

7th December 2020

At the Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held remotely on **ZOOM** due to the CoVid19 pandemic, on Monday 7th December 2020, at 7.30pm.

Present.

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

Cllr. Simon Walsh (ECC), Cllr. James De Vries (UDC)

Mrs. Melanie Horrigan, Ms. Jane Gray (Neighbourhood Plan Group. NPG)

Mr. David Green (Clerk),

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Philip Player who had recently returned home from hospital. Members sent their best wishes to Cllr. Player for a speedy and full recovery.

2. Public Representations

Mr. Stuart Hastie, Radwinter Road. Mr. Hastie voiced his concerns regarding the proposed shop/café/hub in the old part of the village hall:-

- i. He questioned the provision of toilets in the revised plans in that they would not meet the requirement laid down by the Charity Commissioners for the number of persons using the hall. He noted that there was no separate urinal in the gentlemens toilet;
- ii. would the Parish Council be paying for the flood defence device that was to be installed in the village (point of installation yet to be determined);
- iii. storage - the doors on the proposed revised storage area would not be wide enough to facilitate the chair trolley;
- iv. where would the covered cycle rack be installed as in the planning conditions;
- v. why was it not possible to take White Horse House in hand to have the hub /shop/café in there
- vi. why had the Chairman not yet met with the Village Hall Committee to discuss the above matters. He stated that he considered that the Chairman was using Covid restrictions as an excuse not to have a meeting.

The Chairman stated that, following discussions with the architect and planners, all requirements for the revised toilets had been met. He had consulted Mr. Ray Hammond Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, regarding the additional storage and no major concerns had been raised. The cycle rack would be installed at a suitable site in the car park. The Chairman had offered to meet Mr. Hammond and the Village Hall Committee at their convenience but this had not been possible to date because of the law concerning Covid 19. The offer still stood, there were no insurmountable problems and the village was waiting with great expectation for the project to progress. A tripartied meeting with Mr. Hastie and Mr. Hammond would be arranged, Covid regulations permitting.

Having answered Mr. Hastie's queries the Chairman said the meeting should move on.

3. County Councillor's Report.

.The County Councillor's monthly report had been received and previously circulated.

Cllr. Walsh reported that there was a concerning rise in Covid in the south of the county. Essex was currently in Tier 2. Grants were available for the supply of food initiatives and County would be supporting local food banks. A drainage engineer would be attending the flood problem at Steventon End to assess the situation. A flood detection system would be installed in the village, site as yet undetermined. Cllr. Walsh was aware of the concerns regarding the degrading of the verges at Spriggs Lane, particularly with the application to convert the barn adjacent Lt. Mortimers and the heavy traffic that would create. He would see what action could be taken to assist the Parish Council in protecting the lane.

The Clerk asked Cllr. Walsh to thank Highways for their prompt action in clearing the fallen trees at Chalk Hill, Saffron Walden following the recent snow.

Cllr. Walsh left the meeting at this point.

4. District Councillor's Report.

Cllr. De Vries reported that the Local Plan Consultation cards had been delivered throughout the district. Covid 19 business grants were now available to those who qualified. Confirmation had been received that, if necessary, the planning application for the barn adjacent to Lt. Mortimers would be called in. The last remaining matters concerning Gigaclear in the village would be dealt with. Church End, fed from Lt. Walden, would be completed with the final properties being connected in July 2021. Landowners had been contacted regarding the proposed cycle route from Saffron Walden to Ashdon. A business grant application for the Village Hall had been submitted (Cllr Hayler).

Cllr. Thorn and the Chairman thanked Cllr. De Vries in helping to sort out the problem with the Parish Council email being hacked.

Cllr. De Vries left the meeting at this point.

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

6. Minutes.

Resolved – that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on Monday 9th November 2020, previously circulated, be signed as a true record. (Cllr. Smith)

7. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Field.

A quotation for £1,490.00+vat had been received from Acorn Services for the removal and disposal of the old climbing frame, removal of the wooden edging and backfilling with top soil and seeding.

Quotations received for the replacement of the climber unit:-

Fenland Leisure	£18,369.45
Playground Facilities	£23,391.97
Wicksteed	£28,500.00

The above subject to vat @ 20%. Fenland and Playground Facilities do not include removal of the old unit. Wicksteed does.

