

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL — held on Monday 1st February 2010 – 8.00pm in Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes, Cheshire.

PRESENT: Mrs P Tilley (Chair), Mr R Holland, Mr H Deynem, Mr D Lee, Mr T Scadeng, and Mrs N Deynem.

CLERK: Mrs Andrea Thwaite

ALSO PRESENT: 7 members of the public, PC Elliott and Sgt Shaw.

183 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from

Diane Stubbs
Marie Woods
Garry Charnock
Cllr Parker
Cllr Bailey

184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared the following interests:

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

Hugo Deynem declared a personal interest in any Community Shop items.

Naomi Deynem declared a personal interest in any Community Shop items

185 MINUTES

AGREED: that

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2010 were approved as a correct record.

186 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

Dr Alexander, on behalf of the Going Carbon Neutral Project,

informed Members that a funding application had been submitted in December 2009 to the Low Carbon Challenge project and approval had been awarded for the application to progress to phase two. Thanks were expressed to everyone involved in writing the bid and those who had given their time to meet the assessors from the Low Carbon Challenge Project when they came to Ashton Hayes. If Ashton Hayes's phase two application was successful, it was agreed that a public meeting would be held, to ensure that the residents were fully engaged in any decisions.

PC Elliott introduced the new Sergeant for Ashton Hayes, Sgt Mandy Shaw. Following a job swap of Ashton Hayes' current Sergeant with Chester City Centre's Sergeant, Sgt Andy Smith had swooped roles with Sgt Mandy Shaw. Sgt Andy Smith would now be based in Chester City Centre and Sgt Mandy Shaw would be based in the rural area. Sgt Shaw introduced herself to Members and explained that she was looking forward to the challenges that working in a rural area would bring. PC Elliott informed Members that following a request from a local young person who wished to talk to the Parish Council regarding youth issues, Emma Bryant was present at the meeting. Following a question raised by Emma Bryant as to when the new park would be ready, members confirmed that they were working hard to develop a new recreational space for the village and that it would be twelve months at least before it would be in operation.

Following a request from Angie Williams as to whether the young people of Ashton Hayes would be willing to help with the project, Emma Bryant confirmed she was. Sgt Shaw thought that involving the local young people in the recreational project was an excellent idea. Following a further question from Emma Bryant, regarding whether the youth club would start up again, it was confirmed that there was still some funding available for the folded youth club and start up grants for this type of project were also available. PC Elliott thought this was a good idea and offered his help.

Angie Williams confirmed that having young people involved in the recreational field project would add credibility to it, in terms of attracting funding.

AGREED: that

1. The Parish Council would include a standing item on their monthly agendas entitled youth issues.

2. A meeting with the village hall committee would be organised to discuss the possibility of restarting the youth club.

187 EXPENDITURE

Ashworth Time Bank – December salary
Andy Barrett – Street Cleansing for January 2010. £198.66
Andrea Thwaite – Parish Clerk. January salary £407.88
Staples – stationery and printer ink. £81.59
Inland Revenue – Tax and NI for Andy Barrett £52.16

188 INCOME

AGREED: that

1. Backpay relating to salary increase for Parish Street Cleanser from Cheshire West and Chester be noted.

189 PLANNING

The following planning application was received:

09/12047/FUL – two storey extension – Woodside Farm, Old Lane, Ashton Hayes. Chester.

Comments would be presented to Cheshire West and Chester's Planning department following a site inspection of the application.

Members were informed that the following planning application 09/11743/FUL – Whitegate Farm, Whitegate Lane. Replace existing outbuildings with single storey rear extension, was approved with standard conditions.

190 PARISH STREET CLEANSER SABBATICAL LEAVE

It was agreed that during the Street Cleanser's pending five month sabbatical leave, Richard Holland would undertake the monthly playground inspections, and Mrs Holland, Trevor Scadeng, Naomi Deynem and Pauline Tilley would help to keep the village free from litter.

AGREED: that

1. The situation should be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that the agreed task does not become too onerous

on the volunteers.

2. It was also agreed to organise a spring clean of the village during March or April.

191 Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Council's response relating donation from the Parish Council to the Sports and Recreation Association and to agree next steps.

Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Council's advice:

a) The parish Council may contribute large sums (providing of course it has them!) to another body that fulfills the aims and objectives of the Council - by that I mean that if the Council has the power to spend on the issue itself it may give the money to a third party to deliver on its behalf. A playing field would qualify.

b) You might require the group to ensure that it has the rest of the funding in place before handing over the money. That way if the project falls by the wayside the pc retains its money - rather than trying to get it back.

c) This is a separate matter for the council to negotiate but you may wish to make the grant conditional on a seat or two - it is difficult to negotiate until you see terms of reference or their constitution to know what is a reasonable number to have on their 'board'.

This is the downside of the parish council passing the control/responsibility to a third party. They have the advantage of the third party being able to apply for funding that the parish council cant (because local authorities are often barred from applying for funding) but they do lose the control. It is a judgment the pc needs to make.

