

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

PRESENT: Mrs P Tilley (Chair), Mr R Holland, Mr H Deynem, Mrs L Strudwick, Mrs D Stubbs and Mrs M Woods.

CLERK: Mrs Andrea Thwaite

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Parker and 2 members of the public

77 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Trevor Scadeng  
Garry Charnock  
Dave Lee  
Cllr Bailey

78 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.

79 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd June and 9th July 2009 were accepted as a true record.

80 E-PLANNING CONSULTATION HUB

The Parish Council received a presentation from Alan Camm – Regional Manager Communities and Local Government and Jenny Sherwood – Cheshire West and Chester relating to the pilot scheme for the E-Planning Consultation Hub. Mr Camm

informed members of the benefits for using the new method of consulting parish council on planning applications. It is proposed that future consultation with Parish Councils regarding Planning Applications would be paperless and therefore access to an on-line system via a hub would be needed. He informed them that in order for the pilot scheme to work they would need a lap top and projector for which there were possible sources of funding available.

The Parish Council in principle agreed to undertake the pilot scheme subject to funding of the equipment needed. However the Parish Council may not use the system at the Parish Council meetings to debate any planning matters as this was normally done outside their meeting.

## 81 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

PC Elliott introduced himself to Members and informed them that he was aware of some of the anti social behavior problems that had occurred in Ashton Hayes recently. He informed Members that unfortunately there had been three burglaries in Ashton Hayes recently, some petty vandalism in the Nursery Grounds, damage to cars and theft of lead flashing from the church.

The Parish Council requested that the police hold bi-monthly Police Surgeries in the village and it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange these.

Once the new term had settled down at Ashton Hayes Primary School, PC Elliott also confirmed that he would talk to the School Children about the consequences of anti social behaviour.

The Parish Street Cleanser had recently found some needles and equipment presumed to be related to drug taking at the playground and had secured them away. PC Elliott agreed to meet with the Parish Street Cleanser and retrieve the equipment found.

Whilst out on requested patrols, PC Elliott had spoken with some local youths and during their discussions they had mentioned that due to the grass not being cut on the football pitch behind the village hall they had no where to kick a ball. Contact to be made with the Village Hall Committee to request that they arrange for the grass to be cut on a more regularly basis.

Concern was also raised over the parking at school during drop

off and pick up times. Certain parents who drop off and collect their children from Ashton Hayes Primary school by car were apparently giving no regard to traffic or safety when they park their cars on Church Road, often on the brow of the hill. PC Elliott confirmed that he would patrol this area over the coming weeks.

There had been several burglaries in Ashton Hayes recently, and in some of the incidents the “hook and grab” system had been used. Burglars used the “hook and grab” system to retrieve car keys from resident’s homes gaining access through their letter boxes during the night. It was agreed to post a warning notice to residents of this process in the next Around Ashton Hayes newsletter.

RESOLVED: PC Elliott was thanked for attending the Parish Council and his work around the village

## 82 PLAYGROUP

No representatives from the Playgroup attended the meeting.

## 83 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been received:

1. The Playing Field – Newsletter
2. Cheshire Local Access Forum – Volunteers needed
3. Cheshire West and Chester Electoral Review – Council’s submission

## 84 FINANCE

The Clerk confirmed that the following expenditure had been incurred during August 2009.

- Chq 431 HM Revenue and Customs - £260.82 (in lieu of Andy Barrets – Street Cleanser August Wages)
- Chq 432 JDH Business Services – Internal Audit Fees £308.83
- Chq 433 A Thwaite (Clerk) – Wages and expenses for July/August £295.70
- Chq 434 Scottish Power – Electricity Parish Rooms £45.58

Chq 435 Ground work £276.00 Playground repair  
Chq 436 cancelled Timebank June and July £57.43  
Chq 437 Déjà Vu Parish Rooms Interior and Exterior £1230  
Chq 438 Ashton Hayes Community Shop £5,000 (minutes ref  
2009/10 – 7(3))

Expenditure for September was as follows:

Chq 439 – HM Revenue and Customs – Andy's Backpay for  
tax and NI £100.44  
Chq 440 – Andy Barrett Street Cleanser 40hrs August  
£198.40  
Chq 441 – HM Customs & Customs - £49.60  
Chq 442 Andrea Thwaite Clerk – August and Sept. Salary  
and expenses £327.74  
Chq 443 A Thwaite – reimbursement of united utilities 21st  
April – 20th July. £19.72 pd by AThwaite.  
Chq 444 Scottish Power - £17.00 Electricity in Parish Rooms  
Chq 445 United Utilities Wastewater at Parish Rooms £39.53  
Chq 446 – T N Robinson - Perspex  
Chq 447 – Pauline Tilley Reimbursement of new key for  
Parish Rooms  
Chq 448 – Cancelled  
Chq 449 – canceled  
Chq 450 – Ashworth Timer Bank £75.47

## 85 INCOME

Income from the following had been received during August and  
September.

