

Ashmansworth Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 08 January 2024
Ashmansworth Village Hall, 7:30pm

Chairman: Cllr Alan Cox

Present: Cllr Lisa Hill, Cllr Angela Harris, Cllr Kieron Black, Cllr Andrew Bays

In attendance: Graham Falconer, one parishioner

Clerk: Amy White

1. Apologies

Cllr Thacker sent his apologies which were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 02 November 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 02 November 2023 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Actions/Updates from previous meeting of 02 November 2023

Clerk to send Emergency Plan to Highclere and East Woodhay- **Actioned**, Plan currently sits with EWPC with changes due to be approved end Jan 2024.

5. Update from County and Borough Councillors (if present)

Cllr Falconer provided a verbal update on the recent planning appeal at Wash Water.
Cllr Thacker's HCC report can be found on the ashmansworth-pc.gov.uk website with the most recent Minutes.

6. To note receipt of Planning Applications received since last meeting:

None received.

Cllr Cox attended the site visit at Lower Manor Farm in December 2023.

7. Neighbourhood Watch

The use of maintaining the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was discussed and the feeling was it was outdated with the current use of social media and other apps such as disc:
<https://discagainstcrime.com>.

Action: Cllr Cox will initiate a discussion on disc with Ashy Google group and the Clerk will contact the local rural police to ask about getting invited on to disc.

8. War Memorial

There have been a few comments on the poor state of the war memorial. The Clerk has sent in a pre-application to the War Memorial Trust to see if AshyPC might be able to obtain

a grant to cover the cost of cleaning and potentially restoring the engraved names. To update in advance of March meeting if possible.

9. Highways

The Drove Update: The potholes have been filled in and a good part of The Drove is driveable, however the lowest section is still in a terrible condition. Cllr Thacker has written to Cllr Cox to confirm that he has chased up the situation and has been assured more work is due this month, with more permanent fixes in the next financial year.

Village gateways: The quote received from Hampshire Highways for two gates is over £7000 and completely out of budget.

Al Brooks of Facombe Estate has offered to make and install wooden gates and make the signs to be attached, for a significantly cheaper cost. The PC is aware that it will still need permission from Hampshire Highways if it decides to organise the work without assistance. The council expressed their great appreciation for the kind offer by Facombe Estates.

Action: Clerk will contact Kevin Hyde from Hampshire Highways about applying for permission for installation using Facombe Estate employees.

Potholes: The weather has led to even more potholes on Bartletts Down Lane, especially at Facombe, all of which have been reported. The council expressed its frustration on the lack of action on some really significant holes. Kit Malthouse has been contacted by a local to discuss the issues who will let the PC know what response he gets.

10. Financial matters:

a. To acknowledge payments and note receipts:

The Clerk presented the following information:

Income and Payments since 02 November 2023

Invoice

Date	Paid date	Explanation	Payment
30-Sep-23	6-Nov-23	Red76 Payroll Inv 7147	£ 8.00
30-Sep-23	6-Nov-23	Red76 Payroll Inv 7147	£ 1.60
27-Oct-23	6-Nov-23	October salary	£ 136.56
31-Aug-23	6-Nov-23	AD Clark invoice 763	£ 205.20
30-Sep-23	6-Nov-23	AD Clark invoice 773	£ 205.20
30-Oct-23	6-Nov-23	Red76 Payroll Inv 7389	£ 8.00
30-Oct-23	6-Nov-23	Red76 Payroll Inv 7389	£ 1.60
6-Nov-23	13-Nov-23	Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 3435	£ 9.99
6-Nov-23	13-Nov-23	Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 3435	£ 2.00
20-Oct-23	16-Nov-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203038667466	£ 3.50
20-Oct-23	16-Nov-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203038667466	£ 0.70
2-Nov-23	20-Nov-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203038855014	£ 8.00
2-Nov-23	20-Nov-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203038855014	£ 1.60
27-Nov-23	27-Nov-23	November salary	£ 136.36
24-Oct-23	27-Nov-23	Lengthsman garden waste bill from work at church	£ 135.00

24-Oct-23	27-Nov-23	Lengthsman garden waste bill from work at church	£	27.00
20-Nov-23	6-Dec-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203039146111	£	4.50
20-Nov-23	6-Dec-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203039146111	£	0.90
6-Dec-23	12-Dec-23	Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 3714	£	9.99
6-Dec-23	12-Dec-23	Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 3714	£	2.00
2-Dec-23	20-Dec-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203039351722	£	8.00
2-Dec-23	20-Dec-23	Ionos Direct Debit 203039351722	£	1.60
31-Dec-23	31-Dec-23	Unity Bank quarterly service charge	£	18.00
Total:			£	935.30