A site meeting with Fenland Leisure would be convened in the new year under Covid regulations to discuss the matter.

Resolved;- that a sum of £20,000.00 be put in the 2021/22 budget to replace the climber unit (Cllr. Hayler)

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

Cllr. Smith was in the process of completing the form with a request to the Local Highway Panel for weight restrictions at Spriggs Lane

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

Cllr. Hayler reported that some activities were now taking place in the hall following lockdown. The defibrillator was under investigation. Cllr. Thorn to assist if possible.

Resolved - that the quotation from Greenbarnes Ltd for £730.21 for a new notice board at the entrance to the village hall be accepted. Note this would match existing notice boards round the village. (Cllr. Hayler)

iv. Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan.

MINUTES OF NP STEERING GROUP ON 30th NOVEMBER 2020

Zoom meeting attended by Melanie Horrigan, Isabel Blackett, Corey Vost, Harriet Burrow and Jane Gray. Apologies Jo Wheatley.

The following matters were discussed:-

1. The Second Consultation Questionnaire - the village-wide questionnaire has been folded into the village magazine and distributed via their volunteers, which has really helped the NP Group. Our thanks also to Christian Kipp, who formatted the paper version and setup the digital version. Posters will follow for all the Parish noticeboards reminding residents to fill in their questionnaires. Once this is done, we will follow up to link to the PC web-site and Facebook. The closing date for the questionnaire is 15th January.

2. Design Code - there is a potential grant from Locality to cover some of the cost of engaging a professional consultant to do a Design Code, using much of the data we have gathered already.

We have four potential consultants, who we will ask to tender for the job.

3. Budget - the Parish Council has asked for an idea of what the NP may need in next year's budget. Melanie supplied the information required.

4. Plan format - the Steering Group discussed a possible format for the NP and decided to adopt the basic format of the Saxilby NP, which is concise and easily understandable. This was agreed unanimously.

5. Any gaps in gathered data was discussed and the following gaps identified:- tree and hedgerow survey, children and young people survey. Further thought will be given to this before the next meeting. The business survey, the community space survey and the school survey are being collated by Steering Group members.

6. Local Plan Forum - Uttlesford District Council is running a community forum as a starting point to the Local Development Plan for the district, data from the NP can be accepted and sent in via the PC. Individuals can view and comment on the Forum presentations via the UDC web-site under the Local Plan section.

Mrs. Horrigan reported that the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires had been circulated with the Village Magazine. Completed forms required by 15th January. The Design Statement was proving challenging, those completed to date were mainly urban based not rural as required in Ashdon. There would be a budget shortfall of approximately £3,300.00 in 2021/22

v. Community Led Housing.

The Chairman reported that the land at All Saints was under negotiation with the District Council and the Parish Council's Solicitor. There were anomalies concerning the expired agreement and ownership of the land.

Following discussion by all Members it was

Resolved -

- i. to pursue the land at All Saints as the Parish Council's preferred site for the next phase of affordable homes in the village;
- ii. to progress the project with the Parish Council's preferred developer English Rural Housing Association;
- iii. to advise Ms. Sheena Dale to this effect;
- iv. to advise Ms. Dale that, should she wish to pursue provision of "affordable" homes and open market housing on her site at Walden Road, she should seek pre-planning advice from the District Council and also consult Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan Team regarding Alison Farmer's Landscape Appraisal and other matters concerning the Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan and the future development of the village.

vi. Community Hub/Shop/Café.

- i. Approval for the Parish Council's application for the hub/shop/café had been received.

Resolved:- to engage Hibbs Walsh Associates to draw up Building Regulation Plans (Cllr. Hayler) (Action Chairman)

- ii. Lease for White Horse House.

Resolved - that the Parish Council's Solicitor be instructed to inform Fairstone Group that a 3 year lease at the current rent is acceptable to the Parish Council. That two parking spaces be designated adjacent to White Horse House and two made available to them in the car park (Cllr. Thorn)
(Action Chairman)

- vii. Superfast Broadband.

