

11th January 2021

At the Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held remotely on **ZOOM** due to the CoVid19 pandemic, on Monday 11th January 2021, at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Steve Hayler, Philip Player (Vice Chairman) George Smith
John Thorn

Cllr. Simon Walsh (ECC),
Mrs. Melanie Horrigan, Ms. Jane Gray (Neighbourhood Plan Group. NPG)
Mr. David Green (Clerk)

Cllr. Player only attended for the first 15 minutes and then left due to a communication breakdown with Zoom.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Cory Vost who is in hospital. Members sent their best wishes to Cllr. Vost for a speedy and full recovery. Cllr. De Vries was unable to attend due to another meeting

2. Public Representations

Mr. Stuart Hastie.

Mr. Hastie requested a meeting be arranged with the Village Hall Committee on Zoom to discuss the proposed Village Hall shop/hub project and the proposed alterations to the toilets and additional storage area. This would include the changes in internal/external doors to facilitate the movement and storage of furniture, fire exits etc. This would be done via Mr. Ray Hammond, Village Hall Chairman at a time convenient to both the village hall committee and Cllr. Elsey (Action Chairman/Mr. Ray Hammond)

It was understood that Tier 3 and Tier 4 grants had been secured from the District Council

3. County Councillor's Report.

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

Cllr. Walsh expressed both his and the County Councils concern over the rise in Covid infections in the south of the county and Harlow. This was very concerning and urgent steps were being taken to try and manage the rising numbers. The NHS would manage the vaccine roll out county wide. Numbers in Uttlesford were still rising although it appeared that the pandemic was starting to plateau in some other districts. The Lord Butler Leisure Centre in Saffron Walden would be used as a vaccination centre.

The application for protection measures at Spriggs Lane/ Water End had been received from Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Walsh fully appreciated the concerns regarding damage to the lane by large vehicles, he would try and put forward a solution. Access to properties via the Highway could not, however, be denied.

The Ashdon flood Group had received the grant towards the flood monitoring system. The best place to install it to protect the maximum number of properties in the village would now be determined.

Cllr. Walsh left the meeting at this point.

4. District Councillor's Report.

.There was no District Councillor's Report. Cllr. De Vries had, however, been in contact with the Clerk and Chairman over several matters including the affordable housing project. This would be further discussed with Cllr. De Vries at a time convenient to him.

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 7th December 2020, previously circulated, be signed as a true record. (Cllr. Thorn)

7. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Field.

Rectory Lane. It had not been possible to arrange a site meeting with potential suppliers due to Covid Regulations. To be organised when restrictions are lifted.

All Saints Fitness Trail. Closed due to Covid in accordance with Government guidelines.

Cllr. Smith would carry out and log inspections at Rectory Lane, Cllr. Hayler would carry out and log inspections at Church Field Play Area/All Saints Fitness Trail (Action Cllr. Smith/Cllr. Hayler)

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

Cllr. Smith had completed and submitted a request to the Local Highway Panel for weight restrictions/protection measures at Spriggs Lane

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

Cllr. Hayler reiterated that claims had been made for support from the District Council due to the Covid lockdown.

iv. Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 4th
January 2021**

Apologies: Corey Vost

Present: Jane Gray, Melanie Horrigan, Harriet Burrow, Jo Wheatley, Isabel Blackett

1. Paper and On-line Survey

Members of the Steering Group should encourage as many people as possible to complete the survey before the deadline of 15th January 2021.

JG to ask John Thorn to put a reminder on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

It was noted that so far, we have in excess of 50 responses.

2. UDC Local Plan Map

This was reviewed by the Steering Group.

JG and MH will present the NP comments to the Parish Council including the results of the first public consultation, which particularly commented on many of the issues raised by the layered map.

In brief, the map made assumptions on walking speeds/distances, based on being able to walk on pavements/paths. Speeding traffic also deters many residents from walking and cycling on our “skinny rural roads” without pavements.

It was also noted that whilst a bus route was noted on the map, there is no useable service as such, due to infrequent and poorly timed buses.

3. Design Code

The Steering Group has received quotes from both BEAMS Ltd and Farrer Huxley. JG suggested that it might be possible to work with both firms, each tackling a different aspect of the Design Code and it was agreed that we will find out if this might be a way forward.

4. Trees and Hedgerows

JG and HB will attempt to produce a basic, factual document gathering the available data as an Appendix to the Plan, in order that the Plan policies on planting hedges and trees can be evidence-based. This will work to support possible policies for the

planting of hedges and trees as guided by the first public consultation, where trees and hedgerows were valued by residents.

HB suggested seeking advice from Tony Morton at the Essex Wildlife Trust.

JG to send Harriet and Jo a copy of UDC's Local Wildlife Site Review 2007 as background evidence.

5. Next Steps

Collating the answers to the household questionnaire.

Mrs. Horrigan reported that the deadline for return of the questionnaires was Friday 15th January (Friday next). Approximately 100 forms had been returned to date, the number of returns being reduced by the Covid Lockdown. Notes on the proposed Local Plan had been received from Ms. Jane Gray and circulated to Members for comment prior to being submitted to UDC. It was suggested that in many ways the UDC Plan covered urban areas but was left wanting in coverage of the requirements of the villages and rural areas. Main areas for concern remained speeding, heavy vehicles on rural roads, lack of public transport and lack of pavements in the village, particularly at Church End and Rogers End.

Design Code. Fortunately a person had been found in the village who could carry out the Design Code. It was hoped that the funding required could be obtained from "Locality". A document covering trees and hedgerows would also be drawn up. This was deemed essential particularly in light of recent tree works by developers in the village on trees with TPO's

v. Community Led Housing.

