

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL — held on Monday 7th December 2009 – 8.00pm in Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire.

PRESENT: Mrs P Tilley (Chair), Mr R Holland, Mr G Charnock, Mr D Lee, Mr T Scadeng, Mrs D Stubbs, Mrs N Deynem, and Mrs M Woods.

CLERK: Mrs Andrea Thwaite

ALSO PRESENT: 3 members of the public,

138 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Hugo Deynem
Cllr Parker
Cllr Bailey

139 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Member declared the following interests:

Pauline Tilley declared a personal Interest in any housing matters – Pauline is a volunteer member of Muir Housing.

140 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 2 November 2009 were accepted as a true record, with the following amendments:

Mrs Stubbs was present at the meeting

Minute ref 132: was Mr Bowker and not Mr Brooks as minuted.

141 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER'S PARTNERSHIP

Miss Nicola McKean, on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester confirmed that she was currently working with Parish Councils to determine what funding they received from their outgoing district authorities, if there would be any additional services that the parish council would take on and what their relationship had been with the new authority since its creation on 1st April 2009.

It was confirmed that Ashton Hayes Parish Council received three grants from the outgoing Chester City Council: Street Cleansing Grant; Churchyard Grant and Playground Inspection Grant.

Following a request from Nicola Mckeans to determine whether there were issues the parish council had with Cheshire West and Chester Council, the following concerns were raised: you see many different officers; there was no joined up thinking with the new community forums; PC rights not published; the council website was out of date; many issues appear not to be transparent; the withdrawal of the double taxation.

Members informed Miss McKeans that at that moment they were ill informed to be able to confirm what additional services they would like to take over responsibility for from the council. Members agreed to defer this item until their January 2010 meeting. Nicola McKeans confirmed that if there were any services that Ashton Hayes Parish Council would be willing to take on, Service Level Agreements would be established and if the new arrangements were found not to be working the option of the services reverting back to Cheshire West and Chester Council would be available.

142 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr Garman raised concern that Cheshire West and Chester's Spatial Planning consultation on Sustainability was not on the agenda at tonight's meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had been asked to keep tonight's meeting short and since the deadline of this piece was not until January 2010, it had been deferred until their January meeting.

A member of the public raised the issue that some gutters/grids were blocked in the village and had caused some isolated incidents of flooding.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward details onto Highways Team.

Following Mrs May's introduction, she wanted to pass on her thanks to all those involved with the production of the parish plan. However she was very concerned over the matter of an independent group being established to implement the actions within it. She felt that reasons for why the parishioners had been asked by letter to vote on whether they wanted the Parish Council or a newly created Implementation Group to deliver actions

contained in the plan had been missed off. No clear explanation had been provided about governance issues and the Parish Council's vote on the matter had not been published.

The Chairman confirmed that the vote had been published via the minutes, which were available from the website, post office or Clerk. Mr Charnock had been involved in the production of the letter which had been circulated to all households and it had been agreed that no misleading or biased comments were to be included. Mrs May, proprietor of M&M Communications company, confirmed that her company had only produced the parish plan document and she wanted it noted that her company did not endorse it. She felt that the direction and message that was sent to parishioners was too vague for true decisions to be reached. Why did a separate and independent group want to constitute itself and take on the responsibility of delivering any outstanding actions contained within the parish plan?

Another resident present at the meeting expressed concern over the alleged in-fighting that had occurred between the Parish Council and the Parish Plan Steering Group. The Chairman confirmed that these allegations were unfounded and the only matter that had raised concern was when the Steering Group had presented its housing findings to a local affordable housing provider without giving the parish council prior sight of the information.

Mrs May confirmed that she was very concerned that an independent group would be established to deliver the parish plan actions, that was independent of the parish council and not regulated and had no governance.

Independently she confirmed that she felt so strongly about this matter she would write a letter as a concerned resident to all households in the parish expressing her concerns.

143 EXPENDITURE

The Clerk confirmed that the following expenditure had been incurred:

Chq 465 Chq Mrs Tilley Chairman's Allowance 2009 £175.00.
Chq 466 Mr Andy Barrett – Street Cleanser November and expenses
Chq 467 Andrea Thwaite – Clerk. November and December salary, overtime at 8.5hrs and expenses £407.22

Chq 468 Scottish Power. Electricity for Parish Rooms Period
28/07 – 26/10/09. £16.59.
Chq 469 CPRE – membership 2010. £29.00
Chq 470 – British Gas. Gas provided at Parish Rooms. 21st July
– 20th October. £49.74
Chq 471 – Royal British Legion – payable to Mr Fellows. 2009
Poppy Wreath. £25.00
Chq 472 Andrea Thwaite reimbursement of PS2 Digital Imaging
cheque £1,636.45

