

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting & Annual Parish Assembly of the Council

Date:	22nd May 2018	Time:	7.30 pm
Place:	Ashmansworth Village Hall		
Present:	Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman)	Cllr Kieron Black (Vice-Chairman)	
Councillors:	Cllr Angela Harris	Cllr Andrew Bays	
	Cllr Sally Burch		
In Attendance:	Sadie Owen (Clerk)	Cllr Graham Falconer (Borough)	
	Cllr John Izett (Borough)	Cllr Hannah Golding (Borough)	
	Cllr Tom Thacker (County)	Mr J Gethin	
Apologies:	N/A		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Cox welcomed everyone to the Annual General & Parish Meeting.

2. Broadband presentation

The Gigabeam team and Cllr Hannah Golding presented a report on the successful installation of broadband within the parish. Please see Appendix A.

3. Councillor Co-option

Councillor Cox proposed, and Cllr Black seconded the co-option of Sally Burch to the council. Approved.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Cox formally stood down as Chairman. Cllr Black presided as Vice Chair and thanked Cllr Cox for the past year's service. Cllr Black queried whether there were any candidates interested in stepping forward as Chairman. There were not. Cllr Black proposed, and Cllr Bays seconded that Cllr Cox be re-elected as Chair. Unanimously carried. Cllr Cox resumed chairing the meeting.

Cllr Cox proposed, and Cllr Bays seconded that Cllr Black be re-elected as Vice Chair. Unanimously agreed.

5. Achievements and Financial report 2017/18

See Appendix B for the Chairman's report.

6. Reports from Borough/County Councillors

See Appendix B for report from Cllr Graham Falconer.

Cllr Thacker's report - Cllr Thacker commented that he had been successfully elected to his 7year as a county councillor and thanked those present.

Responsibilities - Cllr Thacker clarified that the county was responsible for road maintenance, trading standards and school buildings. The borough deals with waste collection and the county with waste disposal.

Funding cuts – Cllr Thacker reported that the county's funding had been cut by £23 million. As a consequence, the council tax had been raised by an increase of 3%.

Roads – Cllr Thacker acknowledged that potholes were a problem. The council have received £3 million extra funding from central government to tackle the state of the roads. Find and fix teams known as ‘Pothole Busters’ are now being used in parallel to scheduled pothole repairs. The council have also invested in two dragons which are machines that are able to produce more permanent repairs to potholes.

Recycling – Cllr Thacker noted that it was unfortunate that Ashmansworth were unable to use the Newtown Road recycling centre. It was reported that Cllr Humby was in discussions with MP Kit Malthouse to try to develop more of a cross border recycling policy.

Combined authority - Cllr Bays queried whether the idea of a combined authority was still progressing. Cllr Thacker confirmed that it was, but Cllrs Izett and Falconer suggested that it was unlikely to occur.

7. Police Report

PCSO Damon Hope was not able to attend the meeting but provided an update.

8. Report from the Village Hall Committee

See Appendix B. Mr Gethin further added that there had been a successful street party for the royal wedding.

9. Public discussion and questions

There were approximately seven parishioners in attendance.

Hedgehog friendly village - a local resident had sent a written suggestion that the village become the first hedgehog friendly village in Hampshire. Cllr Cox to request further information as to requirements to gain such status.

**Cllr
Cox**

‘There but not there’ sculpture – a local resident had suggested the installation of a Perspex or metal silhouette of a soldier with all funding going to Help for Heroes Combat Stress. There were insufficient details to be able to make a decision. Cllr Cox to request further information.

**Cllr
Cox**

Phone box – a parishioner queried whether an old disused BT phone box could be removed. Clerk to contact BT and request removal.

Clerk

Grass verges – thanks were made to Cllr Black for clearing the local grass verges. It was queried which authority had responsibility for the grass cutting. Clerk to investigate and request regular cutting.

Clerk

10. Planning applications

18/01261/HSE Mere Cottage, Bartletts Down Lane: demolition of existing single bay garage and erection of oak frame garage. No objections.

Clerk

11. Financial matters

- a) Payments Approval – the Clerk presented the financial statements (appendix C). The payments were unanimously agreed. Clerk to process.

Clerk

- b) Insurance renewal – the Clerk advised that the PC insurance is now due for renewal. The council had signed up to a three-year long-term agreement with Came & Company in 2016 and the renewal cost of £288.46 was agreed. Clerk to process. **Clerk**

12. Lengthsman tasks

Cllr Harris suggested that the Lengthsman be asked to clear the ditch at Crux Easton. Agreed and Clerk to process. **Clerk**

13. Date of next meeting

Cllr Cox closed the meeting, thanking all the speakers for their contributions, and thanking members of the public for attending.

The next meeting will be on 26th June at 7.30 pm.

