

14th June 2021

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 14th June 2021 in Ashdon Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

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

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

Mr. David Green (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Vost to his first face to face meeting and said that he was pleased that he had fully recovered from his debilitating illness. The Chairman also welcomed the return of Councillor Player who had also been in ill health.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillors John Thorn, James De Vries (UDC) and Martin Foley (ECC)

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

To be held in abeyance until the next meeting when it was hoped all Members would be in attendance

3. Public Representations

Mr. Chris Pardue, Guildhall Way, addressed the meeting regarding the dumping of spoil at Byrds Farm/Butlers Lane, Saffron Walden. He repeated his concerns regarding the amount of spoil being moved and the fact that, originally this was to have been the site for fishing lakes. Councillor De Vries continues to investigate this matter with the District Council.

Mr. Iain Ford addressed the meeting on two matters

- i. He said that the village needs development at Church Hill which is why he has submitted an application to build three dwellings. He stated that these would be Category 4 and 100% sustainable. There would be a buffer zone between the site and the property known as Armadale with a pond which would contain newts. He would plant 30 native trees and 450m of native hedging round the site. The "wild" area would be managed by a management company and would, in fact, be donated to the parish;
- ii. If the application was successful he would, in partnership, purchase and restore the Rose and Crown public house making it a village asset. He stated that without approval to develop Church Hill he would be unable to purchase the pub as he would lose his enthusiasm for the project. He appealed to the Parish Council to back his project.

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

The following report was tabled in Cllr. Foley's absence:-

"I will follow up pothole at Springfield , Radwinter Rd. I may give you a call on exact location

As I attend Essex CC meetings every week , it is clear that a number of areas are looking at so-called "efficiency savings" As this becomes clearer and particularly if it will impact our area I will let the you know. We are talking tens of millions. So not insignificant .

Most meetings are now available to watch on ECC website now if it is of interest to our Ashdon Parish Councillors.

Can I check one thing...what is the most used hospital for people in Ashdon?"

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

The following report was tabled in Cllr. De Vries absence:-

"In regards to the landfill/spoil dumping site at Butlers Lane, this matter is still being investigated and I will report fully as soon as I have an update.

At UDC I am pleased to congratulate Cllr Arthur Coote who has been elected as this years Chairman of UDC, Arthur has been a councillor for many years and has been passionate about the community for many more than that.

The latest Covid relief scheme has now been launched – The Restart Grant Scheme, aimed at helping the non-essential sector restart trading as lockdown restrictions lift. Details are available on the UDC website.

With Stansted Airport, last month the Planning Inspectorate announced its decision to allow an appeal by Stansted Airport Ltd and to make a full award of costs against the council. In response to this, a letter written by the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Lodge, setting out concerns over the decision, has been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. A copy of the letter is available to read on the airport appeal web page."

6. Declaration of Interests

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

7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May 2021

Resolved:- that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021, previously circulated, be signed as a true record (Cllr. Vost)

8. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

- a. Rectory Lane. No site visit to date. The Chairman would circulate dates from which Members would choose when they were available. The Clerk said that there was a very strong growth of weeds under the climbing frame which required attention. Mr. Marsh would be asked to spray them.
- b. RoSPA Report. The report had been previously circulated. The Clerk reported that there were no outstanding safety matters but there were minor matters that required attention. It was noted that the roundabout at Church field was still in need of attention. Acorn services to deal with this matter.

- ii Highways. Traffic Management.
 - a. Water End/Spriggs Lane. Cllr. Smith said that the meeting of the Local Highways Panel had been delayed and should take place next week. Spriggs Lane would be on the agenda. (Action Cllr. Smith)
 - b. Speeding/Speed Watch. The Chairman was waiting for a date from Cllr. Foley for the proposed meeting with the Police. (Action Chairman/Cllr. Foley)

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

Cllr. Hayler said that most clubs/organisation had now resumed meetings in the village hall which was most encouraging. It was noted that CoVID regulations were being applied.

The revised lease with Fairstone Group had now been received from Wade & Davies, Solicitors. The Chairman had studied the lease and considered it should now be signed and finalised.

Resolved:- that the Chairman be authorised to sign the revised lease for White Horse House and proceed with Fairstone Group via the Council's solicitor.
(Cllr. Hayler) (Action Chairman)

iv. Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting – 7th June 2021

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

Apologies: Isabel Blackett.

1. Progress Update

Funding received and paid into PC account from 'Locality' for the consultant, Ian Poole, to both edit and finalise the Plan and to take us through the final consultation process. The Steering Group has been assured that the next edit will be ready by 23rd June 2021.

A further smaller grant may be required for extra printing costs etc. depending on the form of the final consultation and any COVID restrictions in place. Jane to progress this as necessary.

2. Maps

Ian Poole is to advise us on any additional maps required. Whilst his fee includes the production of such maps we will need to spend time providing additional data as necessary. It was also agreed that further work is needed on maps for the Design Code. Harriet commented that it is possible to map larger ponds using Google Earth. Harriet has started working on photographing, identifying species and taking note of ancient hedges. She noted that the fir trees by the bus stop at Church End were looking very stressed.

3. Design Code

Ian Poole's comments on BEAMS' Design Code first draft have been received and reviewed. He felt that the Design Code needed further development in order for it to be fully aligned with the NP.

He identified areas of overlap and duplication with the NP and also material that would be best covered in the NP – rather than in the Design Code.

