

23rd August 2021

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 23rd August 2021 in Ashdon Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Steve Hayler, Philip Player and George Smith

Cllrs. Martin Foley (ECC), Cllr. James DeVries (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 Mike Elsey (Chairman), John Thorn and Cory Vost

**2. Election of Chairman for this meeting in the absence of Cllr. Elsey.**

**Resolved** - that Cllr. Smith be elected Chairman for this meeting (Cllr. Hayler)

**3. Public Representations**

Mrs. Olley, Chapel Farm. Mrs. Olley had recently moved into Chapel Farm, Radwinter Road. She wished to give the Council prior notice that an application had been submitted for works at Chapel Farm to put the trees back in good order and let more light into her property. Members gratefully acknowledged Mrs. Olley's prior notice.

Mr. Matthew Bidwell raised the matter of ground rents payable in the "affordable" housing particularly that charged by Hastoe Housing. He acknowledged that this was not in the remit of the Parish Council but wished to make Members aware of the problems the excessive rents were causing to some residents. Some charges were £130/month and increasing on an annual basis. Cllr. De Vries had taken this up with Hastoe Housing.

Mr. Chris Pardue reported the matter of dumping of soil and other excavated materials at Butlers/Byrds Farm. The original application had been for fishing lakes, in his opinion this had been exploited for other reasons. He was concerned at the potential damage to the environment and problems caused by through traffic to the site. He said that he had taken this up with UDC but they appeared reluctant to act. It was understood that this had now been taken up by higher authority and that a formal investigation was underway.

Mr. David Bidwell brought Members attention to the overhanging brambles at Crown Hill and the extensive growth by the bus shelter at Walden Road. The Clerk said that this was the responsibility of the County Council as was the grass cutting at Steventon End but ECC were reluctant to undertake the works. The Parish Council could do so but at a cost to residents who had already paid for the works in their Council Tax to the County Council. The brambles at Crown Hill were already being reviewed. Cllr. Foley would make representations on the PC's behalf regarding the grass. In the interim the Clerk would seek the advice of the Chairman as to what action the Parish Council might undertake.

Mr. John Moran said that, in his view, little or no action was being taken by the District and County Councils on the matter of Butlers Farm/Byrds Farm

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

Cllr. Foley was keen to allay fears that residents would be directed to hospitals other than Addenbrookes and Royal Papworth which were the hospitals that the residents of Ashdon had always been directed to.

There had been a spate of drain covers being stolen in the District, causing danger to road users. People were urged to report any missing covers as a matter of urgency. To date this had not been a problem in Ashdon.

He was continuing to monitor and report pot holes but this was an ongoing daunting task. He would seek to have the road gullies in the village emptied following the recent rains washing gravel down the gullies and the matter of straw on the road from bales being transported through the village. This would include Holden End where water was prone to run over the road towards "Thristalls" and other properties.

He would endeavour to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council and ECC to discuss Highway matters with speeding high on the priority list.

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

Cllr. DeVries said that the District Council were investigating Butlers/Byrds Farm and that a formal process had begun. Community Grants were available for sums up to £3.5K to bone fide organisations. Closing date 1st October. The call for sites had closed with land for 70,000 houses being submitted whilst the need was for 13, 000 over the next 20 years. He would hold a surgery in the village hall on Friday September 3rd 1pm-3pm and Saturday September 4th 1pm-4pm

Cllr. De Vries left the meeting at this point.

**6. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Thorn had previously declared an interest in Item 9i in that he is employed by Manchester Airports Group.

**7. Minutes.**

**Resolved** - that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th July 2021, previously circulated, be approved (Cllr.Hayler)

**8. Matters Arising.**

- i. Playing Fields.
  - a. Rectory Lane. Three quotations for replacing the climber and servicing/replacing the aerial runway had now been received. A site meeting would be convened to discuss the options available.
  - c. Decaying bench at Church Field. New bench received and awaiting installation.
- ii Highways. Traffic Management.

- a. Water End/Spriggs Lane. No further action. It was noted that ready mix concrete lorries were now accessing the site adjacent to Little Mortimers via the lane.
- b. Speeding/Speed Watch. Cllr. Foley would convene a meeting with the PC and Highways to discuss Highway matters in the village. It was hoped that the police would attend.

