

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 14th April 2021 **Time:** 6.00 pm
Place: Meeting held virtually via Zoom
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Kieron Black
Cllr Andrew Bays
In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Angela Harris
Cllr Sally Burch

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Angela Harris and Sally Burch.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record. Cllr Cox agreed to sign them and hand back to the Clerk.

**Cllr
Cox**

3. Planning applications

Update on previous applications

- a) Cllr Cox relayed a message of thanks from the applicant of 20/02270/LDEU for supporting the application to certificate the lawfulness for the continued use of land as residential, which had now been approved.

There were no new planning applications.

4. Council business

Clerk's report

- a) The Clerk reported that there were current legal proceedings brought by LLG and ADSO at the High Court requesting a court declaration that virtual meetings could proceed past 6th May 2021.

Should the declaration be granted it was suggested and agreed that it would be sensible to hold the APM virtually, given the current COVID restrictions.

The Clerk agreed to chase Electoral Services at BDBC for an update to the electoral roll, request increased email storage, and ensure cessation of the old website.

Clerk

- b) Lengthsman tasks

The Clerk had circulated a message from the lengthsman that digger hire would cost the parish council between £100-£140 plus VAT.

Cllr Cox reported that the lengthsman had been sent a request to repair a stile at footpath 5.

It was agreed that future priority work orders should include reducing the height of the hedge at the recreation ground, followed by improvement of the ditch at Crux Easton.

Clerk

c) Borough/County councillor's report

No councillors were present due to purdah.

Cllr Cox commented that he had noted that West Berkshire Council was setting up four plastic recycling centres throughout its borough. Cllr Cox reported that he had contacted Cllr Eachus at BDBC to request that a similar initiative be considered for Basingstoke and Deane.

5. Local Roads

Cllr Cox reported that a permanent 'Risk of Flooding' sign had been installed on the A343 near Highclere, although the blocked drain causing the issue appeared not to have been repaired.

It was noted with pleasure that most of the road markings in Ashmansworth had been repainted with the exception of the 'Slow' sign on the Woodhay Road. Cllr Cox to contact HCC and request reinstatement of the missing markings.

**Cllr
Cox**

Verge Cutting

It was reported that two parishioners had complained that verges had been recently cut, destroying a number of daffodils.

Cllr Cox to inform HCC that the parish would require only an annual autumn cut in the future.

**Cllr
Cox**

6. Footpaths

There were no updates, except for the abovementioned stile on footpath 5.

7. Emergency plan update

Cllr Cox reported that he had produced updated details for inclusion within its shared local emergency plan (with Highclere and East Woodhay), and was awaiting publication of the document by the East Woodhay Clerk.

It was also noted that the plan would be offered to Newtown PC as a template for its own.

8. Covid response and local needs

It was acknowledged that the Neighbourcare scheme was still working very well.

9. Financial Matters

Cllr Cox reported that he had received a note of thanks from the PCC for the recent donation.

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

Clerk

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm. Next meeting APM on Wednesday 19th May and then 16th June at 6.00 pm.

Appendix A

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 14/04/2021

Balances:

Statement No: 14/04/21 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 14/04/21
£5,187.34	£4,638.46

Payments since last meeting date:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
	Ashmansworth PCC	Donation amount	£500
TOTAL			£500

New items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
14.04.21	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary Apr	£144.48
TOTAL			£144.48

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
17.03.21	HMRC	VAT 19/20 reclaim	£95.60
TOTAL			£95.60

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00