Payments to be approved 08 January 2024

Invoice

Date	Paid date	Explanation	Payment	
30-Nov-23		Red76 Payroll Inv 7664	£	8.00
30-Nov-23		Red76 Payroll Inv 7664	£	1.60
27-Dec-23		Clerk December salary	£	153.72
27-Jan-24		Clerk January salary	£	153.52
2-Jan-24		Ionos Direct Debit 203039834945	£	18.00
2-Jan-24		Ionos Direct Debit 203039834945	£	3.20
30-Dec-23		Red76 Payroll Inv 7869	£	8.00
30-Dec-23		Red76 Payroll Inv 7869	£	1.60
20-Dec-23		Ionos Direct Debit 203039626117	£	4.50
20-Dec-23		Ionos Direct Debit 203039626117	£	0.90
6-Jan-24		Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 4005	£	9.99
6-Jan-24		Hugo Fox website Direct Debit inv 4005	£	2.00
Total:			£	365.03

Bank Balance at 08 January 2024: £4712.71

To agree precept for 2024/25

The Clerk presented the second draft of the budget (see end of Minutes) with a recommendation to increase the precept from £4590 in 2023 to £5049 in 2024.

Full council agreed to the precept request for 2024/25 to be £5049.

The Clerk requested a move to scale point 19, in line with other parishes that she covers.

Full Council agreed to increase the Clerk salary to scale point 19, to be effective from December 2023 onwards.

Budget Second Draft: The Clerk has circulated the budget in advance, which remains relatively unchanged from the first draft.

Council agreed with the budget at this point in the financial year. It will be approved for 2024/25 at the March meeting.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 07 March 2024 and held at Ashmansworth Village Hall.

Actions from 08 January 2024 Meeting:

Action: Cllr Cox will initiate a discussion on disc with Ashy Google group and the Clerk will contact the local rural police to ask about getting invited on to disc.

Action: Clerk will contact Kevin Hyde from Hampshire Highways about applying for permission for installation of village gates using Faccombe Estate employees.

Budget 2nd draft

	Actual 09/03/23	Budget 2023/24	2023/24 Predicted Outcome	Budget 24/25
Income				
MAIN INCOME	-	-		
Precept	4,250.00	4,590.00	4590	5049
Grass Cutting Grant	290.88	300.00	293.79	300
Other (bank interest)	2.40	3.00		4
GRANTS				
Other grants	1,000.00	1,500.00	1090	500
Total Income	5,543.28	6,393.00	5,973.79	5,853.00
Expenditure				
PRECEPT SPEND	-	-		
Clerk's Salary inc PAYE	1,908.12	2,100.00	1900	2,000.00
Clerk's Expenses		59.52	0	50.00
Bank charges			24	42.00
Training	0.00	50.00	0	50.00
Insurance	419.78	440.00	277	320.00
Audit	150.00	150.00	150	160.00
Grass Cutting	1,626.40	1,400.00	1333.8	1,400.00
Cllr Expenses/Travel			131.65	50.00
Subscriptions HALC, NALC, CPRE, GLEAM	338.46	150.00	164.58	170.00
Admin Incl Ionos, Website	150.47	155.00	204	220.00

Payroll	35.00	89.00	80	108.00
Grants and s.137	125.00	500.00	0	500.00
Hire of meeting room	98.00	140.00	100	120.00
Stationery	0.00	0.00	0	
Poppy wreath	39.99	40.00	37	40.00
Miscellaneous buffer	0.00	500.00	0	
Lengthsman/Misc	217.00	0.00	135	500.00
TOTAL PRECEPT SPEND			4537.03	5,730.00
<u>GRANTS/PROJECT SPEND</u>				
Defibrillator		1,800.00	1435	
Kings Coronation			450	
War Memorial				1500
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<u>2,780.32</u>	<u>7,573.52</u>	<u>6,422.03</u>	<u>7,230.00</u>

EoY Projected Bank Balance:

£4,000 (Current to Jan 2024)

Working reserve:

£2,500 (approx 50% of expenditure)

Reserved Funds 2024/25

War memorial restoration

£1,500