(Action Cllr. Foley)

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

- a) The Defibrillator was now in full working order and registered as such with the relevant authorities.
- b) Lease. Now completed and signed and awaiting the arrival of the Council's copy.
- c) Bookings were going well. A schedule of works would be provided as soon as it was available to assist the Village Hall Booking Secretary in scheduling bookings during the construction phase.
- d) Fire Certificate (Appendix i). It was noted that an inspection had been carried out on the 6th August 2021 and that, despite previous assurances from the Village Hall Chairman, parts of the old hall do not meet requirements. It had been noted that "escape route through small hall and passage leading to 2 final exits, 1 of which is a fire exit. There is no automatic detection even though there are several consumer units along this route placing it at higher risk. Also none of these has an MCP fitted". The Chairman had spoken to the Village Hall Chairman and recommended that the Village Hall Committee take this up with their insurers to ensure that they were covered for all eventualities prior to the building works starting

iv. Ashdon Neighbourhood Plan.

**Steering Group Meeting Notes - 17th August 2021**

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

Apologies: Isabel Blackett.

The main topic of the meeting was to discuss the progress of the NP document itself and any supporting documents needed going towards Reg 14 consultation on 17th/18th Sept 2021.

Tasks were allocated to the Steering Group members leading up to the consultation date:

Jane to contact Ian Poole with various questions.

Harriet and Melanie to work on refining "views" and choosing photos.

Jo to help Melanie and Harriet to refine the Design Code to match UDC expectations.

Jane to get help from Corey and Isabel on invite flyer.

Jane to construct "Green Spaces" document.

NP document, text only, to go to PC on 19th August for approval on 23rd August meeting.

Mrs. Melanie Horrigan reported that the Draft Plan was almost ready for the third public consultation to be held on 17th/18th September in the Village Hall.

**Resolved** - that the Draft Neighbourhood Plan be approved (Cllr Hayler)

- v. Community Led Housing
  - a) Proposed houses adjacent to All Saints Close. Total inaction from the District Council. This was very frustrating, unnecessary and causing a log jam to both the housing and the Village Hall project. To be pursued.
  - c) Ground Rent. See Item 3. Report from Mr Matthew Bidwell.
- vi. To receive a report on the Village Community Hub. Eight sets of tender documents distributed. Closing date/time noon 15th September. This would also be put on the village web site and registered with the Government Contracts Finder Scheme.
- vii. Superfast Broadband. Nothing further to report in Cllr. Thorn's absence
- viii. Neighbourhood Watch. The updating of the reporting system was working well
- ix. Village Handyman. The system was working well but it was noted that Mr. Marsh would be extremely busy with harvest
- x. Litter. Litter pick organised for September 12th
- xi. War Memorial Gates. The Clerk reported that three quotations had now been received. To be reviewed at the next meeting
- i. HM The Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022. Members suggested that a committee be formed to investigate what the village wished to do to mark this event. To be deferred to the next meeting

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- i. Letter dated 16th August from "Stansted Airport Watch" requesting financial assistance with their ongoing campaign. (emailed to all Members)

## 9. NEW ITEMS

There were no "New Items"

**10. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new planning applications

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED**

- i. UTT/21/2049/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to residential and erection of one in no. detached dwelling and associated single-storey garage/hobby room.  
Land east of Fairfields, Spriggs Lane

**Refused**

- ii. UTT/21/2047/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

**Refused**

**12. ACCOUNTS for PAYMENT (Appendix ii)**

**13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.** There were no "Items for the Next Agenda"

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 23rd AUGUST 2021**  
**19th JULY to 23rd AUGUST 2021**

Monies Received	£
Interment of Ashes re John Humphrey (Paul Humphrey)	30.00
HMRC VAT Repayment	810.61
Fairstone Group. Rent White Horse House	1550.00
Monies for Payment	£
John Thorn Zoom meetings	62.12 Ch.No.102636
David Green. Ink cartridges	61.98 Ch.No.102637
Haward Horological. School clock	250.00 Ch.No.102638
D. Green. Picnic table Church Field. Leisurebench UK	460.80 Ch.No.102639
D. Green. Stationery	7.00 Ch.No.102640
M.D. Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd. Village grass 2 cuts. Closed Churchyard	760.80 Ch.No.102641
E.ON. Electricity	30.68 Ch.No.102642
D. Green. Tel/Broadband	21.00 Ch.No.102643
Acorn Services. Roundabout Church Field	480.00 Ch.No.102644
Balances at Bank on 13th August 2021:-	
Current Account:-	£8,303.28
Saver Account:-	£1,071.27
Saver Account:-	£61,486.81

