

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 11 June 2012 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Mr Garry Charnock (Chairman), Mrs Pauline Tilley (Vice-chairman), Mrs Naomi Deynem, Mrs Lisa Allman, Mr David Wilson, Ms Georgina Lloyds-Watts and Jane Colville.

ALSO PRESENT: 15 members of the public

19 ANNUAL MEETING

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting and received updates from its parish organisations and community groups regarding their activities over the last twelve months:

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE – Peter Johnson

In March 2011, due to the new recreation field opening it lost some of its play equipment. In October 2011 it had some Lead stolen off its roof, it was replaced and then stolen again. The Village Hall has a positive bank account at the moment, with some internal alterations proposed including new storage and meeting room upstairs. Currently the freehold belongs to the church but is in discussions with it regarding taking it over. Garry Charnock proposed the GCNP could investigate the possibility of PV Panels for the village hall's roof. The Village Hall's usage is on the increase especially as a result of the Centre of Excellence Dance School.

In an event of an emergency the village hall has a kitchen, toilets and can offer shelter.

CRICKET CLUB – Robert Lewis

The club went on a successful trip to Benidorm in September 2011 and played in their Olympic Stadium. It currently has 43 Vice Presidents. It has recently won the mid-week league but the Sunday league has unfortunately folded. The club offers the opportunity for people who want to play cricket but not in a league. At the moment it doesn't have a junior section.

Garry Charnock to include in the next newsletter a plea for a new junior cricket coach.

FOOTBALL – Robert Lewis

Only 25% of Ashton Hayes 1st team players are from the village but with the new recreation field this was now changing. On a Wednesday there was training and a match for its players and the club was considering a junior club. Parking was an issue at the recreational field on match days.

ST JOHNS EVENLIST CHURCH – Rev Lamb

Rev Lamb has been in the Parish for 3 weeks and he advised that his post was a part time Reverend combined with training role. His goals were to make the church more inclusive, undertake greater outreach work and improve its links with Ashworth Timebank and the school. One the first Sunday of the month the church will hold Family Friendly Services. Rev Lamb was working to improve links with Ashton Hayes Primary and all school children were presented with a special New Testament to mark the Queens Jubilee. The vicarage was for sale at the moment, with Mr Lamb residing in the new village vicarage. The Church needs a new heating system and Garry Charnock agreed to investigate whether the GCNP could assist with it.

Incase of an emergency the church could offer shelter.

ASHTON HAYES PRIMARY SCHOOL – Mr Priddey

The school has had a busy year and has a new complement of Governors. The school has two new classrooms funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Solar Panels have been installed on the roof which were helping to reduce its utility bills. The school has excellent links with the Church and every child received a Jubilee mug, bible and coin to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. The school was hoping to develop its grounds and gardens and the Gardening Club was a possible option to help with the some volunteer manpower for this new project. Reception Class for September 2012 was over scribed. Car parking for parents was still a concern though the recent Police speed campaign has assisted. The school will provide some artwork to design in the Parish Rooms at the end of term.

In the case of an emergency the school can be used for Shelter and cooking.

ASHTON HAYES SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION – Mike Powers.

It had just received grants from the Lottery towards the latest project for a perimeter footpath and a new wooden snail. CITA has also awarded a grant to fund the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment, junior swing, litter bins and benches. The association has been successful in attracting lots of capital grants but they don't help towards the running costs of the pavilion. The association is looking to establish "friends of" the field and increase its revenue through increased lettings. The association has a marquee and will be installing a patio outside the pavilion.

GARDENNING CLUB – Trevor Scadeng.

The club goes from strength to strength with over 104 members and an average of 40/50 people attend its meetings. The club holds regular visits to public gardens and has some planned over the coming weeks. Members will be planting up the parish's flower beds when the weather improves and the new stone flower beds should be installed next week.

ASHTON HAYES COMMUNITY SHOP – Lisa Allman

The shop has been trading for three years now. Following the recent resident survey, the shop has taken on board all of their comments including changing some of its suppliers. The Christmas fair was success and the shop had a stall at the Jubilee fate and the forthcoming Kelsall Steam Festival. The Community Shop was short listed for a business aware. Electricity invoices have increased because of the increase in fridges and air conditioning and the GCNP was working to reduce them.

