

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL — held on Monday 13th July 2009 – 8.00pm in Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire.

PRESENT: Mrs P Tilley (Chair), Mr R Holland, Mr H Deynem, Mr T Scadeng, Mr G Charnock, Mrs L Strudwick, and Mrs M Woods

CLERK: Mrs Andrea Thwaite

ALSO PRESENT: 2 Members of the public

58 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Diane Stubbs
Dave Lee
Cllr Bailey
Cllr Parker

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared the following interests:

Pauline Tilley declared Personal Interest in Muir Housing – Pauline is a volunteer Member of Muir Housing.

Hugo Deynem declared an interest as he is a member of Cheshire West and Chester and is on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Lu Strudwick declared a Personal Interest in any item relating to the Community Shop as she is a member of the Steering Group.

60 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd June were deferred until September 2009 meeting.

61 PUBLIC SPEAKING

A member of the public raised several issues of concern relating to the recent introduction of the new Waste Collection Contract by Cheshire West and Chester. It was reported that some residents who had large gardens required an extra Wheelie Bin for garden

waste. It was also reported that when the glass had been collected, the Collection Operatives had left broken bottles etc in the road.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Cheshire West and Chester and ask them for extra Green Wheelie Bins for residents who require them and could they ensure that any broken glass after the collection was cleared away.

62 CORRESPONDENCE

The following non decision items were circulated around members:

1. CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION NEWSLETTER
2. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER PARTNERSHIPS BULLETIN: FIFTH EDITION

63 FINANCE

The following expenditure was approved for the month of July:

Chq no: Mr Barrett – Parish Street Cleanser wages and expenses - 40hrs. £248.40
Chq no: Mrs Thwaite – July salary and June expenses, £332.92

64 INCOME

The following income was received during July:

Hire of Parish Rooms on 7th April – 18th June - £162.00
Ashworth Time Bank.

65 PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL RETURN 2008/09

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's Internal Auditor had completed his audit and had made the following recommendations:

Item 1 and 2

A couple of minor errors were found on the bank statements to the cash book and *the cash book and the bank reconciliation be amended to show the correct balances.*

Item 3 and 4

The Annual Return shows total borrowings at 31/3/08 as £63,900 and total borrowings at 31/3/09 as nil with no loan interest/ capital repayments in 2008/09. A review of the completion statement from the solicitor shows that the accounts are understated as the monies received and monies paid to discharge the loan have not been included in the accounts.

The Annual Return should be amended prior to submission to the external auditor to show the correct balances.

The bank reconciliation should be amended to include amendments from issue1 and the sale of land figures, the balances should therefore be as follows:

	incorrect	correct
balances b/f	12845	12845
Annual precept	9212	9212
Total other receipts	34436	107158
Staff costs	7104	7104
Loan interest/ capital repayments	0	70549
Total other payments	7951	9957
balance carried forward	41437	41606
Total cash & short term investments	41437	41606
Total borrowings	0	0
bal b/f	12845.22	
Receipts	116370.22	
Payments	87609.3	
	41606.14	
current account	41531.37	
deposit account	74.77	
up cheques	0	
	41606.14	

Item 5

The Council has three employees. We could see no evidence that contracts of employment were in place or that payslips were issued. All employees appear to have been paid gross.

Whilst below the NI threshold the Council should obtain confirmation from HMRC that they do not have to register for payroll.

Item 6

The Council is the sole trustee of the charity 'Ashton Parish Rooms'. The charity does not have a separate bank account and all transactions relating to the parish rooms are included within the Council's accounts. We note from the Charity Commission website that the receipts and payments relating to the parish rooms have been declared as Charity receipts and payments.

The annual return states that the annual return figures do not include any trust transactions.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to action all recommendations made where appropriate and send the Annual Return to the Internal Auditor for signing off. Clerk to forward signed off Annual Return to the Audit Commission.

66 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The following planning applications were received.

Received: 09/10941/FUL – 49 Peel Crescent. Mr Varey.
Side and rear extension..

Received – 09/10777/OHL – Overhead power line Land adj to
Brookside Church Road. Deadline expired. For information
only

67 PLANNING E-CONSULTATION HUB.

The Parish Council had been asked by Cheshire West and Chester to be a pilot Parish Council for the Planning e-Consultation hub. Members agreed in principle and asked for further information about this project to their Parish Council meeting in September.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to invite the appropriate Officers from Cheshire West

and Chester regarding this matter to the September meeting.

68 UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL FIELD.

1. To approve a Lease Agreement relating to the field

It was reported that Mr Lewis does not want to have any signage erected within 5 metres of the boundary fence. Negotiations were still under way due to elements of the layout plan not being to scale. It was agreed that an amended contract be proof read outside of the Parish Council meeting by Mr Scadeng and Mrs Tilley and once they were happy with the Contract that Mrs Tilley sign the contract on behalf of the Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: Six Members of the Parish Council voted in favour for Mrs Tilley to sign the amended Contract on their behalf.

2. To agree to apply to have the speed limit extended on Ashton Lane

Members agreed that negotiations should commence to have the speed limit in Ashton Lane extended. It was reported that the process of extending speed limits could take up to 12 months.