Cllr. Thorn reported that the Lt. Walden cabinet feeding Church End would go live in May 2021 with connection to all properties by the end of July 2021

- viii. Neighbourhood Watch.

Facebook page now has 100 members. Attention was drawn to Christmas scams and leaving parcels on doorsteps which would invite thieves.

- ix. Mobile Post Office.

Proving hugely successful with great support from the village.

- x Village Handyman.

The Chairman would circulate the list of tasks for the Village Handyman to Members for comment.
(Action Chairman)

- xi. Update on proposed cycle route from Saffron Walden to Ashdon.

Saffron Walden Town Council would be contacting the land owners to seek their cooperation

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Various emails distributed to Members. Members were requested to raise any matters received by email under correspondence. None were raised.

- i. CPRE "Countryside Voice" & "Fieldwork"

9. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. UTT/20/2970/HHF. Proposed link extension and 6 no. dormer windows
Winsey, Camps End

No Comment

- ii. UTT/20/2893/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to residential and light industrial, erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and 1 no. glassblowing workshop and gallery
Land west of the Vales, Radwinter Road

Object (Letter on file)

- iii. UTT/20/2894/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to residential and erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and associated single storey garage/hobby room. Land east of Fairfields, Water End

Object (Letter on file)

- iv. UTT/20/2896/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to domestic. Demolition of garage and storage building. Single storey extension to barn and link to re-built South range. Internal and external alterations and new single storey garage. Barn Owls, Newhouse Lane.

Support

- v. UTT/20/2897/LB. Demolition of garage and storage building. Single storey extension to barn and link to rebuilt South range. Internal and external alterations. Barn Owls, Newhouse Lane.

Support

Street Naming/Numbering

- i. 1&2 Woodstone Barns, Newhouse Lane will now be known as 1&2 Field Barn

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

- i. UTT/20/2521/AG. Erection of an agricultural storage building Winsey, Camps End.
Clerk's note; the Parish Council was not notified of this application probably because it was for "agricultural permitted development".

Refused.

- ii. UTT/20/2125/FUL. Change of use from village hall (D1) to mixed use as village hall (D1), shop (A1) and café (A3). Single storey side extension and internal alterations.
Ashdon Village Hall, Crown Hill

Conditional Approval

- iii. UTT/20/2126/LB. Single storey side extension and internal alterations
Ashdon Village Hall, Crown Hill

Conditional Approval

11. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT (Appendix i)

- i. Draft Budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022.

The Clerk ran through the first draft budget as circulated asking for amendments and comments. There were no amendments. Members would study the draft budget which would be resolved at the meeting to be held on 11th January 2021. In the interim the Clerk would enter last years precept of £40,000.00 into the budget calculator to provide Members with figures prior to the next meeting.

ii. Accounts.

Resolved- that the Accounts, Appendix i. be passed for payment (Cllr. Vost)

13. TO FIX DATES FOR MEETINGS 2021

Suggested Dates:

(January 11th, February 22nd, March 29th Annual Parish Meeting, May 10th Annual Parish Council, June 14th, July 19th, August 23rd, September 27th, November 1st, December 6th)

All meetings are on Mondays and will be on Zoom until further notice.

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no "Items for the Next Agenda"

Appendix i

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2020
9th NOVEMBER 2020 to 7th DECEMBER 2020**

Monies Received

£

Ashdon Village Hall Committee (Fairstone WHH Rent)	1550.00
BW & LT Crawford Purchase of Grave (double fees as not residents of Ashdon)	250.00

Monies for Payment

£

MD Landscapes. Grass cutting 2 cuts	664.80	Ch.No. 102568
TC Fixings Cable ties for Christmas tree	11.27	Ch.No. 102572
D. Green. Gift for loan of forklift for village Christmas tree	14.99	Ch.No. 102573
Richard Doubleday. Village Christmas Tree approx 5m	150.00	Ch.No. 102574
Andrew Everitt. Verge at Bus Shelter. War Memorial hedge	490.00	Ch.No. 102575
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband	21.00	Ch.No. 102576

Balances at Bank on 7th December 2020:-

Current Account:-	£3,389.83
Saver Account:-	£1,071.21
Saver Account:-	£53,484.05

