

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL — held on Monday 12th February 2007 – 7.30pm in Ashton Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes, Chester.

PRESENT: Mr H Deynem (Chair), Mrs P Tilley (Vice-Chair), Mr L Greaves, Mrs D Stubbs, Mr Lee, Mr K Hartley, and Mr I Irving

ALSO PRESENT Cllr A Garman, Cllr Burke, PC Thompson, Ms N Thompson – Chester City Council's Community Wardens, 9 members of the public, and Mrs A Thwaite (Clerk).

165 APOLOGIES

APOLIGIES: Mrs N Deynem, Cllr Fairhurst

166 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were raised:

Prejudicial:

Mrs Tilley – Item 18 (i). Mrs Tilley is a member of the Muir Housing Group and left the room during the discussions.

Mrs Tilley – Item 11 (ii). Mrs Tilley is a School Governor

PERSONAL:

The following members declared a Personal Interest in item 11 (II) as they have children at the school: Mr Deynem, Mrs Stubbs, Mr Irving, and Mr Lee.

Mr Charnock declared a Personal Interest in item 11 (ii) as he is the Going Carbon Neutral Coordinator.

167 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DISCUSSION – Verbal Update by Chester City Council's Community Wardens. (Ms N Thompson)

Members received a presentation from the Community Wardens relating to the background to the service. Nicola Thompson also gave members an update on the recent anti social behaviour issues that have been experienced in Peel Crescent results. The Wardens have been working closely with the individuals involved and hopefully the problems wont happen again.

PC Greg Thompson, also updated members on the recent anti-social behaviour issues and re-affirmed Ms Thompson's address that hopefully these problems have creased.

The individuals involved with the recent anti social behaviour issues also attended the meeting and confirmed that they have stopped causing a nuisance. They confirmed that they wanted somewhere to play football and are at the moment playing football elsewhere instead of Peel Crescent.

RESOLVED:

1. Presentations and updates be noted

168 SET THE PACE CAMPAIGN. – Justine Hart, Cheshire County Council

Members received a presentation from Ms Hart relating to the Set the Pace campaign. It was agreed that the Parish Council would sign up to the campaign as individuals and as an organisation.

RESOLVED:

- 1 The Parish Council and individuals to sign up to the campaign
- 2 The Clerk to organise to have the SID machine in the village again during March
- 3 The Parish Council to promote the scheme through it's newsletter, Hay Day and posters

169 MINUTES

The Minutes of the January's meeting were accepted as a true record.

RESOLVED:

1) It was agreed to include Mr Johnston comments in the minutes relating to December's meeting. The comments are as follows:

1. I congratulated the Parish Council for raising a loan to purchase land for recreational use but not for the purchase of Lot 4.
2. I objected to the purchase of Lot 4 for the reasons you reported.
3. I complained about the lack of communication from the Parish Council.
4. I referred to a meeting I had with the Chair on 29th October 2006. The Chair told me the PC discussed telling me of their intention to purchase the field but decided against in case I competed with them. P Tilley said no such discussion took place. The Chair confirmed the decision not to consult me was discussed by a sub-committee and not the full PC.
5. I had no contact with the Chair prior to the auction. Indeed the only time I have ever spoken to him was at the meeting on 29th October 2006 which I instigated.
6. I offered to purchase Lot 4 so the PC could acquire alternative more suitable land that was not subject to a restrictive covenant.
7. I concluded by stating that the actions of the PC to date were not compatible with a Parish Council looking to achieve Quality Status.

FUTURE MINUTES:

RESOLVED

It was agreed that from now the parish council's minutes are going to be a formal record of official acts and decisions, not a report or verbatim report. They will be short, consistent and precise. Discussions will only be recorded in future if the decision cannot be clearly expressed in any other way.

It was also agreed that no minutes should be changed in future unless the Parish

Council formally votes on it.

170 HIGHWAYS

Members were informed that the pending safety improvements to Kelsall Road footpath and Scout Hut Lane will be commenced in the next financial year.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Clerk to make a further appointment with Mr Anderton from Cheshire County Council.

171 ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

Members held a discussion over the possibility of the parish council having its own website.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Mr Charnock to investigate this further
- 2) The Clerk to enquire about possible funding for the initial set up costs
- 3) The Parish Council to consider other village websites and how to link with them when establishing their site.

172 PEEL HALL PARK

Cllr Garman informed members that the developers of Peel Hall Park have progressed with establishing that passing places were to be sited on the access road.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Cllr Burke to enquire on County's progress with the resurfacing of the lane.

173 HIGHWAYS

Mrs Tilley informed members that Cheshire County Council are currently serving notice on some of the owners of the current overgrown hedges in the village.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Mrs Tilley to provide details of the Notices to the Clerk

174 AMENITIES

PLAYGROUND URGENT REMOVAL OF MOSS

It was reported that the Moss from slop up to the Playground has been removed.

175 PART II – PUBLIC, COUNCILLORS AND PRESS EXCLUDED FROM THIS PART OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

- 1) It was agreed that the discussion over awarding the grant of £300.00 should have been undertaken in part I and not part II.