144 INCOME

The Clerk confirmed that she had received the following income
during the month:

150 Cheshire West and Chester elections. Hire of hall	£125.00
151 Miss Rowley GCNP donation	£200.00
152 Ashworth Timebank Hire of Hall from 7th April - 18th June	£162.00
153 Scrabble Club 3/7 - 31/7 Hire of hall	£60.00
154 Scrabble Club 7/8 - 28/7 Hire of hall	£48.00
155 Scrabble Club 4/9 - 18/12 16 lets Hire of Hall	£192.00

156
Thursday Club
Hire of hall on 13/10/09
£15.00

157
Tattenhall Wildlife Group
GCNP donation
£30.00

145 PLANNING

Members considered the following planning applications that had been received and approved..

RECEIVED:

09/11743/FUL – Replace existing outbuildings with single storey rear extension. Whitegate Farm. Whitegate Lane. Ashton Hayes. Deadline 9th December.

APPROVED

09/11391/FUL – Land North of Delamere Lane. To erect timber agricultural storage building in field.

146 RECREATIONAL UPDATE

147 PARISH WAR MEMORIAL

Mr Scadeng confirmed that he had taken over this issue from the now retired parish councillor Mr Auckland Lewis and would follow up on the matter quickly.

148 CARETAKER/BOOKING CLERK – PARISH ROOMS

The Clerk confirmed that Mrs Forgrave had been appointed on a three month probation period to the position of Parish Rooms Caretaker and Booking Clerk.

149 SABBATICAL LEAVE REQUEST – STREET CLEANER

Following a request for Members to consider a sabbatical request

for five months to enable their parish street cleanser to undertake some voluntary work in India, they agreed.

The Clerk to make necessary arrangements to cover this special leave during his absence.

150 PARISH COUNCIL STORAGE SHED

Mr Charnock confirmed that some young people had caused damage to the door to his shed that the parish council used to store their street cleaning equipment in. He confirmed that the door had been repaired at a cost of £100 and PC Elliott was currently liaising with the parents of the young people for them to repay the costs.

151 LIGHTS AT VILLAGE HALL

Following a request from local young people to have some lights on the village hall car park, Mr Holland confirmed that he would replace any lights that were not working.

152 LOCAL POLICE ISSUES

The Clerk confirmed that PC Elliott was very active in the parish at the moment working with the local young people and their issues.

153 HIGHWAYS – BEAT THE BOUNDS 2009

The Clerk confirmed that all issues that had been reported to Cheshire West and Chester following the recent Beat the Bound exercises had been resolved.

154 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL'S HIGHWAY CONSULTATION

Deferred until January 2010.

155 PARISH PLAN UPDATES

Following Mrs May's concerns that had been addressed to the Parish Council earlier, Members agreed to vote on whether they were happy for her to write a letter independently to all households raising her concerns.

VOTE:

IN FAVOUR OF MRS MAY WRITING HER LETTER TO ALL
RESIDENTS INDEPENDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

7

THOSE AGAINST MRS MAY WRITING HER LETTER TO ALL
RESIDENTS INDEPENDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

0

THOSE WHO ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE:

1.

156 CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT

Mr Charnock confirmed that the www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk was receiving up to 50 visits per day. Members on the sub committee had recently been to Norway.

157 COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

The plans to open a community shop in Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth were progressing well and it was hoped that the Community shop would be open in January 2010.

Currently £16,370 had been raised. Matched funding from the Plunkett Foundation had been applied for. Part of the application process required the steering group to take on a loan from Co-op and Community Finance which ensured the project had funds behind it so that it could remain viable going forward. This application was successful with £15,000 being awarded. The Bank would visit the committee early in December. A Store Manager had been appointed, with more volunteers to help out in the shop being required.

Refurbishments were planned, with a change to the shops interior layout due.

158 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Community Shop Steering Group had requested that some signage to the new shop would help. Enquires to be made with Cheshire West and Chester's Planning Dept.

The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately problems had occurred again with the Parish Council's Bank – Natwest and as a result a

cheque had been returned. All three mandates and parish councillor identification had been misplaced again. Following several conversations by the Clerk and Chairman with them, it was now necessary to instruct a new bank to act on the parish council's behalf.

The Clerk had enquired with several banks and it was suggested that Barclays Bank would be the most appropriate one for the parish council. It offered more services such as On-line Banking and you get to deal with the same person, unlike the other one.

VOTE:

Those in favour of moving the parish council bank to Barclays:
8.

159 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4th January 2010.

Meeting finished at 10pm

Signed

Date