

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL — held on Monday 5th October 2009 – 8.00pm in Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire.

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

CLERK: Mrs Andrea Thwaite

ALSO PRESENT: PC Rob Elliot and 1 members of the public

99 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Diane Stubbs  
Dave Lee  
Cllr Bailey  
Cllr Parker

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared the following interests:

Pauline Tilley declared a Personal Interest any housing matters – Pauline is a volunteer Member of Muir Housing.

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

Garry Charnock declared a Personal Interest in the Parish Plan Printing Item. He is a friend of one of the companies who have submitted an quotation for the printing of the Parish Plan.

101 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 7th September 2009 were accepted as a true record.

102 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

A member of the public raised concern over the speed that tractors were travelling through the village at the moment. Reports were also received that some of the tractor drivers from

Church View Farm were being aggressive with residents whilst driving through the village.

RESOLVED:

PC Elliott confirmed that he would speak to Church View's Farmer regarding these allegations.

PC Elliott confirmed plans were in place for him to hold a Surgery on a Tuesday morning at Ashton House Nursery when the Library Van was parked there (as long his shift pattern permitted it).

He also reported that there had been 4 incidents in Ashton Hayes last month: reports of 2 youths causing anti social behaviour in the Meadows. 1 report of Polish Men calling on homes with bogus reasons and 1 report of lead being removed from the Church's roof.

#### 103 CORRESPONDENCE

No other correspondence was received that was not on the agenda.

#### 104 FINANCE

- Chq 451 – WI – Hire of Hall for 3 meetings for the GCNP. £150.00
- Chq 452 – Andy Barrett – Parish Council Street Cleanser. £188.40 (Based on 40hrs
- Chq 453 – Ashworth Time Bank. (Based on 10hrs )Caretaker Chq was not issued as no timesheet was received.
- Chq 454 – Andrea Thwaite. Clerk. Sept-October Salary and expenses.£343.45
- Chq 455 – H M Customs – Andy Barret Tax and NI (including £10.00 extra to cover outstanding amount. £59.60.
- Chq 456 – K Harrison. GCNP expenses. £263.
- Chq 457 – Staples Stationery. £157.00

#### 105 National Pay Settlement 2009/10

Members approved the National Pay Settlement for the Clerk as from 1st April 2009. From 1 April 2009 an increase of 1.00% on SCPs 11 to 49 inclusive.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to process the pay settlement.

106 ANNUAL INCREMENT INCREASE

Members approved the annual incremental increase for the clerk as from 1st September 2009 from SCP 22 - £10.068 per hour to SCP 23 - £10.467 ph. This new rate includes the National Pay Settlement for 2009/10

107 PLANNING

Members considered the planning applications that were received and allowed:

RECEIVED:

1. 3 Church Court, Single storey extension. 09/11328/FUL. Maria Woods to process this.
2. Land adjacent to The Croft Delamere Road. 09/11391/FUL.to erect agricultural storage building. Trevor Scadeng to process this.

APPROVED:

3. Woodside Farm, Brines Brow. Conversion of barn buildings into two dwellings and extension to existing farmhouse. 09/11070/FUL

Garry Charnock raised concern that there was a large Oak Tree on the site where the conversion had been approved. Reports have been received that copper nails have been placed in the trunk of the tree and poison poured into the base of the tree.

RESOLVED: Clerk to forward details of the decision notice to all members and PC Elliott to investigate these allegations.

108 RECREATIONAL FIELD

THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED

Mr Andrew Garman updated Parish Council Members on progress that Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association had made to date. They had been waiting for the legal element to be completed, which had now happened. Fund raising would now commence with residents of Ashton Hayes being asked to

pledge donations to the capital part of the project. Anonymous pledges would be collated by the Clerk.

The association's status would be enhanced if it was to gain: Charity, Company Ltd by Guarantee and Community Status and these options were currently being explored.

MEETING RESUMED.

Members agreed to include the update in the next edition of Around Ashton Hayes Newsletter.

#### 109 RESIGNATION

Due to family commitments, Mrs Strudwick had resigned from the Parish Council. The position had been advertised and Mr Garry Charnock agreed to be Vice Chairman until 2010 AGM.

#### 110 HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The Clerk reported that Graham Anderton – County Engineer had taken Voluntary Redundancy from Cheshire West and Chester and his replacement was Kierone Collins. Mr Collins was based at Guilden Sutton and the Clerk had contacted him regarding the outstanding issues from Beat the Bounds 2009.

It was reported that though the width had been reduced of both of the hedges bordering the West End Alleyway, the height of one of the hedges was still causing problems. The street light in the alleyway was obscured due to the height one of the hedges.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to the owner of the hedge requesting that its height be reduced.

In preparation for the Recreational Field, arrangements were in place to reduce the speed limit on Ashton Lane from 40mph to 30 mph.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to check back in the minutes to ensure the Parish Council had agreed to reduce the speed limit on this stretch of road.