3. To establish a separate recording system relating to Recreational Field funds

Members agreed that the recreational field funds should be held by the Parish Council and the existing cash book system for recording expenditure continues.

MEETING SUSPENDED

Mr Andrew Garman asked whether the Parish Council would lease the field to the association as this decision was crucial for their funding raising strategy. Mr Garman requested that either a 99 year peppercorn rent or until the association wound up be considered. He also raised concern over which organisation would be responsible for grass cutting at the field.

MEETING RESUMED

ACTION: The Clerk to check previous parish council minutes to see what had been previously agreed by the parish council in relation to provision of grass cutting for the field.

RESOLVED: Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association to bring to the September meeting their funding proposals.

69 DAMAGE TO PLAYGROUND

The Clerk confirmed that following an inspection of the damaged climbing frame at the playground it did appear that the damage was not deliberate vandalism but just wear and tear. One the posts on the Climbing Frame had rotted and broken away.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Clerk should close the playground as soon as possible and make urgent arrangements to have the damage repaired and have the playground re-opened for the summer holidays.

70 HIGHWAYS

BEAT THE BOUNDS 2009.

Most of the results from the 2009 Beat the Bounds had been received and Mrs Tilley requested that any outstanding ones be sent to the Clerk as soon as possible. Once the Clerk has analysed all the results, a site visit with the Borough Highways Engineer be arranged.

Mrs Tilley reported that she had received several complaints from residents regarding the overgrown hedges in the passageway between West End and Peel Crescent.

RESOLVED; Clerk to write to owners of the overgrown hedges and ask them whether they could cut back their hedges.

71 PAVEMENT MOSS

The Clerk reported that the Street Cleanser was undertaking an audit of moss in the parish and on receipt of this information she would forward details on to Cheshire West and Chester and request that they remove it.

Mr Deynem reported that the slope up to playground is covered in moss.

72 GOWY AND EDDISBURY COMMUNITY FORUM

The first Gowy and Eddisbury Community Forum would be held on TUESDAY 28 JULY 2009, at Tarvin Community Centre, Meadow Close, Off Croft Fields, Tarvin

73 GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT

Mr Charnock updated members of the Parish Council on the Going Carbon Neutral Project. It was reported that the latest survey results indicated that Ashton Hayes' Carbon Footprint had been reduced by 23% since January 2006. 18% of home energy was down due to successful home installation projects, 50% of flights are down but car and train mileage was up. Two thirds of houses within the parish had engaged with the project since 2006. Final Micro Feasibility Study would be available in September 2009.

The Government launched a new White Paper on Climate Change on Wednesday 15th July and to mark the occasion BBC TV News had decided to report from the Ashton Hayes. Residents would be interviewed about climate change and what they were doing to combat it in the village. The BBC were coming along in a van powered by used oil from King Louis chip shop in Tarvin!

Leap Frog would be providing free legal advice to the GCNP and Community Shop projects.

It was also reported that the replacement Head Teacher would be committed to the existing carbon neutral projects started by the outgoing Head.

Mr Charnock confirmed that the Going Carbon Neutral Project Website was updated regularly. www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk

74 COMMUNITY SHOP PROJECT

Mrs Strudwick reported that the public meeting held on 2nd July was very successful. Agreements had nearly been reached with Helen Rimmer, current proprietor of the Post Office. The Steering Group would be accessing the free legal advice provided by Leap Frog shortly. It was also reported that donations were now being received and residents had also started requesting shares in the shop. One share had been

allocated for £10.00 per person and each share allowed the owner one vote. Volunteers to run the shop are currently being recruited. Mrs Strudwick informed members that Tesco's had offered some help to the project along with other local food outlets. It was hoped that the Steering Group would take over responsibility of running the shop in the Autumn.

RESOLVED: Mrs Strudwick to forward the Community Shops bank account details to the Clerk so that the Parish Council £5,000 donation can be made.

75 PARISH PLAN

It was reported that the final draft of the project was currently with the designers and would be available soon.

76 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Deynem reported that there was a suspected Wasp Nest in the Parish Rooms.

RESOLVED: Clerk to organise CWC's Pest Control Officer to treat the suspected Wasps Nest.

ASHTON HAYES PLAYGROUP

Ashton Hayes Playgroup had written to the Parish Council informing them that they were looking to relocate from their current home of the WI Hall. It was reported that the WI Hall was not flexible, the group had difficulties with accessibility, storage was limited and opening hours of the WI did not suit the playground. The playgroup was looking at options to site a mobile classroom on the current village playground from 2010. The latest national Early Years Strategy states that playgroups need to ensure that their facilities are accessible for disabled children and greater extended opening hours of the group are available.

The Parish Council agreed in principle to support the retention of the playground but at this stage could not commit to supporting any proposed site. It was agreed to invite members of the playgroup to their September meeting so their issues could be discussed.

RESOLVED: Clerk to make arrangements.

Mr Deynem reported that a resident from Booth Avenue had made access to the rear of their property from Scout Hut Lane.

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact CWAC's Enforcement Officer regarding this matter.

Mr Scadeng passed his apologies on for September's meeting.

Meeting finished at 9.50pm.

Signed

Date