Incase of an emergency the shop has enough food in stock to last two weeks and was a good point of communication for the village. Lisa Allman received an award at the recent Cheshire Rural Women's Ceremony and thanks were expressed to Debs Deymen for her hard work.

ASHTON HAYES SCOUTS – Alan Reay

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for its recent donation towards the scouts new camping equipment. There were currently 24 active scouts and at least 15 attending each week. 4 Scouts recently received gold awards for Chief Scouts. A new Assistant Scout Leader has started. Ashton Hayes Scout Hut was still a threat. Tarvin Scouts have offered their hut but Alan confirmed that Ashton Hayes Scouts don't want leave the village. Land owner of the Hut was North West Water and they leased it to the Parish Council who sub-leased it to the Scouts on a peppercorn lease. There was approx. 50 years left on the lease.

Incase of an emergency the scouts have 30-50 tents for shelter, cooking equipment, and enough food for two meals, though they are all stored at the lowest part of the village and could be subject to flooding.

WI – Pauline Tilley

Ashton Hayes WI was 90 years old with about 20 members. 3 young mums from school had recently joined. The WI Hall was used by the church for social events and the field behind it was available for car parking, though in wet weather this was difficult. The Johnson family owns the field and if Ashton Hayes WI folds, it reverts back to them. A new heating system had been installed into the Hall but the electricity and grass cutting charges were increasing.

Incase of an emergency the WI can offer accommodation, cooking equipment, shelter and it is located in the highest part of the village. One of the WI members was a fully qualified First Aider.

ALLOTMENTS – Bryan Davies submitted a report on the allotments and this will be placed on the PC website. Carol Rowntree gave a personal overview on the progress. The allotments have been opened for 3 years now. All their

pitches are fully taken and two of them are attended to by junior members. There was a short waiting list and it was not a published facility.

In case of an emergency the Allotments could provide food.

ASHTON HOUSE NURSERY – by proxy Mrs Shepherd

The nursery has recently received an Outstanding Ofsted judgement and has excellent links to the school. It employs approx. 100 people and provided work experience opportunities for the young people in the village.

In case of an emergency the nursery can offer accommodation, shelter and cooking facilities.

GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT/COMMUNITY ENERGY COMPANY
– Kate Harrison.

Ashton Hayes established a Community Interest Company (CIC) in January 2012 to manage the renewable energy generation for the benefit of the community. It is their intention to build up renewable energy capacity and produce green energy and generate profits that can be ploughed back into projects that make our community more sustainable and resilient. It is only by undertaking these larger projects that it can progress more quickly on the goal of being a carbon neutral community.

It was successful in winning a grant from DECC to promote energy saving across the community in hard-to-insulate properties, developing a community information 'hub' and on investigating the potential for more renewable energy generation.

As part of the LEAF project it commissioned the New Economics Foundation to examine how it could quantify the social benefits associated with our project. The report is available on the GCN website.

The PV panels on the pavilion and the school are performing well. It has started to receive FiT payments for the pavilion but waiting to hear whether the school panels will produce FiTs, due to changes in the regulations during the installation period.

Following on from the LEAF project, it will be looking at some new technology for energy generation for both commercial and domestic properties within the village. It has decided to work on the basis of 'one technology at a time' so new ideas can be thoroughly tested.

The current Board comprises Professor Roy Alexander (Chair), Dr Mary Gillie, David Wilson, Kate Harrison and Garry Charnock. But everyone is welcome to be a member of the company. An AGM will be held in the autumn of 2012.

This will be announced around the village and anyone who was interested to become a member of the CEC will be invited.

The Energy Company thanked all the village organisations that have supported it, especially the Parish Council, Primary School, Community Shop and Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association. Also Scottish Power who are helping to monitor the community's energy use.

OLDER PEOPLE AT LEISURE (OPAL) – Jane Colville

OPAL previously Age Concern was operating out of 5 rural areas in Cheshire West. Kelsall and Ashton Hayes have a joint active group with 12 members and their average age was 90. Volunteers operate the club but does have 37 hours of a paid member of staff. The School and OPAL are running an intergenerational activity along with activities and support from the church. Ashton Hayes may in the future operate its own OPAL but greater support from volunteers would be required in order to make it work. A plea was made that if anyone knows any elderly people who were vulnerable and would benefit from belonging to OPAL to let Jane Colville know.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - Jane Colville

There were lots of volunteer resident working hard on drafting Ashton Hayes' Neighbourhood Plan and they were making excellent progress. The Steering Group was receiving lots of support especially from the University of Chester. Lots of local organisations have helped delivering the initial survey. A more detailed survey will be drafted shortly. The Steering Group was hoping to complete the Plan by Spring 2013.