176 COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A) PARISH PLAN

A Member of the Parish Plan Steering Group updated members on progress to date.

RESOLVED:

1. Members note the update.
2. It was agreed that the Parish Council and Parish Plan's websites need to link with no duplications arising

B) AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mrs Tilley left the room for this part of the discussion.

Cllr Garman updated members on Muir Housings request for the Parish Council to identify suitable sites in Ashton Hayes for the possibilities of future affordable housing in the village.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Due to length of Muir Housing Affordable Housing Project and the current workload of the Parish Council it was agreed that this subject be deferred for approximately six months.
- 2) The Clerk to inform Mr B Bailey of Muir Housing, of this decision and cc Cllr Garman and Fairhurst in this correspondence

C) PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Cllr Garman asked the parish council to reconsider the timings of their meetings due to the clash with Kelsall. The Clerk informed members that she now does not have any clashes with her evening meetings with her other employment but requested that the meetings don't get pushed back into the month due to logistic issues.

RESOLVED:

- 1) It was agreed to defer this decision until the AGM.

D) PART II – AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Garman raised concern over the "over use" of Part II on the Parish Council agenda and the exclusion of Ward Members.

RESOLVED:

- 1) It was agreed to use Part II for items that are relating to the Legal issues surrounding the Recreational Field.

ACTION:

Clerk to obtain guidance from the Association over attendance at Part II items

The Official Guidance from the Association of Town and Parish Councils is as follows:

People who can participate in Part II are required to have Status. The only players at a parish council meeting are the Clerk and the Councillors (those duly elected to the parish council). Part II excludes the press and public - a City Cllr is not a Clerk and is not a Parish Councillor therefore there is no statute or power enabling them to stay, indeed if anyone other than the clerk or Parish Councillor's were to be present this would change the status of the meeting to a public one.

Mr Johnston - December's Minutes

RESOLVED: It was agreed to include Mr Johnston's comments relating to the December's meeting in the February minutes. See minute: 169.

177 CORRESPONDENCE

Scouts Ashton Hayes
Future of Scouting in Ashton Hayes
2007 Centenary year. It is time to review the position of the Scouts. Emailed around prior to mtg

Northwest Air Ambulance
Thank you
Thank you for the donation of £100.00

Chester City Council
Consultant of amendments to the Model of Code of Conduct.
Comments required.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that Members should note the contents of the consultation.

White Young Green
Vale Royal Borough Council
Scoping study consultation period and a call for sites.

Chester City Council
Council Minutes
Distribute

Cheshire Assoc of Local Councils
Newsletter
Emailed across

Cheshire Community Council
Community Pride Award
2007 Entry

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the Parish Council should enter the competition and Mr Chamock to assist the Clerk in the completion of the entry form.

Mr Johnston suggested that to assist the parishes entry an application for an Area Cttee grant for repair and repainting of the railings outside the Village Hall be submitted.

This was agreed and the Clerk and Mr Johnston to liaise relating to estimates and submitting the grant form.

Chester City Council Grant Aid
Application for a grant from Area Committee

178

HIGHWAYS

No issues reported

179

AMENITIES

1. Playground Inspection Rota

Sunday 4th February
Ken Hartley

Sunday 11th February
Hugo Deynem

Sunday 18th February
Lionel Greaves

Sunday 25th February
Naomi Deynem

RESOLVED:

Please forward all completed Inspections Sheets to the Clerk as soon as possible.

2. Paperless Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed the Parish Council should consider the concept of a paperless parish council and use email as much as possible.

3. Temporary appointment of Parish Rooms Booking and Admin Clerk

RESOLVED:

Due to the increase in the number of hours the Clerk has to work at the present time it was agreed to appoint Mrs Tilley as Temporary Parish Rooms Booking and Admin Clerk. The appointment has been cleared by the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils.

180

PLANNING

Chester Rd by Pass. Change of use of field.

No negative comments made.

Ashton Hayes Primary School – Construction of a wooden outdoor shelter.

RESOLVED:

Due to the Declarations of Interests raised to this application, Mr Greaves and Mr Hartley to undertake the application.

Mr Johnston – Ashton Hall. Conversion of Barn to Holiday Lets.

No Comments made.

181 FINANCE

EXPENDITURE:

Chq 927 - Mr J Conry – Parish Street Cleanser
Chq 928 - Mr P Tilley – Jan - Feb £58.30
Chq 929 - Mr Paul Varery Parish Plan £52.85
Chq 930 - Hartford Hall Buffet Lunch £37.50
Chq 931 - £2,000 Going Carbon Neutral Project – invoice to follow
Chq no 134 – 603.13 GCNP
Chq no 135 – united utilities £21.02
Chq no – 136 Scottish Power £32.27
Chq no 137 - Mr P Tilley – Back pay £77.43
Chq no 138 £67.57. Expenses GCNP
Chq no 139 – Ashton Post Office
Chq no 140 - £144 Boiler Maintenance