Progressing frustratingly slowly. Advice would be sought from Cllr. De Vries on how best to proceed.

vi. Community Hub/Shop/Café.

i. Covered in Item 2. as raised by Mr. Hastie.

ii. Lease for White Horse House.

Resolved:- that

a. A Tenancy at Will for three (3) years, irrevocable within the effective period, for the tenancy of White Horse House be agreed with Fairstone Financial Management Ltd. Woodstock Way, Boldon Business Park, Boldon Colliery. NE35 9PF to include all the areas currently leased to Andrew Cohen Associates;

b. the rent of £6,200/annum paid quarterly on the usual quarter days;

c. that two (2) car parking spaces be designated to parking for Fairstone Financial Management adjacent to White Horse House and a further two (2) spaces be available in the Village Hall Car Park to the rear of the Hall;

d. that, as the Tenancy at Will had been drawn up at the request of Fairstone Financial Management Ltd. the costs incurred, including legal fees be met by them. (Cllr. Hayler)

vii. Superfast Broadband.

Cllr. Thorn reported that some works were still to be completed in Radwinter Road when the relevant permits had been received.

viii. Neighbourhood Watch.

Facebook page now has in excess of 100 members. Attention was drawn to scams involving false claims on Covid19 vaccine.

x Village Handyman.

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

The Handyman had removed the seat from under the oak tree on the Village Green and was now cleaning and restoring it. It was noted that it was donated by Mrs. Luddington of Waltons Park in 1935 to mark the Jubilee of King George V, making the seat over 87 years old and still in relatively good order.

Resolved: that a new seat be purchased to be installed by the Handyman at Rectory Lane Playing Field to replace the seat that was to have been re-sited from the verge by the bus shelter which was found to be beyond economic repair (Cllr. Hayler)

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

Ms. Jane Gray reported that Saffron Walden Town Council had now withdrawn completely from the proposed cycle route on the old railway line.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Local Heritage List. The Clerk reported that the list, covering items not covered on other conservation/preservation lists, would include the pump at Crown Hill, Moor Pasture Cottage and the Railway Carriage at Ashdon Halt. It was suggested that the pump by the Chapel could also be included. (Action Clerk)

9. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Street Naming/Numbering

- i. New property on land adjacent to Orchard House, Walden Road to be known as Foxes Corner, Walden Road, Ashdon CB10 2HJ
- ii. New property under construction at Ash Tree Farm, Nutts Green, Walden Road when completed will be known as "Woodside Barn, Walden Road CB10 2NB"

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

- i. UTT/20/2190/FUL. Conversion of existing building used as a residential annex to create a self-contained detached dwelling, with associated garden, car parking and landscaping.
Pennycroft, Bartlow Road

Conditional Approval

- ii. UTT/20/2735/FUL S37 retrospective application to increase size of front gable and change rear hipped roof to a brick gable to 1 no. Dwelling approved under UTT/19/0283/FUL
Land adj. Orchard House, Walden Road

Conditional Approval

11. ACCOUNTS

- i. To review the Cemetery Fees and Charges

Resolved - that the fees and charges for the Cemetery remain at their current rates (Cllr. Elsey)

- ii. To resolve the budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022

Resolved - that the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021/22 as previously circulated to Members (Appendix i) be approved (Cllr. Thorn)

- iii. To resolve the Precept for the fiscal year 2021/2022

Resolved - that a Precept of £41,500.00 be placed on the District Council for the Fiscal Year 2021/22. This represents a rise on Band "D" Council Tax from £105.79/annum to £110.86/annum a total of £5.07/annum. (Cllr. Thorn)

- iv. **Accounts.**

Resolved - that the Accounts (Appendix ii) be passed for payment. (Cllr. Thorn)

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- i. Litter Problem. It was noted that there is a litter problem in the village and that the usual litter picks could not be arranged during the lockdown. It was agreed that litter picking equipment would be distributed to Members who would carry out individual litter picks in line with Covid restrictions at their own convenience. To be reviewed at the next meeting.
- ii. Defibrillator at the Village Hall (Chairman)

Date of Next Meeting Monday 22nd February

The Meeting Closed at 8.45pm

Signed Chairman Date

Appendix ii

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2021
7th DECEMBER 2020 to 11th JANUARY 2021

Monies Received	£
H.J. Paintin. Headstone & inscription re Ray & Maureen Moore	100.00
HMRC VAT Refund.	1,307.41
Interest BPA. 7/9/20 - 6/12/20	1.36
Interest BPA. 7/9/20 - 6/12/20	0.03

Monies for Payment	£
E.ON. Electricity November Account. (£101.88 - £29.69)	72.19 Credit
RM Design & Print Limited. Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire	274.80 Ch. No.102577
D. Green. Malware computer protection	49.99 Ch.No. 102578
SLCC Annual subscription	112.00 Ch.No. 102579
Grasshopper. Grass treatment War Memorial	24.00 Ch.No. 102580
D. Green. Stationery	10.50 Ch.No. 102581
D. Green. Stamps (prior to price rise)	45.90 Ch.No. 102582
D. Green. Diaries to log recreation ground inspections	7.78 Ch.No. 102583
E.ON. Electricity December Account (£72.19 - £30.68)	41.51 Credit

Balances at Bank on 11th January 2020:-

Current Account:-	£2,370.04
Saver Account:-	£1,071.21
Saver Account:-	£53,484.05