Not sure what practical assistance a fellow council might offer. Once the money is handed over (virtually or otherwise) the matter is effectively settled. The parish council only will have arms length interest in the project as they are not the management team. If the Council decides to go it alone and attract what funding it can/raise the precept etc then you want support with the project - two very different issues.

MEETING CLOSED

Angie Williams informed Members that the Fields and Trust organisation are experienced in these matters and have

confirmed that they are happy to help Ashton Hayes Parish Council. It was discussed that a Parish Council Away Day for a Saturday should be held to discuss strategies for recreational field matters and a conference call with Rocky Sharrock from Fields and Trust would be organised.

Angie Williams informed the Parish Council that there were 4 options available to them in relation to donating their funds to the recreational field project. It was felt that option 1 would protect the Parish Council and their funds.

Option 1 – Parish Council would be trustee of the land without being on the Association Board. The deed for the land would be in the name of the Parish Council. This was a more permanent option as a covenant could be reversed. The land would need to be registered with the Land Registry and the deed for the land needed to include a clause stating that it could only ever be used for recreational use.

Trevor Scadeng confirmed that the Parish Council wanted to protect its funds and ensure that no liability was placed on the residents.

MEETING RESUMED

Dave Lee raised concern over who would be responsible for running of the field, anti social behaviour incidents that occurred and inspections.

Following discussions it was proposed that examples of good practice in this area should be sourced.

It was confirmed that pledges from residents towards the field were now approximately £2,500. A Race Night had been organised for 20 February at the Golden Lion and all proceeds would go towards the recreational field fund.

AGREED: that

- (1) Examples of best practice in running and operating a recreational fields should be sourced.
- (2) Angie Williams to contact Rocky Sharrock to organise a conference call at the proposed Away Day.
- (3) Hold a Parish Council Away Day to discuss what framework should be used to run and manage the

recreational field and how best the Parish Council can donate funds to the field.

192 ASHTON HAYES WAR MEMORIAL

Trevor Scadeng confirmed that he was currently waiting for information on what grants were available to restore War Memorials. Work on restoring the base and the leading was required and he also confirmed that he was unsure whether re-leading was required or whether a clean would restore the lead. Trevor Scadeng had found an expert in the Lake District who could advise the Parish Council. Funding for the restoration from the Parish Council would be required.

193 CHURCH ROAD – PETITION

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a letter from certain residents of Church Road, raising concern over some of the proposed speed reduction initiatives for their road, that had been identified in the Parish Plan. Proposals to install speed bumps in Church Road had raised concern as some properties in Church Road were built near to the road and on shallow foundations. Residents were concerned over what damage the vibration from speed bumps would do to their houses.

Trevor Scadeng proposed that residents in Church Road could become members of the Parish Plan Traffic Problem Sub group to implement speed reduction measures.

AGREED: that

- (1) The letter should be acknowledge

194 MR TRIPPIER – GRANGE ROAD.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a copy of the detailed response that Cheshire West and Chester Council had sent to Mr Trippier regarding his highway concerns. The response letter had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

195 POT HOLES – ASHTON HAYES

The Clerk confirmed that following last month's Parish Council meeting she had reported 22 pot holes in Ashton Hayes using the Council's Interactive Fault reporting system. All the pot holes

had now been repaired. The Chairman informed Members that she had counted 40 pot holes in the Parish recently. The Clerk requested that the Chairman let her know where they were so that she could report on the Council's Fault Reporting System.

AGREED: that

- (1) The Chairman and other Parish Councillors to let the Clerk know the location of the pot holes so they can be reported.

196 DISTRIBUTING GRIT

The Clerk confirmed that following advice from Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highway Officer, the Parish Council should draft a schedule for distributing salt that identified areas where they would endeavor to grit during future icy conditions. This schedule would need to be approved by the Parish Council and a copy kept for further reference.

AGREED: that

- (1) The Clerk draft a schedule and circulate it around for approval

197 PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Chairman and Trevor Scadeng informed Members that following the Parish Plan meeting held on 22 January 2010 they both had received either an abusive/anonymous letter or telephone call regarding the implementation of the Parish Plan. All Members agreed that this behaviour was not acceptable. The language used in the telephone calls and letters had been upsetting.

It was reported that at the public meeting held on the 22 January 2010 some residents had also acted in an inappropriate manner and had used bad language.

Several volunteers have volunteered to help the Parish Plan implement the Parish Plan. It was agreed that a strategy meeting for the Parish Council to discuss the implementation should be held on 22 February 2010. The purpose of the meeting would allow Members to have the time to discuss ground rules, the framework and what happens next outside the normal parish council meeting.

AGREED: that

- (1) The Parish Council meet on 22 February for a Parish Plan Strategy meeting.

198 COMMUNITY SHOP

It was confirmed that the Community Shop was open and going well. Positive feedback from residents had been received. It was reported that allegedly the Shop Manager had been working long hours but it was hoped that this situation would ease once more volunteers to help in the shop were found.

199 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No urgent business was reported.

200 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AGREED: that

- (1) The next Parish Council meeting would be held on 1 March 2010 at 8pm.

Meeting finished at 10pm

Signed

Date