ASHTON HAYES SINGS – Andrew Garman

Ashton Hayes Sings has been singing for 3 months with approx. 50 people participating. At least 40 people sing regularly but they are currently resting until September. New members were welcome to come along and sing.

20 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Dave Lee

21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr Garry Charnock declared a personal interest in the Planning application at 41 Peel Hall as the property belongs to his late parents.

Mrs Lisa Allman declared a personal interest in Ashton Hayes Community Shop as she is Chairman of it.

22 FINANCES

The following expenditure was approved for June 2012

15.6.12	100361	AUTELA LTD	June payrolle	£11.99	£7,379.18
	100362	Andrea thwaite	Reimbursement of Utilities invoice	£107.18	£7,486.36
	100363	British Gas	Gas bill	£0.00	£7,486.36
	100364	Scottish Power	Electricity at Parish Rooms	£26.40	£7,512.76
	100365	Andrea Thwaite	Salary - June	£363.00	£7,875.76

	100366	ASHRA	quarter management fee for Pavilion	£364.96	£8,240.72
	100367	ASHRA	Management fees	£300.00	£664.96
	100368	Community shop	Annual mtg refreshments	£8.28	£308.28
	100369	MRS G FORGRAVE	Wages may 15.5hrs	£97.80	£106.08
	100370	HMRC	Tax April, May and June A thwaite	£203.40	£301.20

23 The following income was received in June 2012.

100092	Scrabble Club	April Hire of Hall	£48.00	£12,835.00
100093	C S L H	Hire of hall 19 June	£12.00	£12,847.00
100094	C S L H	Hire of hall 21 June	£12.00	£12,859.00
100095	Thursday Club (Cash)	Hire of hall	£15.00	£12,874.00

24 PLANNING

The following applications were received and considered:

15 Affordable houses Ashton Road, - revised plans. The Parish Council was holding a Public meeting and Equity Housing was attending to discuss their application for 15 affordable houses.

41 Peel Hall Lane – rear extension. Pauline Tilley considered this application and after speaking to the neighbours the Parish Council did not have any objections to it.

ASHRA Recreational Field - Outdoor gym, playground etc. Jane Colville and Andrea Thwaite considered this application and after speaking to Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreational Association regarding their thinking about the layout of the equipment, the Parish Council supports this application.

25 HIGHWAYS

The Chairman confirmed that the pot holes the Clerk had reported in Church Road had been filled. The Clerk advised that Church Road (outside the nursery) was due to be resurfaced in 2013/14. It was reported that the grass verges had been cut recently but the grass cuttings had been left and made the village look untidy.

26 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk updated on the Community Governance review and confirmed that the statutory notices had been displayed. The process would take approx. 12 months.

27 ASHTON HAYES SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

ASHRA confirmed that they are holding their AGM on Thursday.

28 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Chairman confirmed that arrangements were in place for the Public Meeting with Equity Housing. The meeting would be held at 10am – 12pm at Ashton Hayes Primary School.

29 GOING CARBON NEUTRAL PROJECT

The Chairman confirmed that several offers for the Community Electric Car had been received and Kate Harrison was managing the sale.

30 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Jane Colville advised that a couple of drop in sessions were planned Saturday 7 July 10am – 1pm and Monday 9 July 6pm – 8pm in the Parish Rooms.

31 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs Naomi Deynem advised that the owners of the Cheshire railings on Church Road were looking to the Parish Council to help restore them. Concern was expressed as to whether this was the responsibility of the Parish Council and a question was raised as to who owns them?

AGREED: that

Naomi Deynem to speak to the owners and ask them who owns the railings and what are they willing to do towards their restoration.

Mrs Naomi Deynem also expressed concern over the condition of the rear of the Parish Rooms. The painting at the back of the rooms needed attention and the stones of the floor were too high and causing an issue.

AGREED: That

Mr Scadeng and Mr Wilson to try and resolve the problems.

Mrs Tilley thanked the Parish Council for their generous planter.

32 ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Mr Frank Bereton be cooped on to the Planning Sub-Committee for a period of twelve months.

All in favour of this co-option.

33 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Monday 16 July at 8pm.

Meeting finished at 10pm.