Scrabble Club  
Ashworth Time Bank

## 86 PLANNING

The Clerk confirmed that the following had been received:

09/1107/FUL

Brines Brow Lane

WOODSIDE FARM

CONVERSION OF BARN BUILDINGS INTO TWO DWELLINGS  
AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING FARMHOUSE

09/11288/FUL

Peel Crescent

49  
Side and rear extensions. (Reapplication  
09/10941/ful - refused

THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED:

09/10707/OUT - APPROVED  
Frodsham Street  
Ashton hall farm  
Agriculture workers dwelling

09/10941/ful - REFUSED  
Peel Crescent  
49  
Side and rear extensions

09/10719/S73 - REFUSED  
Ashton Grange Cottage  
Grange Road  
Re-opening of previously closed site access and removal of  
condition 5

87 PARISH ROOMS CARETAKER

The Clerk confirmed that Ashworth Time Bank had terminated their agreement to be Parish Rooms Caretaker and Booking Clerk. However, they had agreed to continue with their duties until a replacement had been appointed. Despite the recent adverts for the vacancy no applications for the post had been received. Concern was raised that if no replacement was found the Parish Council would have to review its procedure of hiring out the rooms on the grounds of health and safety.

It was agreed to re-advertise the position during the next two months. Mr Deynem confirmed that his wife would be willing to help out with the duties until a replacement was found.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to re-advertise the vacancy.

88 RECREATION FIELD

No update was available for the meeting but the Chairman confirmed that she was concerned with the association. She had

provided three names of local people who wanted to help out with the recreational field project but none of them had received any communication back from the association despite her providing them with all their contact details.

The Chairman did confirm that the amended contract had been signed and an extension until April 2010 had also been agreed.

#### 89 HIGHWAYS

The Clerk confirmed that all the results from 2009 Beat the Bounds had now been received and she would forward the issues raised onto the relevant authorities for action. The Clerk did request that for 2010 the Parish Council resume their previous arrangements to undertake their annual Beat the Bounds in one arranged evening.

#### 90 FOOTPATH BETWEEN CHURCH ROAD AND CRICKET CLUB

Mr Deynem confirmed that he would cut back the shrubbery along the footpath following complaints that had been received about it being overgrown.

#### 91 FOOTPATH DIVERSION – PEEL HALL FARM

Following recent concerns that had been received regarding the proposed diversion of the footpath at Peel Hall Farm, Members agreed that they were still happy with their proposal to support the diversion. Some complaints from walkers of the footpath had been received saying that the new diversion was dangerous and that they were concerned about the ancient right of way. Mr Deynem confirmed that he had checked and there was no ancient right of way affected by the diversion and Members felt that the new diversion was not dangerous in any way.

Members voted to continue supporting the diversion:  
5 in favour  
1 abstained.

#### 92 PUBLIC TRANSPORT – BUS SERVICE

Notification from Cheshire West and Chester had been received that related to the proposed changes in bus service to Ashton Hayes. From 1st September a new ring and ride service would operate from Ashton Hayes which would replace the current service number 27 operated by Arrowebrook Coaches. To use

this service residents needed to register with the council.

Concern was raised over one of the questions contained in the application form that applicants had to confirm that public transport was their only means of transport. Mr Deynem confirmed that this question was required to work around current legislation and merely asked whether they had access to private transport on the day transport was required.

#### RESOLVED

This new service to be advertised in the next Around Ashton Hayes and details be provided from the Post Office and the Parish Council's website.

#### 93 COMMUNITY FORUM

Feedback from the first Gowy and Eddisbury Community Forum held on TUESDAY 28 JULY 2009, at Tarvin Community Centre, Meadow Close, Off Croft Fields, Tarvin to follow.

#### 94 MICROGRID FEASIBILITY REPORT

Dr Alexander presented Members with the Microgrid Feasibility Report. He confirmed that the report followed a feasibility study undertaken in during spring and summer. The report would be available on email, hard copy and from the Going Carbon Neutral's website. The report highlighted how the study had been undertaken and contained a recommendation that a further study for a community microgrid was required which would be sited in Church Road.

The report detailed how electricity should be bought and sold and that a trial would be run to determine the effectiveness of Smart Meters.

The Chairman suggested another public meeting to publicise the report and its contents. Due to the length of the report, a 2 page flyer would be produced summarising the main issues.

Dr Alexander also confirmed that a further planning application for a further 6 months would be submitted to keep the current weather station working.

The Chairman thanked Dr Alexander and Mary Gilley for

presenting the report to the Parish Council and agreed that they would sponsor the next public event.

It was confirmed that other news from the Going Carbon Neutral Project was available on the website [www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk)

#### 95 COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE

Mr Strudwick confirmed that £15,500 had been raised from the purchase of shares and donations received, including those from Ashton Hayes and Mouldsworth Parish Council. An application for match funding had been submitted to Plunkett Foundation and if successful would bring the total raised to £30,000. Membership certificates would be issued to all those who had purchased shares once the funding target had been reached.

An advert for a Store Manager had been placed and interviews would take place next month.

Plans are underway to make small internal refurbishments including a change of layout before the opening of the shop with the help of a Community Project Team from Tesco's.

Additional support for the project would still be needed prior to the opening including admin, HR skills, joinery etc.

RESOLVED: Mrs Strudwick was thanked for her hard work towards this project and for the update provided at the meeting.

#### 96 PARISH PLAN

Final edits had been received for the Parish Plan and it was now currently with the designer. The Launch of the Parish Plan would be at the end of September 2009 and all Parish Councillors will receive an e-copy. Concern was raised whether the Parish Council should formally receive the completed Parish Plan prior to its public launch. It was agreed to contact Paul Varey to express the Parish Council's concerns.

#### 97 CWAC'S REVIEW OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Mrs Tilley volunteered to be a representative on the CWAC and CHALC review of town and parish councils

#### 98 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk was thanked for her quick action in July in getting the damaged playground equipment repaired which resulted in the playground being re-opened for the summer holidays.

Articles for the next Around Ashton to be sent to Richard by the end of September.

Meeting finished at 10.30pm

Signed .....

Date .....