

10th May 2021

At the Annual Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held remotely on Zoom on Monday 10th May 2021, at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Steve Hayler, Philip Player and Cory Vost.

Cllr. Martin Foley (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 Councillors George Smith and John Thorn

2. Election of Chairman for the Civic Year 2021/22

Resolved:- that Cllr. Mike Elsey be elected Chairman for the Civic Year 2021/22 (Cllr. Player)

3. Election of Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2021/22

Resolved:- that the election of Vice Chairman be held in abeyance until the next meeting when, it was hoped, more Members would be in attendance. (Cllr. Elsey)

4. Public Representations

The Clerk, acting on behalf of Mr. Chris Pardue, Guildhall Way, raised the matter of spoil being dumped at Butlers Lane/Byrds Farm in the parish of Saffron Walden. This was having a detrimental effect on Ashdon with the great number of heavy vehicles passing through the village to access the site and the number of heavy vehicles on the road between Butlers Corner and Chalk Hill. The Clerk had spoken to Saffron Walden Town Council who had no knowledge of the site and Uttlesford Planning Department who promised to investigate the matter on provision of a plan from the council. Cllr. de Vries said that he would investigate the matter on behalf of the council. (Action Cllr. de Vries)

Mr. Matthew Bidwell raised the matter of ground rents being charged by Hastoe Housing at Tredgetts making the "affordable" properties less affordable to prospective buyers. He gave examples of original purchasers paying no ground rent, some paying £20.00 per month and some paying £143 per month. Members agreed that this was contrary to the reason for the properties in the first place to provide affordable homes for village people. It was understood that Thurlow Estate, who provided the land initially, were investigating as to whether any conditions had been put on the land when transferred to the then Rural Trust. It was agreed to wait for the outcome of that investigation before making further representations.

Mr. Stuart Hastie said that he had attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Building Inspector from UDC regarding the proposed shop/hub/café in the old part of the village hall. He said that the old thatched part of the hall was inadequately alarmed for fire prevention with a "domestic" type smoke alarm, a special

shutter would be required at the proposed counter by the access door, the toilets were too small and a cycle rack was required at the front of the hall.

The Chairman said that this had been a very positive meeting. There were no problems with the fire exits and the mixing of children exiting the hall with adults, in the event of an emergency (although further advice was being sought); the toilets were not a matter for building regulations but that they concurred with the British Standards; the thatched part of the hall required a proper fire alarm which was the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee; the cellar had been inspected by the Building Inspector and no problems had been raised and that a cycle rack would be provided to the rear of the hall.

5. Short address by Cllr. Martin Foley on County Council matters

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Cllr. Foley to the meeting. Cllr. Foley having been recently elected as the member for Thaxted (including Ashdon). The Chairman wished to record the Parish Council's thanks to the outgoing member Cllr. Simon Walsh for his efforts on behalf of the village over many years.

Cllr. Foley thanked the Chairman and said that he had not yet had time to get up to speed but that he would continue Cllr. Walsh's good works and that he would make every effort to assist the Parish Council and the residents of Ashdon. He was aware of some of the matters concerning the village, not least traffic problems, and that he would do all he could to resolve them.

6. Short address by Cllr. James De Vries on District Council Matters.

Cllr. De Vries noted that there were now three District Councillors representing Ashdon, Cllr. Foley, Cllr. Smith and himself. The District Council were looking to devolve services throughout the district away from Saffron Walden. Stansted Airport was ongoing and being closely monitored. CoVID grants were available for those struggling with work related matters. There was an ongoing consultation into the increasing number of Solar Farms in the district. He also reported that Dawn French, Chief Executive of the District Council was stepping down and that a replacement was being sought. He would investigate the matter of the site at Butlers Lane/ Byrds Farm on behalf of the Council.

7. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of Interests in matters on this agenda.

8. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th March 2021

Resolved:- that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021, previously circulated, be signed as a true record (Cllr.Vost)

9. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

Rectory Lane. It had not been possible to arrange a site meeting with potential suppliers due to Covid Regulations. The Chairman would consult with Cllr. Thorn to see when he was available before fixing a date for a site meeting (Action Chairman)

Church Field. Roundabout required attention. Reported to Acorn Services who had installed a new bearing in the recent past. Gates and fencing in order.

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

- a. Water End/Spriggs Lane. It was understood that the request for weight restrictions and protection measures for the lane had been raised at a recent meeting of the Highways Panel. Nothing heard to date.

The Clerk reported that the owner of Lt. Mortimers had contacted him regarding damage caused by the contractor accessing the barn adjacent to his property. He reported this to Planning, Highways and the Enforcement Officer. Awaiting the outcome.

- b. Speeding/Speed Watch.