APPENDIX A – Gigabeam and Cllr Hannah Golding's Report



Ashmansworth
Parish Council

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018 22nd MAY

1



Ashmansworth
Parish Council

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL Broadband Initiative

- History
- Investigation
- Financing
- Deployment
- Future

2



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History

- BT broadband speeds very limited due to distance to Highclere exchange <2Mb/s – 0
- BT had promised to bring Superfast to centre of Ashmansworth, not Crux Easton or outskirts
- They then took us out of their program
- Existing service of poor quality due to old cabling and distance from exchange, up to 8km – often crackly or cut off!
- Satellite expensive, slow, with low data limits

3



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Investigation

- Consulted a number of potential suppliers, both wireless and fibre.
- Problem is we are remote, quite small, stretched out with many trees, so only Gigabeam offered
- Took advantage of our height with Gigabeam since we can see their Winchester mast
- Able to bounce signal between our two villages
- Had planned relay from Winchester but too far, so needed a direct microwave link

4



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Financing

- Gigabeam previous customers near Winchester but we needed microwave link plus more relays
- This infrastructure would cost around £30k
- Raised around £20k by voluntary contributions from villagers leaving shortfall of around £10k
- Very grateful to Basingstoke for a £10k grant from their broadband infrastructure fund
- BDUK grant of £350 per household for router and antenna also greatly appreciated

5



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Creating a digitally-enabled borough

Councillor Hannah Golding
Cabinet Member for Digital Innovation and Inclusion
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Communication Improvements and Technology
Infrastructure Fund

supported by
 Basingstoke
and Deane

6



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Deployment

- Microwave link from Winchester
- Wireless to houses near Lower Manor Farm
- Wireless to New Cottages, Crux Easton, relay to surroundings and back to Ashmansworth houses
- Relay via Cross Lane Cottage, the Plough etc
- About 50 houses covered with 10 or 30 Mb/s UP and Down link speeds. Very reliable!
- Very grateful to Gigabeam for excellent service & to those who support relay stations – cheers!

7



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Pictures



8

APPENDIX B - Achievements and Financial Report 2016/17



Future

- BT have now brought a cabinet to Ashmansworth but can expect no customers.
- BT announce plans with no dates, so blocking competitors and BDUK grants.
- Only 2 or 3 houses here not yet connected – very difficult to reach, but working on it!
- Gigabeam may be able to offer similar service to neighbouring areas - we wish them every success!
- <http://www.gigabeam.co.uk/> 01962 678620

9



Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Apologies
- Elections (and co-option?)
- Presentation on Achievements and Financial Report
- Report from Borough / County Councillors
- Report from Police
- Report from the Village Hall committee
- Public discussion and questions

10



Parish Council Elections for 2018/9

- Result of parish council elections
- Election of Chairman
- Election of Vice-chairman

11



Who were we last year?

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • Alan Cox | Chairman |
| • Kieron Black | Vice-chairman |
| • Andrew Bays | |
| • Sally Burch | |
| • Angela Harris | |
| • Sadie Owen | Clerk |

12



Our Role

- Cover villages of Ashmansworth and Crux Easton
- Lowest level of democracy
- Provide guidance on Planning Applications
- A link to Borough and County Councils on what is planned and what we want
- Focus of local interest eg: Neighbourhood Watch
- Non-political
- One of the smallest in the county, limited budget
- Thanks to all members for their hard work!

13



What do we do?

- We meet roughly every 6-8 weeks, in the Village Hall
- We had 4 new Planning Applications in last year. 2 of these were approved, 2 we objected to, 1 of which is still pending. Also 4 tree applications OK
- Greatest concern on Broadband and Recycling
- Lots of interest in Road Repair and Safety
- Village details on Website and Facebook
- Budget to spend our Precept to benefit Parish

14

Concerns

- Access to Newbury Recycling
- Some potholes repaired but others appeared
- Cross Lane verges damaged during winter
- Roadside litter, though residents have been collecting it
- Would like residents of Crux Easton to use more of our services, eg Taxi-share, village hall, table tennis...
- Still concerned at A343 junctions
- Extra tasks for Lengthsman?

15

Clerk's Report

- County and borough cut backs continue had the impact that we raised the precept last year to cover the lost limited grant that is being phased out by BDBC.
- We have a great new 'Useful links' page on the council website which provides links for reporting pot holes, reporting fly tipping and viewing planning applications. Please visit www.ashmansworth-pc.gov.uk/Ashmansworth-Parish-Council/Useful_links_2928.aspx
- We are still struggling to find some meaty tasks to keep the lengthsman busy and would urge anyone to come forward with suggestions. This year he was able to assist the PCC in replacing a stile and clearing the churchyard.
- GDPR is obviously a hot topic at the moment and will come into effect on 25th May. It won't significantly impact the parish council although we will be setting up official emails for all councillors to support the requirements.

16

Financial Report

- Income was as expected this past year.
- Income of £748 in BDBC Grants & £4,123 Precept.
- Extra grant from BDBC of £276 for grass cutting.
- We also had a fairly large VAT reclaim of £673.
- Expenditure roughly as expected.
- Reserves built up by a smaller amount than less year. Opening balance £3,817, closing £4,468
- Annual return figures not available – audit booked for June.

17

The Year Ahead

- The Precept for 2018/19 has remained at last year's amount of £4,123.
- This is in line with budget spend predictions and will also allow the council to make some small donations.
- The Lengthsman scheme will continue for 2018/19 and we again have a budget of £1,000 to allocate to local works.

