkinson, RCCE, and Stephen Bland, English Rural, on the 16th March when the draft report would be discussed.

- vii. Ashdon Windmill Trust. Chairman to contact Mr. David How regarding this and the telephone kiosk shelving.
- viii. Village Community Hub. Public meeting 11.00 Saturday 29th February in the Village Hall to present the Parish Council's proposals for a new Community Hub/Café/Shop. It was hoped that as many people from the village as possible would attend and a decision made as to whether to proceed with the project.

- ix. a. 75th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day 2020.

Resolved - that a village event be held on Saturday 4th July 2020. Venue and format to be decided. (Cllr. Smith)

Cllr. Thorn would advertise the event on the Web site and seek volunteers to assist
(Action. Cllr. Thorn)

- b. Memorial Plaque to Mrs. Elizabeth Everitt AM. Plaque received.

Resolved - that a Commemoration and Dedication of the plaque be held on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at the War Memorial, the anniversary of Mrs. Everitt's death on the 27th May 1944. The Clerk would contact Mr. Richard Everitt and Mrs. Fiona Bidwell, Mrs. Everitt's grandchildren. It was hoped that the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and representative of the American Air Force would attend.

- x. Superfast Broadband. See Public Forum and address by Gigaclear.
- xi. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr. Hayler reported that there had been an oil theft from Church End. Other than that there was little to report..

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Various emails distributed to Members. Members are requested to raise any matters received by email under correspondence.

- i. Velo Essex. Cycle event coming through the village. 15,000 cyclists. Sunday 20th September.

10. NEW ITEMS

- i. Application from Ford Homes Ltd. for Operators Licence operating from Overhall Lane, Steventon End.

Concerns and objections had been raised by residents at Steventon End regarding the application by Ford Homes for an Operating Centre at Overhall Lane. Residents were concerned that this had been abused in the past and had caused distress to residents. Members noted that Overhall Lane was a very narrow rural lane unsuitable for heavy traffic and that both the verges and a water main had been damaged in the past. Cllr. De Vries would take this matter up with the Licensing Department at the District Council and revert with his findings.

- ii. Green Waste Skip. Notification had been received from the District Council that the green waste skip "season" will be extended to 20 weeks starting w/e 7/3/20 ending w/e 6/12/20 at an increased cost of approx. 3% taking the annual payment at approx. £70 per fortnightly visit - total cost iro. £1500 (£1200 in budget).

Resolved – that the Green waste skip be continued for the year 2020/21 at an approximate cost of £1,500.00 for a fortnightly visit.(Cllr. Smith)

- iii. Keep Britain Tidy Spring Litter Pick 20th March to 13th April.

Resolved - that the Spring Litter Pick be on Sunday 5th April 10.00am Village Hall/Crown Hill. (Cllr. Smith)

- iv. Best Kept Playing Field Competition 2020

Resolved - that Ashdon do not enter this competition in 2020 due to the deteriorating condition of the climbing frame at Rectory Lane Playing Field (Cllr. Elsey)

Councillor Elsey would undertake the inspections of the play equipment at Church Field (in Cllr. Player's absence) and Rectory Lane.

11. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. UTT/20/0101/HHF & UTT/20/0102/LB. Erection of front porch, internal alterations and replacement windows
2 Bridge Cottages, Water End

No Comment

- ii. UTT/20/0152/FUL. Proposed conversion of barn to 1no. dwelling (amended to previously approved application UTT/17/2467/PAP3Q). Alterations to existing access and parking areas serving 1 and 2 Hill Cottages.
Hill Farm, Radwinter Road

No Comment

APPEALS

- i. UTT/19/1220/OP. Erection of a single dwelling
Land adj. The Orchard, Kates Lane

Allowed

- ii. APP/C1570/C/19/3237955. Land at Winsey Farm, Camps End.

Appeal dated 20th August 2019 regarding a large brick built garage.

Refused. Garage to be removed within 8 months

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

- i. UTT/19/2587/HHF. Reduction of garage structure to form/retain a triple garage and store.
Winsey Farm, Camps End

Refused

- ii. UTT/19/2879/HHF. Construction of art studio and lookout building
Brights Farm

Approved

- iii. UTT/19/2937.HHF. Proposed 2 storey side and single storey rear extension with associated alterations
Westfield, Radwinter Road

Approved

- iv. UTT/19/1989/FUL. Conversion of disused agricultural barn to 1 no. dwelling.
Barn adj. Little Mortimers, Water End

Approved

- v. UTT/19/2260/FUL. New vehicular access from Radwinter Road to the two new dwellings consented under UTT/17/1659/PAP3Q
Goldstones Farm

Conditional Approval

- vi. UTT/20/141/AG. Prior notification of proposed access road
Land south of Church Hill

Refused

13. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

Resolved – that the Accounts (Appendix i) be passed for payment (Cllr. Eley)

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- i. Village Map (Cllr. Hayler)

The meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020
13th JANUARY 2020 to 24th FEBRUARY 2020

Monies Received	£
H.J. Paintin. Inscription re Bert Carrington	25.00
HMRC. Vat repayment 1/11/2019-31/12/2019	464.35
Monies for Payment	£
D. Green. Stamps	21.28 Ch.No. 102483
Grasshopper. War memorial grass	24.00 Ch.No. 102484
Photocast Products Ltd. "Everitt" Plaque. S 137	885.00 Ch.No. 102485
D. Green. Ink cartridges, folders	34.00 Ch.No. 102486
Alison Farmer Ass. Landscape Appraisal	4,941.00 Ch.No. 102487
Site Ground.Hosting Ltd. 3 years web site Cancelled	213.84 Ch.No. 102488
Uttlesford District Council. Invoice for green skip 17weeks 19/20	1,156.00 Ch.No. 102489
John Thorn. Site Ground Housing. 3 years web site	213.84 Ch.No. 102490
John Thorn. Softwear PC Web Site	39.75 Ch.No. 102491
D. Green. Envelopes	7.58 Ch.No. 102492
D. Green. Stationery	3.99 Ch.No. 102493
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband	19.99 Ch.No. 102494
E.ON. Electricity. (£30.68 January Account. £403.73 Credit)	373.05 Credit
Just-Us Digital. Village Hub leaflets Cancelled	135.60 Ch.No. 102495
Just -Us Digital Ltd. Village Hub leaflets	135.60 Ch.No. 102496
Essex Playing Field Assn. Annual Subscription	30.00 Ch.No. 102497

Balances at Bank 24th February 2020

Current Account	£1,454.38
Saver Account	£1,070.36
Saver Account	£33,453.28