Ongoing problems with speeding as highlighted by Cllrs. Vost and Hayler. Members considered that physical speed prevention measures were required. Flashing signs by the school are being ignored and the traffic problems were only likely to increase with the amount of building going on in the district. (Action Chairman/Cllr. Foley)

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

Cllr. Hayler reported that the Village Hall was waiting to re-activate bookings post CoVID.

The Chairman reported that the lease for White Horse House had been received but required some minor amendments before signing. He had taken this up with the solicitor. (Action Chairman)

iv. Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan.

Steering Group Meeting 4th May 2021

Attendees: Corey Vost, Jo Wheatley, Melanie Horrigan, Harriet Burrow and Jane Gray.

Non-attendee: Isabel Blackett.

1. The NP - We have had a preliminary zoom meeting with Ian Poole, our proposed planning consultant and he will review the draft NP and the Design Code, which he will also kindly comment upon as the two documents need to compliment each other. Once funding is in place he will make a start.
2. Funding - we have filled in and sent off the application, which will hopefully fund the planning consultant, who will take us through the rest of the process until the NP is "made".
3. Photos - Harriet is compiling a set of photos for the completed Plan so that we have a choice to illustrate the points made in the NP.
4. Traffic - there seems to be more traffic driving fast through the village, and on the Radwinter Road in particular, where there is a 60mph speed limit once drivers pass the village limits. Regulating speeding traffic was a

community aspiration in both public NP consultations. Drivers rarely slow down for walkers, cyclists or horses.

5. Latest sport, physical activity and young peoples' amenities consultation - very limited response so far. The cricket team seem to be gaining momentum and the Ashdon Velo is popular.
6. Public consultations going forward - depending on where the virus regulations are once our draft NP and Design Code are complete, we discussed different methods of possible consultation, including power point, both in the village hall and digitally. Jo kindly offered her expertise in this format. Things should be clearer as the summer progresses.
7. Drone - Harriet was keen to contact anyone with a drone to get some photos of the village from a high vantage point.
8. Ponds - Harriet was also thinking about mapping the ponds/lakes. We have been looking at West Wickham NP and they had done this. Harriet is also looking at mapping ancient hedgerows.
9. Height of housing and building in a sustainable manner - both these concerns were discussed and will be explored further.
10. Next meeting - provisionally 7th June and hopefully outside.

Mrs. Melanie Corrigan reported that the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was with the Planning Consultant and that a report would be available for the next meeting. It was considered that the first draft had been a very satisfactory document. Traffic problems were ongoing with rat running through the village and an increase of speeding vehicles and HGV's. Ms. Jane Gray, Transport Rep. would contact Cllr. Foley regarding the poor bus services in the village

v. Community Led Housing

- a) Proposed houses adjacent to All Saints Close. The Chairman reported that now the Covid regulations were being relaxed a little and the election had been concluded he was pushing for the District Council to arrange a meeting at their earliest convenience.
- b) Recent allocation of properties. The Clerk reported that a flat at All Saints Close had recently been purchased by a local person. Unfortunately the landlord, Cambridge Housing Society, had not contacted or communicated with the Parish Council in any way to seek the purchasers connections with the village. This is contrary to the agreement with the association and is regrettable in that the Parish Council is not accepted as a partner in their affordable housing. This strengthens the Parish Council's case to work with English Rural, with who there is a strong working relationship, regarding the proposed development adjacent to All Saints Close.
- c) Ground Rent. This item was covered very adequately by Mr. Matthew Bidwell in Item 4 Public Representations. The situation will be closely monitored to try and ensure the best outcome for the village.

- vi. To receive a report on the Village Community Hub.

Progressing slowly but very positively particularly following the recent meeting with the Building Inspector. It is hoped to have confirmation from Building Regulations in the near future, following which tenders can be sought for the work.

- vii. Superfast Broadband.

The following statement had been received from Cllr. Thorn:-

"There appears to have been an issue with BT / Openreach records for their Superfast Broadband rollout at the top end of the village (going out towards Walden) . One resident is desperate for Superfast Broadband and, according to the Superfast Essex website their property is connected. When they made an enquiry to BT they were told it is not available. I checked with Superfast Essex who confirm that Openreach did connect the property but that BT records are inaccurate. Gigaclear are also due to be connected up there by the end of July (although having checked the roadworks website it appears that they have several road closure permits refused so this may be delayed). Properties down Fallowden Lane are still due to be connected to the cabinet in Little Walden (not Ashdon) and the rollout map still shows this could take as long as the end of the year (but hopefully sooner)".