Harriet is compiling the folder of good quality photographs to insert into both documents. She is also working on editing the Design Code based on Ian's comments.

5. Planning Applications

The Steering Group has sent in a letter of objection to the Church Hill planning application due to the evidence on the landscape impact (Alison Farmer Associates Landscape Appraisal) and the evidence from the second public consultation (landscape, environment, traffic and connectivity).

It was noted that a detailed application for the Radwinter Road site has also recently been submitted and that this needs to be reviewed in light of the drafted Neighbourhood Plan. The implications for flooding also need to be considered in conjunction with the Ashdon Flood Group - Jane to progress

Mrs. Melanie Horrigan said that funding had been received from Locality, which the Clerk confirmed was now in the Council's bank account. The plan was in its final stages before going to the Final Consultation. It should be ready soon after the 23rd June. Maps would be included along with detailed plans of hedgerows, trees and ponds. Mrs. Horrigan said that it was with regret that Ford Homes and Ms. Sheena Dale had not consulted the Neighbourhood Plan Group prior to submitting the planning application for Church Hill.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Horrigan and the Group for all their hard work and dedication in the preparation of the plan and for their expertise in their report on Church Hill

v. Community Led Housing

a) Proposed houses adjacent to All Saints Close

The Chairman said that negotiations were progressing slowly with the District Council. English Rural would contact the District Council and the Chairman would contact Graham Locke (UDC) to try and speed matters up. (Action Chairman)

c) Ground Rent.

Nothing heard to date (ref. meeting 10th May)

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

The Chairman said that this was progressing well. The architect was working on the bid for building tenders. The target date for completion was October this year. The storage issues were still to be resolved with the Village Hall Committee

- vii. Superfast Broadband. Nothing further to report in Cllr. Thorn's absence
- viii. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr. Hayler reported that there was an increasing number on the Face Book page, and that there was also an increasing number of scams. The Facebook page was continually being updated.
- ix. Village Handyman. The system was working well but it was noted that Mr. Marsh was extremely busy on the land at this time of the year.
- x. Litter. Litter pick to be organised in September

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

11. NEW ITEMS

- i. War memorial Gates. Two quotations had been received. A third would be sought. (Action Clerk)

12. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

The Chairman deferred a decision until Cllr. Thorn had been consulted.

(Clerk's note; Tuesday 15th June. The Chairman had now spoken to Cllr. Thorn seeking his views on the above application. Having now consulted all Members the Parish Council's decision was to object to the application on grounds of Landscape and Visual matters also the points raised in the refusal of application UTT/19/2642/OP having not been fully addressed. Letter on file)

- ii. UTT/21/1754/DFO. Details following outline approval UTT/18/1429/OP for the erection of 4 no. dwellings - details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale
Land to west of Radwinter Road.

Noted:- UTT/20/2009/FUL. 5 Dwellings, land west of Radwinter Road.
The above was refused. The District Council has confirmed that an appeal has been lodged on this application. No details have been received to date. This is the same site as the current application

The Chairman deferred a decision on this application pending the report from the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

13. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT

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

- i. Internal Audit. To review and approve the Accounts for the fiscal year 2020/21 (Appendix ii) and review the Internal Audit

Resolved - that the Accounts (Appendix ii) for the fiscal year 2020/21, the Internal Audit and the Annual Governance Statement be approved (Cllr. Vost)

- iii. To approve the work of the Internal Auditor. To appoint the Internal Auditor for the fiscal year 2021/22

Resolved - that the work of the Internal Auditor be approved and that Mrs. Anne Mangham be appointed to carry out the Internal Audit in the Fiscal Year 2021/22 (Cllr. Elsey)

- iv. To review and approve the Financial Regulations

Resolved - that the current Financial Regulations having been reviewed be approved (Cllr. Player)

- v. To review and approve Standing Orders

Resolved - that the current Standing Orders having been reviewed be approved (Cllr. Hayler)

- vi. To review the Parish Council Insurance Policy

Resolved - that the Council's current Insurance meets the Council's requirements and be approved. (Cllr. Vost)

14. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- i. H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- ii. Rose & Crown Public House

Next meeting Monday 19th July in the Village Hall

The Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix i

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 14TH JUNE 2021 10th MAY to 14th JUNE 2021

Monies Received	£
H.J. Paintin. Headstone re Dennis & Dorothy Bartlett	50.00
Groundwork UK. Neighbourhood Plan	6,439.00
Monies for Payment	£
David Green. Hibbs Walsh Shop/Hub Project	2,460.00 Ch.No.102621
Graham Marsh, Village Handyman	733.41 Ch.No.102622
Play Safety Ltd. RoSPA Playground Report	297.00 Ch.No.102623
MD Landscapes. Grass May 2 cuts	763.20 Ch.No.102624
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband	21.00 Ch.No.102625
D. Green. Stamps	11.52 Ch.No.102626
EALC Annual Subscription	287.55 Ch.No.102627
Anne Mangham. Internal Audit fee	190.00 Ch.No.102628
D. Green. Ink cartridges	35.98 Ch.No.102629
Grasshopper Lawncare. War Memorial grass	24.00 Ch.No.102630
Balances at Bank on 14th June 2021:-	
Current Account:-	£10,807.20
Saver Account:-	£1,071.24
Saver Account:-	£61,485.38

