

ASHMANSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council

Date: 2nd November 2021 **Time:** 7.30 pm
Place: Ashmansworth Village Hall
Present: Cllr Alan Cox (Chairman) Cllr Sally Burch
Cllr Angela Harris Cllr Graham Falconer
Cllr Andrew Bays

In Attendance: Sadie Owen (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Kieron Black

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Kieron Black.

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 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

a) New applications

T/00497/21/TCA Beech Crown, Ashmansworth Manor. No objections.

21/02939/FUL Steele's Farm. No objections based on maintaining an agricultural tie.

The council noted that planning applications were being processed by BDBC more swiftly. Cllr Falconer reported that BDBC was budgeting for a further 5 planning officers to address the large number of applications.

4. Council business

a) Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that once BDBC had approved a revised Code of Conduct the Clerk would ensure that the parish council's code reflected the borough's. The Clerk agreed to provide a brief training session for the councillors at that time.

b) Lengthsman tasks

The Clerk reported that the lengthsman was due to attend the parish again in February, but that should the council require he could attend in December. It was agreed that February would be fine.

Cllr Harris reported that due to differing opinions it had been decided that ditch maintenance at Crux Easton would no longer be required.

Cllr Cox commented that further to the work that the lengthsman had completed at Ashmansworth graveyard, a rota will be established for grass cutting for the forthcoming year.

c) Outstanding actions from past minutes

Cllr Cox commented that he had spoken to Ionos in relation to email archiving and urged all councillors to make use of the facility. Clerk to re-send links to all.

Clerk

Clerk to investigate the current invoicing and billing details from Ionos and to monitor the clerk's email storage facility.

Clerk

It was noted that Cllrs Black and Burch were due to request local help to cut the top of the hedge at the recreation ground. Cllr Burch agreed to action and to request that the resident invoice the parish council via the Clerk.

**Cllr
Burch**

It was suggested that all councillors should tactfully request the re-adjustment of floodlights in support of the Dark Skies initiative.

It was agreed that the Clerk would continue negotiations with Barclays to improve Cllr Cox's access to authorising bank payments via his Apple computer.

Clerk

Cllr Cox reported that there had been a power cut at the weekend causing a surge which blew a power supply affecting a few houses but that Gigabeam had promptly fixed the fault on Monday. It was agreed that Cllr Cox and Bays would meet with representative from Gigabeam to discuss the ongoing service to residents.

d) Update from Borough Councillor

Cllr Falconer reported that in relation to the Local Plan review, officers were currently in the process of evaluating SHELAA submissions (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment). It was suggested that Ashmansworth would probably be deemed too rural for any new housing developments.

Cllr Falconer reported that he had attended a number of Development Control Committee meetings whereby applications for 26 dwellings in Highclere, and 5 at Falkland Farm had been rejected.

It was anticipated that an application for 350 dwellings at Wash Water would be submitted by the end of the month.

Further, an application for the development of an Amazon warehouse near junction 7 of the M3 had also been rejected, however it was anticipated that this decision would be appealed.

Cllr Falconer commented that a new tax had been introduced by BDBC applicable to any new build applications in AONB submitted after 1st August 2021. Cllr Falconer agreed to circulate further details and commented that he was challenging imposition of the tax.

**Cllr
Falconer**

It was noted that BDBC garden waste collections had been seriously affected by a scarcity of haulage drivers.

5. Local Roads

Potholes/Road Repairs

Cllr Cox reported that the Drove had still not been repaired, although Cllr Thacker had been informed.

Cllr Harris commented that she had reported a number of potholes to HCC, that they had examined them, and had reported that the potholes were not serious enough to require repair.

It was noted that road edges were particularly dangerous, but were not deemed a priority when reported to HCC

6. Footpaths

No issues were reported.

7. Policing update

It was agreed that the Clerk would invite PCSO Josh Revett to the next meeting.

Clerk

It was noted that Cllr Black and Bays were due to draft a response to the PCC Commissioner detailing rural crime priorities and suggested intelligence gathering improvements.

**Cllrs
Black
& Bays**

Cllr Harris reported a recent case of arson to a beater's hut in Crux Easton.

Cllr Cox reported that two local outbuildings had recently been broken into on the same night.

8. Financial matters

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

Clerk

The Clerk handed over the purchased FLIR thermal imaging cameras and poppy wreaths to Cllr Cox.

The Clerk commented that an interim budget report would be presented at the next meeting to enable calculation of the precept.

9. Other matters

Cllr Cox reported that he had been approached by a member of the public who had requested permission to plant a tree in memory of a resident who used to live in Crux Easton. It was suggested that near the phone box may be a suitable location.

Cllr Cox to send an email to the local resident group to request agreement to the proposal

**Cllr
Cox**

10. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm. Next meeting Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Appendix A

Financial Statement: Ashmansworth Parish Council

Meeting date: 02/11/2021

Balances:

Statement No: 02/11/21 Balance	Balance after reconciliation – 02/11/21
£4,807.14 *****	£5,384.52

Payments since last meeting date:

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
21.09.21	1 & 1 internet	Email storage	£10.80
06.10.21	1 & 1 internet	Email storage	£3.00
20.10.21	1 & 1 internet	Email storage	£10.80
20.10.21	Sadie Owen	FLIR payment	£465.59
TOTAL			£490.19

New items for payment

Date	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
02.11.21	A D Clark & Son *****	Invoice 530	£190.00
02.11.21	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary October	£144.48
02.11.21	Mrs S Owen	Clerk salary November	£144.48
02.11.21	A D Clark & Son	Invoice 543	£285.00
02.11.21	A D Clark & Son	Invoice 557	£190.00
02.11.21	Mrs S Owen	Poppy wreaths (RBL)	£39.97
TOTAL			£993.93

Receipts since last meeting date:

Receipt Date	Payer	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT
27/09/21	BDBC	Precept	£2,061.50
TOTAL			£2,061.50

Payments not yet presented

Cheque No	Payee	Details	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			

***** Inv 530 erroneously not included in September payments, therefore starting balance has been amended (by + £190) to reflect the error.