- viii. Neighbourhood Watch

Councillors Thorn and Hayler reported the following, Cllr. Thorn by email:-

"Slight increase in members of the Facebook Group to 104. Regular posts ongoing. Current threats are Catalytic Converter thefts (we had one at Church End about 6 weeks ago), FLUBOT (Android phone users being tricked into downloading parcel tracking software which installs spyware) and FLEECEWARE (where a user signs up for a free trial of a mobile application but then don't cancel and get charged an hefty subscription fee)".

- ix Village Handyman

Working well with several seats in the village renovated/resited and litter bins being emptied regularly. War Memorial posts to be replaced when the posts are available. It was noted that the War Memorial gates are in a poor state of repair.

Resolved - that:-

- i. quotations be sought for the replacement of the gates at the War Memorial to mark the centenary of the dedication of the memorial;
- ii. a service be held at the War memorial on Saturday 23rd October to mark the Centenary of the dedication of the War Memorial on Sunday 23rd October 1921 by Major-General Sir S.W. Hare (Cllr. Vost)

- x. Litter

Individual litter picks had been carried out by Members. It was noted that people throughout the village had organised "personal" litter picks in the village for which the Parish Council were very grateful

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- i. email dated 20/4/21 from Mrs. Lee Davies, May Cottage, Walden Road, previously circulated, regarding the proposed installation of double yellow lines outside her property, May Cottage, due to parking obstructing their view when exiting their drive. Mrs. Davies wishes to submit an application for the installation of double yellow lines and is seeking the support of the Parish Council.

Members noted Mrs. Davies concerns. After consideration it was agreed that the Parish Council could not support an application for double yellow lines having previously resisted having yellow lines in other parts of the village. It was noted that Mr. Alan Bidwell, Beeches Nursery, had offered to help Mrs. Davies exit her drive whilst deliveries were taking place at the Nursery. Members also noted that both the Nursery and Bidwell's Garage had been in existence for many years previous to the two houses being built and that this should be taken into consideration.

- ii. CVSU Food Parcel Delivery. The Chairman reported that Mrs. Janet More and Mr. Richard Shobbrook had this in hand.
- iii. Uttlesford Heritage List. Noted that the pump on Crown Hill had been added to the above list.

11. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. UTT/21/1305/HHF. Erection of a detached single storey garden store Barn Owls, Newhouse Lane

No objections to the proposed storage shed but concerns regarding its location and loss of privacy to Woodstones and wildlife habitat if the hedge were removed.

- ii. UTT/21/1524/FUL. Proposed erection of three detached dwellings complete with garages and private garden areas.
Land south of Church Hill

Held in abeyance until the next meeting.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

- i. UTT/21/0201/HHF. Construction of two pitched roofed dormers to front of dwelling The Beehive, Radwinter Road

Conditional Approval

- ii. UTT/20/2896/FUL. Change of use of land 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, New House Lane. Amended application

Conditional Approval

- iii. UTT/20/2897/LB. Demolition of garage and storage building. single storey extension to barn and link to re-built south range. Internal and external alterations.
Barn Owls, Newhouse Lane. Amended application

Conditional Approval

- iv. UTT/21/0456/HHF. Erection of veranda to cover existing patio area
4. Tredgetts

Conditional Approval

- v. UTT/21/0908/HHF. Proposed single storey extensions and building remodelling including application of new finishes and erection of forward cart lodge garaging
The Nugget, Radwinter Road

Conditional Approval

13. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

Resolved - that the accounts (Appendix i) be passed for payment (Cllr. Player)

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no "Items for the Next Agenda"

The Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix i

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 10TH MAY 2021 29th MARCH to 10th MAY 2021

Monies Received		£
UDC. Precept.		20,750.00
Ashdon Village Hall Committee. (Rent WHH Fairstone Group)		1550.00
 Monies for Payment		 £
D. Green. Hibbs Walsh Ass. Building Regs Fee V.Hall		264.00 Ch.No.102609
M.D. Landscapes. Grass cutting 2 x cuts		684.00 Ch.No.102610
D. Green. telephone/Broadband		21.10 Ch.No.102611
EPFA. Entry fee Best Kept Playing Field Competition		10.00 Ch.No.102612
EPFA. Annual Subscription		30.00 Ch.No.102613
Grasshopper Lawncare. War Memorial		24.00 Ch.No.102614
E.ON. Electricity March Account		30.68 Ch.No.102615
Nicholas Reynolds. Refurbish cemetery gates		1195.00Ch.No.102616
Barclays Bank. Interest payment charge		0.16
BHIB Insurance. Premium renewal		1485.57Ch.No.102617
MD Landscapes Village Grass Cutting April		763.20Ch.No.102618
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband		21.00Ch.No.102619
E.ON. Electricity April Account		29.69Ch.No.102620

Balances at Bank on 10th May 2021:-

Current Account:-	£5,322.66
Saver Account:-	£1,071.24
Saver Account:-	£66,485.38

