

number of potential solutions. Cllr Bays would keep the discussion moving and would report further if and when progress had been made.

It was noted that as there was now a gigabit circuit provided to Crux Easton by BT, which was for many a better solution than the service Gigabeam could provide.

Cllr Cox reported that Cllr Black had been offered the donation of a silver teapot which had been awarded to a past villager, Wilf Cooper, in 1927 for snowploughing the village with his horse. Cllr Black was investigating the possibility of displaying the teapot in the village hall.

b) Lengthsman tasks

Cllr Cox had reported that the church wardens had asked if the lengthsman could cut back the laurel hedge surrounding the church boundary. All agreed. Cllr Cox to report back with the preferred hedge height.

**Cllr
Cox**

c) Borough councillor's report

Cllr Falconer reported that there were rumours suggesting that the borough elections re-scheduled to May could be further postponed to June or July. It was further reported that BDBC had received a planning application for 26 dwellings just behind the Red House pub in Highclere.

5. Local Roads

Potholes/Road Repairs

There was no update on the issues relating to repairs to the Drove or repainting of the road markings on Cross Lane.

Speeding Vehicles

There was no update in relation to installation of the gates.

Verges

It was agreed that if possible to influence HCC, then the best time to cut the road verges would be in the autumn.

6. Footpaths

There were no updates. Cllr Cox reported that there was a rights of way initiative whereby any rights of way that had previously legally existed but been lost could be reported and restored as long as notified prior to 2026. He has invited residents to inform him of any such claims.

7. Rural policing update

Cllr Bays reported that more than 12 off road vehicles had recently accessed part of the Wayfarers Way and created a significant amount of damage. Cllr Bays expressed frustration that there was a lot of local information sharing and intelligence relating to rural crime that did not appear to be utilised by the police. Cllr Bays noted that he had a forthcoming meeting with the Chief Inspector for Rural Policing, Karen McManus and intended to discuss the matter then.

**Cllr
Bays**

8. Climate emergency update

Cllr Cox reported that he had been involved in a number of meetings with other parishes discussing the impact of the climate emergency. It was felt that the main

impact facing individuals would be pressure to change to “green” electricity, to switch to electric cars and to seek alternative heating methods to oil and gas. Cllr Cox suggested that it may be worth investigating ideas, similar to that undertaken in Swaffham Prior in relation to a communal ground source electric pump.

**Cllr
Cox**

Cllr Bays praised the idea, but suggested that the parish council may be limited by its resources and that it may be a project for a parish steering group to investigate and tackle. Cllr Cox agreed to seek interested parties via the AshyPC email distribution list.

9. Coronavirus response and local needs

It was reported that Neighbourcare was active again. Cllr Cox reported that Woolton Hill surgery had requested that patients collect prescriptions via Neighbourcare where possible to reduce numbers at the surgery.

It was noted that vaccinations had commenced at Newbury racecourse.

10. Financial Matters

a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statement (Appendix A). The payments were unanimously approved.

Clerk

b) 2021/22 budget – the budget was discussed and approved (Appendix B). Clerk to contact CPRE re ongoing membership.

Clerk

Cllr Cox to ascertain if there were any local groups interested in making a grant request prior to the end of the forthcoming financial year.

**Cllr
Cox**

c) 2021/22 precept- a precept request of £4,123.00 was agreed and approved.

11. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 10th March at 6.00 pm.

Appendix A

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 13/01/2021

Balances:

Statement No: 13/01/21 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 13/01/21
£5,955.26	£5,666.30

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			

New items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Mrs S Owen HMRC	Clerk salary Dec Month 9 Tax/NIC	£115.48 £29.00
	Mrs S Owen HMRC	Clerk salary Jan Month 10 Tax/NIC	£115.68 £28.80
TOTAL			£288.96

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00

Appendix B

Ashmansworth Parish Council
2021-22 Budget

2019/20 Actual (31/03/20)	2020/21 Budgeted	2020/21 Actual (13/01/21)	2020/21 Predicted year end		2021/22 Budgeted	
£	£	£	£	Income	£	
68.60	0.00	68.60	68.60	Balance from HSBC	0.00	One off from current year
4,123.00	4,123.00	4,123.00	4,123.00	Precept	4,123.00	
282.00	282.00	285.00	285.00	Grant from BDBC - Grass Cutting	285.00	Based on figures received from BDBC
0.00	74.80	0.00	95.60	VAT recovery	43.00	Based on current year VAT spend
4,473.60	4,479.80	4,476.60	4,572.20	Total Income	4,451.00	
				Expenditure		
160.00	160.00	160.00	160.00	Auditors	160.00	Internal audit fee.
40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Audit late submission fee	0.00	One off payment
1,396.80	1,534.80	1,156.00	1,387.00	Clerk's Salary	1,534.80	Based on this year
349.00	355.00	288.80	347.00	HMRC	349.00	Based on this year
0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	Clerk's Expenses	0.00	Variable
95.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Defibrillator batteries	0.00	One off purchase
66.50	144.00	0.00	0.00	Hire of meeting room	50.00	Based on COVID/previous years
0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	Training	50.00	Variable
0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	Stationery	50.00	Variable
330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	Insurance	330.00	Based on last year.
141.00	141.00	146.72	146.72	Subscriptions HALC	146.72	Based on this year
150.00	180.00	160.00	160.00	HALC HR fees	160.00	Set cost
193.00	231.60	55.00	55.00	Vision Ict - Website/Ionos	55.00	Based on last year.
855.00	1,100.00	1,330.00	1,330.00	Grass Cutting etc	1,330.00	Based on current year
0.00	36.00	0.00	36.00	Subscriptions CPRE	36.00	Set cost
15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	Subscription GLEAM	15.00	Set cost
	500.00	0.00	500.00	Other Section 137 donations	500.00	Based on previous years.
0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	Laptop ringfenced funds	500.00	
463.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	There but not there donation	0.00	One off from previous year
95.60	60.00	43.00	43.00	VAT spend	60.00	Based on previous years.
0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	Miscellaneous buffer	500.00	Miscellaneous buffer
12.00	12.00	12.82	12.82	NALC fee	12.82	Set cost
17.00		39.97	39.97	Poppy wreath	40.00	Based on current year
4,379.18	5,939.40	3,737.31	4,562.51	Total Expenditure	5,879.34	
				Net result		
£94.42	-£1,459.60	£739.29	£9.69		-£1,428.34	

Actual bank balance at 31/03/2020 £5,395.60
Actual balance at 13/01/2021 £5,666.30