#### 111 GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT

Mr Charnock confirmed that Officers associated with the Going Carbon Neutral Project had been invited to Norway to present the

success of the project. Mr Charnock confirmed that all expenses for the three officers were being funded.

The Going Carbon Neutral Project plans to submit an application to the "Low Carbon Communities Challenge Fund". If the Parish Council was in support of this initiative, an Expression of Interest would have to be submitted by 27 October and application by 27 November 2009. Some £10 million would be available to 20 communities selected to be part of the challenge which would trigger wider partner and community investment. Communities were required to demonstrate that their project meet all of the funding criteria. If successful up to £500,000 in funding would be received to deliver initiatives such as a microgrid and Low Emission Community Car for Ashton Hayes

#### THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED

Dr Alexander confirmed that the recently commissioned Feasibility Study had identified ways of moving Ashton Hayes' Going Carbon Neutral Project forward and if successful with their funding application, Project co-coordinators would be able to deliver some of the aims within the study.

He also confirmed that Leapfrog would support the project in a legal capacity and transparent communication within the village needed to be strong with clear community engagement. M&M Communications had agreed to work with the project to help improve lines of communications.

BBC were currently running a series on Carbon Neutral and Ashton Hayes is featured on a programme on Tuesday 16th October 2009.

#### MEETING RESUMED.

Parish Councillors agreed to support the registration of Interest for the Low Carbon Investment Fund. All Members agreed that a public debate would be necessary if the application for funding was successful. Mr Charnock confirmed the cost of implementing actions within the Feasibility Study was not far short of £500k.

The Chairman requested that the new Headteacher at Ashton Hayes Primary School is engaged with the project and he was brought up to date.

## 112 COMMUNITY SHOP

Following the resignation of Mrs Strudwick, a replacement representative from the Parish Council was required for the Community Shop Project.

It was agreed that Mr Scadeng would take up this role.

The Chairman confirmed that Interviews had taken place during that day for the appointment of a Shop Manager. It was hoped that a decision on the appointment would be reached soon and the successful appointee would take up the post in December 2009.

## 113 PARISH PLAN

Members of the Parish Council had received the final draft of the Parish Plan prior to its publication. The Steering Group had requested that the Parish Council received the plan, note the printing costs and that they agree the best approach to implement the actions within the plan.

Option One: The Parish Plan Implementation Group remains independent of the Parish Council. The reported advantages to this option would that it could apply for funding that are not available to parish councils.

Option two: The Parish Plan Implementation Group becomes a sub committee of the parish council with non parish councillors being co-opted on to it. The reported advantages of this are the group comes under the umbrella of the parish council for items such as Public Liability Insurance and VAT recovering.

Certain Members felt strongly that the Implementation Group becomes a sub-committee of the Parish Council for the following reasons:

- The Parish Council was a democratically elected body
- Parish Councils are creatures of Statute and controlled by Acts of Parliament
- Many of the actions contained in the Action Plan were the responsibility of the Parish Council and their duty to

deliver. Some of the actions the Parish Council had either delivered or were in the process of delivering.

- The parish does not require another constituted body acting upon its behalf, which would cause duplications and confusion.
- Parish Councils are able to attract funding.
- The Parish Council was a transparent and accountable body.

The Clerk confirmed that many of the actions within the Parish Plan Action Plan were statutory responsibilities of the Parish Councils. I.e: allotments. Statutory Provision: Legislation includes Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, Section of the statute 23, 25, 26 and 42. The Power of Wellbeing Act also enables Parish Councils to do anything which a Council considered likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area

MEETING SUSPENDED.

Dr Alexander – Going Carbon Neutral Project confirmed that being a sub committee of the Parish Council had not restricted the project securing funding but had added weight to their applications.

Mr Garman also agreed that for Community Initiatives to be part of a Parish Council improved their prospects in securing funding, rather than prohibited them.

MEETING RESUMED.

The Chairman asked Parish Councillors to vote on the two options that had been presented to them.

Option One: One Member of the Parish Council voted in favour for this option.

Option two: 4 Members of the Parish Council voted in favour for this option.

One Member voted against this option.

RESOLVED: Members of the Parish Council voted in favour for Option two that the Parish Plan Implementation Group be a sub committee of the Parish Plan.

114 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed Members that the Parish Rooms had been used that day by the Community Shop Steering Group as a place to hold the Interviews for the Community Shop Manager.

Resolved: Members agreed that there would be no charge for this hire.

Mr Holland requested that articles for the newsletter be with him as soon as possible.

Mr Charnock confirmed that he was working on a project to have the Going Carbon Neutral Project on "Twitter"

Mrs Tilley and the Clerk agreed to represent the Parish Council at the Local Council's event on 14th October organised by Cheshire West and Chester at Winsford.

Meeting finished at 9.45pm

Signed .....

Date .....