

MINUTES OF THE ASHTON HAYES and HORTON-cum-PEEL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm.
In The Parish Room, West End, Ashton Hayes.

PRESENT

Cllr Jane Colville – Chairman

Cllr Steve Davenport

Cllr Naomi Deynem

Cllr Dave Lee

Cllr Richard Kinsey

Cllr David Rounthwaite

Cllr Trevor Scadeng

Cllr David Wilson

Cllr Eleanor Johnson (CWAC)

Members of the public: 9

Clerk: Kirsty Lowe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lisa Allman – Work Commitments

Cllr Garry Charnock – Away

Cllr Barbara Craven - Away

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr Dave Lee declared an interest in point 6 of the agenda . ie. the Planning Application at Ashton House Nursery as he has two daughters employed there.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES.

Resolved unanimously that the minutes, as circulated, of the meeting held 11th January 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct and true record.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Prior to this meeting at 7.15pm the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk had held a surgery, an opportunity for members of the public to raise any matters of concern.

The following concerns were noted:

- The footpath/pavement past the Village Hall is very slippery with compacted leaves and recent rainfall causing a slip hazard, this was raised at the last meeting and Councillor Johnson will follow this up again with the Council
- The pathway between West End and Peel Crescent has improved but there are still some issues with leaves and dog fouling.
- There is a light out at the end of Dunns Lane – this has been reported once but the clerk will re-report to CWA&C
- Car Parking opposite the chapel on Ashton Lane continues to cause concern as up to 10 cars are parking on a Monday evening on the opposite side of the road to the Chapel and this will create a hazard for pedestrians and people pushing buggies or wheelchairs down Ashton Lane

Ongoing and appropriate action will be taken in respect of the above matters

Feedback was also given on matters raised at the last meeting

- The clerk in consultation with the Chair had emailed The Bretheren after obtaining contact details from a sign at the Chapel. To date there was no response and the next step would be to send a letter through the actual letterbox.

- The clerk has reported the issue of lighting around the area of the safety barrier near to the Pavilion and a reference number has been issued for attention to be paid to this by the Council .
- Councillor Johnson reported that there would be a joint Gowy ward meeting for representatives from all Parish Councils in the area and that there would at that meeting be discussion on commonly raised issues such as speeding and street cleaning.

5. ACCOUNTS

Resolved unanimously that the cash book to 31st January be accepted as circulated.

Resolved unanimously that the clerk be given delegated authority to make the following payments until the end of the financial year 2016/2017 in line with the Councils agreed finance regulations and the approved budget.

<u>Regular payments</u>	
AHSRA	£2000 per annum £500 per quarter as per the original Heads of Agreement document
Ashton and District Gardening Club	Up to £200 as per budget for planters
Around Ashton costs	Up to £850 as per budget
Clerk Salary	30 hours per month at the relevant pay scale Clerk to investigate option to pay by BACS
PAYE	Set by HMRC
Autela Payroll	Variable
Insurance	Up to £350 as per budget
Churchyard Grant	£500 [in addition to the grant received from the Council which is paid out to the Church]

Resolved unanimously to approve the costs of social history research relating to the war memorial at Ashton Hayes Church up to a maximum of £100

Resolved unanimously to accept the draft budget presented by the clerk with the amended figure of £200 for gardening and planters.

	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>2016/17</u>
-	
Clerk	£4,500.00
PAYE	
Expenses	£600.00
Payroll	£200.00
Insurance	£350.00
Training	£500.00
Grants	£1,000.00

Admin and Website	£1,000.00
Around Ashton	£850.00
AHSRA	£2,000.00
NDP	£1,000.00
Planters and Gardening	£200.00
WI	£4,500.00
CLT	£500.00
Snow angels	£1,000.00
Audit	£400.00
Memberships	£300.00
Parish Rooms	£1,000.00
Churchyard Grant	£500.00
Chairmans Allowance	£220.00
Legal Fees	£1,000.00
AH Cafe	
Elections	£500.00
S137	£300.00
Totals	£22,420.00

6. PLANNING.

The Council accepted the planning register to date.

The Planning Application 15/05033/FUL for Ashton House Nursery was discussed in detail

- The Chairperson outlined the context of the application and informed those present that the application has been “Called in” by Councillor Johnson and should go to a full Planning Board.
- The Chairperson gave a condensed report of the comments collated from the online Cheshire West and Chester Planning Website
- The Chairperson invited the owner of the nursery Mr Jack Sheppard and his agent to speak about the application from the nursery perspective
- The meeting was then opened to the public for 50 minutes for questions to be asked.
- The Parish Council then discussed the application and all agreed that safety is the biggest issue in question.
- Councillor Wilson read the comments that the Parish Council had made back to the Cheshire West and Chester Planning Department on a very similar application made earlier concerning the nursery which was later withdrawn by the applicant.
- The Chairperson asked Councillors if they would be happy for the previous comments made in respect of this earlier application form the basis of a response to this

planning application and all agreed with the addition of supportive comments in respect of the Ashton House Nursery as an asset in the village.

- The Chair will circulate a draft response for Councillors to agree and amend as appropriate.

7. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCE REGULATIONS

It was resolved unanimously to accept the model Standing Orders and model Financial Regulations provided by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

8. CHALC LETTER REGARDING NEW HOMES BONUS

It was resolved unanimously that the clerk would write to Cheshire West and Chester regarding the planned changes to the New Homes Bonus and that the template for the letter would be the ChALC example which had been sent to Councillor Armstrong, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Legal, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Colville gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and asked Councillors to encourage the public to respond. The plan is available online and at 5 different points in the village. Cllr Colville reported that the consultation period is now approximately half way through and a reminder would be sent to those living in the village.

10. WI HALL AND COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Cllr Rounthwaite gave an update on progress from the last meeting. Cullimore Dutton appointed on behalf of the Parish Council are waiting for the WI solicitor to give confirmation as to the exact plot and terms of sale. Costly searches and further legal work will not be undertaken until this confirmation is in place.

The Community Land Trust now has fuller understanding of S106 funding following the Scoping Day and this will be followed up in due course.

11. SEISMIC SURVEY

Information sent through on Seismic Surveying in the locality will be made available on the Parish Council website until such time as there is further information regarding Ashton Hayes.

PART 2

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE ASKED TO LEAVE THE MEETING

COUNCILLOR DAVENPORT ALSO LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

12. CLERK

The Chairperson will circulate the Parish Council Expenses Policy to Councillors

It was agreed unanimously to increase the hourly rate of the Parish Room Caretaker from April 2016 in relation to the national minimum wage/living wage statutory increase. The increase will take into account the present differential and details have been circulated to all Councillors by the clerk.

The Chairperson reported that the clerk's probationary period ended at the end of January and it was resolved unanimously that the appointment be made permanent.

The Meeting Closed at 9.50pm

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The next meeting takes place 14th March 2016

Signed:..... Dated:.....