18

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Ward of Burghclere, Highclere and St Mary Bourne

includes Ashmansworth, Ecchinswell,
Newtown, Sydmonton and Bishops Green

- **Graham Falconer:** VC Audit and Accounts Committee; Scrutiny Committee, Performance Panel
- **John Izett:** Portfolio Holder for Property
- Workload is geared towards the Council

BDBC property

- £260m commercial property
- Manydown 3,400 dwellings
- Basing View new offices and hotel including the AA
- Leisure Park redevelopment

BDBC Finance

- £460 million of assets
- £165m cash and equivalents
- £18m rental income from commercial property
- £6.7m from council tax
- *Government funding shrinking to zero*
- New investment strategy – Invest to Grow; Property Investment
- 2% returns on cash, 6 to 8% on commercial property

2016/17 highlights

- Local Plan adopted
 - 850 dwellings per annum
 - Key sites identified, none in our Ward
 - 150 windfall target
 - Beware the infill and garden developments
- Liaison with HCC
 - Permits for HWRC
 - Pot holes
 - Sandleford development
- Neighbourhood Plans
- LIF Funding in Ecchinswell, Burghclere and St Mary Bourne

Planning

- New structure and appointments have been very positive
- Duty officer is there to help
- The 50 house application for Highclere was rejected by Officers
- We are likely to see applications for < 10 dwellings
- Successful Enforcement against the builders in St Mary Bourne who introduced street lights
- S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy

Going forward

- Devolution – all quiet but latest bet is for three Unitary Authorities
- Local Infrastructure Fund is working well: the Portal Hall, Burghclere, the Village Centre in St Mary Bourne, Ecchinswell Village Hall
- Boundary Review – stay as-is but have to go for all out elections or go to three councillor Wards
- This is my 4th year of a 4 year term

County Council Issues

- Councillor Tom Thacker
- County Council Report
- Roads
- Broadband
- Recycling
- Lengthsman – rather quiet this past year – need more projects for new year

25

Roads

- Some pot holes repaired but new ones now need doing
- They repair only the worst ones, leaving adjacent ones, which then need doing shortly afterwards, so very costly
- Concern at poor drainage at Doiley Bottom which caused surface water to freeze and cause accident during the winter.

26

Broadband

- Great appreciation for new Gigabeam service
- Very reliable and fast, with excellent service!
- Thanks to some residents, BDBC and BDUK for financial assistance

27

Neighbourhood Watch

- Contact with our PCSO John Dullingham
- Generally quiet during past year
- Warn residents of local threats
- Thanks to co-ordinators:
 - Sally Burch for Ashmansworth and
 - Angela Harris at Crux Easton

28

Police Report

- PCSO Hope has left the force and is replaced by PCSO John Dullingham, who sends his apologies
- Fairly quiet year with no major incidents affecting us
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Priorities are:
- Speeding/Traffic Issues
 - Speed traps and community Speedwatch
 - Our PCSO has patrolled to reduce speeding
- Burglary non-Dwelling
 - Incidents increasing, especially in Kingsclere area but also some locally in Highclere
- Burglary Dwelling
 - Still fairly rare
 - Also, car keys stolen from houses and then cars disappear!

29

Policing Report 2

- Across his patch, he reports that in the last year:
 - Suspicious incidents down from 119 to 110
 - Assaults down from 54 to 36
 - Criminal damage unchanged at 39
 - Road traffic incidents up from 56 to 63
 - Anti-social behaviour down from 60 to 48
 - Public Order events up from 21 to 28
 - Non-dwelling break up from 34 to 41
 - Dwelling break up from 7 to 13
 - Theft from Vehicle down from 34 to 26
 - Theft of vehicle up from 2 to 8
 - Drugs up from 5 to 10
 - Theft down from 39 to 27
 - Action Fraud up from 6 to 7

30

Contact

PCSO 12960 John DULLINGHAM

Hampshire Constabulary,
Tadley Police Station, Mulfords Hill,
Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 3HZ

External: 101

Twitter: @HighclerePolice

Email: john.dullingham@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.hampshire.police.uk

Alerts: <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>

31

Village Hall Report

- Main improvement is provision of Wi-Fi at 10Mb/s up and downlink, kindly provided by Gigabeam

32

Conclusions

- Thanks to all for their hard work, turning out to meetings on cold dark evenings!
- Welcome suggestions and assistance from everyone, especially for Community Enhancement
- What more would you like us to do?

33

Parish Council meeting

- Planning applications, if any
- Financial payments & Insurance renewal
- Annual return sign off
- Date of next meeting

34

APPENDIX C

Financial statement : Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date : 22/05/2018

Balances:

Statement No: 04/05/18 Balance	Balance after reconciliation - 22/05/18
£6,704.73	£6,462.09

Payments since last meeting date :

[illegible]

New Items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
22/05/2018	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary March	147.64
22/05/2018	A D Clark	Invoice 200	95.00
TOTAL			242.64

Receipts since last meeting date :

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
TOTAL			0.00

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			0.00