INCOME

Healing Zone	Hire of hall	£40.00
Various (see stub)	GCNP Conference	£225.00
Harrison	GCNPConference	£70.00
Jollands	GCNPConference	£70.00
Chester City Council	GCNPConference	£35.00
Dona Parham	GCNPConference	£40.00
Westcott GCNP	GCNPConference	£70.00
Parr/Ivring	GCNPConference	£40.00

182 PROJECTS

1. Carbon Neutral – update (see attached update for January)

Climate Challenge Fund

PROGRESS REPORTING FORM – CCF8

Name of organisation:...Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral

Date of report:.....27 November 2006

Task/Activity*

Completion date

Output/s

Outcome/s

Expenditure

Additional comments

Develop Audio/video resource

December

2006

Showing 2007

14 hours of

footage completed, script written, video editing, video to have world premiere on 25th January

Video diary of key project events, conferences to share with other communities and add to toolkit

£2,300 on video shooting and editing.

Sponsors contributed as planned by providing editing suite and free equipment

Project coordination, lectures, newsletters, website updates

Ongoing

Report to January 2007

Web site updated weekly,

presentations given to the following communities:

Stratford

Westminster Park

Stirling

Burton

Brilley

Tattenhall

Kelsall

Forest Row

CRed conference

Good Practice seminar Chester

LGA Rural Conference

Chester

Chester Cred launch

Weaverham (2007), Earby (2007)

Numerous communities have followed our lead declared their intention to go for carbon neutrality. Others have adopted our logo. Many are to attend the 2007 DEFRA sponsored conference we are holding.

Other communities in Cornwall, Somerset, Northamptonshire are requesting talks.

£1900 on project coordination (to be billed

Our project has obviously inspired other communities to take action and we are now receiving about 2-3

requests a week to provide advice and to give talks. The toolkit will be sent to all communities.

Attitudinal surveys and footprinting

October 2006

50% of households surveyed by Chester University team, analysis completed and presentation/posters produced. Work still to be done on carbon sinks in the area. New survey started to discover why some people do not participate.

Survey forms given to other communities.

Personal action plan given to each house that completed the survey, with a pathway to carbon neutrality suggested. This will form part of the toolkit.

Baseline footprinting shows we emit almost 5,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year but we reduced this by 1% in the first 16 weeks since the January launch (i.e. pre the footprinting survey)

£2000 to cover University data collection and analysis costs

The survey generated a lot of interest in the village and we were delighted to have around 170 houses take part. We have learned a lot about what we should ask on the 2007 survey and also feel we now have the data to produce a footprint ready-reckoner for other communities. This will be added to the toolkit.

Public meeting for project anniversary

25th January 2007

Anniversary event at the primary school. George Monbiot to speak and bring Channel 4 Dispatches TV team. School children, WI, Brownies and sponsors involved

'World premiere' showing of project film about our activity in 2006 (part DEFRA funded) and talks on activities planned for 2007 – village microgrid, improvement to energy efficiency of school buildings, new footpath to

station, 2007 student footprint survey, PCT pilot scheme.

Financed by local business sponsors – DEFRA grant of £1000 to support the event.

DVDs of the film will form part of our planned 2007 toolkit to be given out at the April 14th conference (see below). Public engagement and involvement continues to be strong with the project team expanding to 27 in the year since we started. New sponsors offering support weekly and increased media attention.

Grass roots conference on climate change

14th April 2007

University conference centre booked

Party venue book for delegates

60 people reserved places from communities around the UK. We have a total of 150 places.

The toolkit will be given to delegates and this will guide them into setting up and running their own grass roots projects. Mark Lynas of the New Statesman says he will speak and cover the event.

We shall be spending £5000 on the meeting. So far we have spend approximately £3500. We shall also be spending £1000 in distributing the toolkit.

The conference idea is very popular and it may be worth considering this as an annual event in Chester. We would welcome a speaker from DEFRA.

183 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

No requests received.

184 COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AFFECTING ASHTON HAYES AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

Kelsall was hit by vehicle thieves this week. There were 8 thefts from Ford Focuses and this appears to be a trend. We are experiencing vehicle and burglary crime in the early and late evenings at present all over our area and I would ask that any suspicious persons are reported.

185 OPEN FORUM

ASHTON HAYES PARISH COUNCIL – PROJECT EXPENDITURE

A member of the public requested a breakdown on previous financial year's expenditure relating to Project Expenditure

RESOLVED

Clerk to provide a breakdown for March's meeting.

DOG BANS

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the Village Hall and WI fields are to receive a dog ban

AREA CTTEE:

A member of the public updated members on the recent Area Cttee meeting and specifically the possibility of rural villages having access to a portable deliberator.

RESOLVED: Members requested additional information relating to this to a future meeting.

186 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th March 2007. 8pm.

Presentation by Mrs P Twig – Tarvin Playgroup Fund Raiser

187 PART II

Exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED:

- 1) It was agreed to write to Steggles Solicitors requesting that an open dialogue with Hill Dickenson's client be commenced.
- 2) It was agreed that Mr Deynem and Mr Hartley to continue with their fact finding mission with Hope University.
- 3) Mr Lee to liaise with contractors regarding the cutting of the grass and rolling of it at the field. Two estimates to be obtained.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed


Date