

ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 7.00pm

In the Chair:

Mrs F Helme (parish council chairman)

In attendance:

4 residents of the parish
Mrs Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1/16 Apologies for absence -

Andrew Hammond, Grant Powell, Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

2/16 Welcome by the chairman of the parish council

Mrs Freda Helme welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3/16 To approve the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 24th March 2015 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the chairman.

4/16 Annual report from Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman Mrs F Helme reported that her second year as chairman had been a productive time with the ongoing production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village and the setting up of a village website. She paid tribute to the late Cllr Nick Rumsey whose support for the parish especially in Woodend was very much appreciated. A former clerk, Martin Field had also passed away and condolences had been sent to his wife. The parish council documents had been retrieved from his house and thanks were expressed to Andrew Hammond and Janet Chester for helping the chairman with this task. The chairman thanked Grant Powell for keeping the village green mown. She concluded by thanking Cllr Eustace for his work as footpath officer always monitoring the footpaths stiles and gates in the parish, Cllr Hammond for his advice on planning issues particularly the application for a proposed development North of Ashperton village hall, Janet Chester the clerk for ensuring the business of the council runs smoothly and effectively and is conducted in accordance with the law, and finally all councillors for their support.

5/16 Annual report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Cllr Lester had sent his apologies and had emailed the clerk the following report:

In my absence please can you relay the important points for the meeting:

a) The last full meeting of council was on 20th May. At this meeting the first neighbourhood plan was formally adopted by council, that being the plan for Weston under Penyard. In future the formal adoption of the plans will not have to go to council but will be ratified by the cabinet member responsible for planning.

b) The council's Local Transport Plan was formally adopted on 20 May 2016. This is a key document for Herefordshire that will promote new infrastructure to achieve growth both in housing and economic development, as well as identify the need to promote highway safety and pothole management. It is a challenging issue but we now have a formal plan to move forward.

c) I have met with both Herefordshire MPs to discuss funding arrangements from central government and discussed the white paper concerning educational excellence and academy conversion. As you will have heard the proposal to force academy structures on schools will now not go ahead. My view is that improvements in school arrangements will always be required and so we intend to carry on with the schools capital investment strategy. I wait to see with interest what form the white paper will now take.

As always if there are any issues or help required please call or email me accordingly.

6/16 To note the attendance of parish council members

| Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2015/16 | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|------|----------|------|------|--------|
| NAME | MONTH | | | | | | TOTAL |
| | MAY | JULY | SEPT | NO V | JAN | MAR | |
| FREDA HELME (Chairman) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 6 OF 6 |
| PAUL BARNES | Y | Y | Y | Y | APOL | APOL | 4 OF 6 |
| ROWLAND EUSTACE (V-Chair) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 6 OF 6 |
| ANDREW HAMMOND | Y | Y | Y | AP OL | Y | Y | 5 OF 6 |
| GRANT POWELL | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 6 OF 6 |
| NICHOLAS RUMSEY | Y | Y | Y | Y | APOL | Y | 5 OF 6 |
| JOHN WYTON | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 6 OF 6 |
| J CHESTER (CLERK) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 6 OF 6 |
| J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR) | Y | Y | Y | AP OL | Y | Y | 5 OF 6 |
| NO MEETING HELD = | | | | | | | |
| NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR = | | | | | | | |
| CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL = | | | | | | | |
| EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING = | | | | | | | |

7/16 To receive financial report from the parish council (figures quoted are provisional and subject to audit)

The clerk advised that figures had been internally audited by Mrs Nadine Schofield and were subject to the annual external audit. Mrs Schofield was thanked for carrying out the internal audit.

Opening balances as at 1st April 2015 – current account £13006.04

Income £7844.27 Expenditure £17828.71 plus unrepresented cheques £2037.49

Closing balances as at 31st March 2016 – current account £5059.09.

The village hall kitchen refurbishment has been completed and a new parish website has been set up.

The annual budget for 2016/17 had been set at £6000 and the precept at £6500 and has been requested and accepted.

8/16 To receive an update on Ashperton Neighbourhood Plan

The steering group are working tirelessly to produce a plan for development in the parish up to 2031. Two questionnaires have been produced and two consultations have taken place, the draft plan will be presented to residents at an open event on 25th June and further feedback requested before forwarding the plan to Herefordshire Council for formal six week consultation. This would be followed by any amendments, examination and referendum. The clerk asked for all documents to be forwarded for updating the website.

9/16 To Receive report on activities and accounts from:

i. Ashperton Village Hall

Mr Bob Hayden has retired and has handed the books to Freda Helme. The balance at the end of the year was £264.00. A full report will be available once all bank statements and records have been examined.

A constitution also needs to be arranged for the management of the hall. The kitchen refurbishment has also been completed and bookings of the hall are increasing. Thanks were expressed to Alan Dixon for painting the apex, Jenny Jones for painting the notice board, John Wyton for cutting back the ivy and Nicholas Builders for replacing a slipped tile on the roof and Andrew Hammond who has donated some floor tiles to be laid in the entrance porch. Savings are to be made in the future by changing the Fire Service safety checks of alarms and extinguishers to annually rather than six monthly which will save £108 and a better contract being arranged for the electricity. More volunteers are welcomed to look after the hall.

ii. Ashperton Consolidated Charities

In 1692 the Reverend James Baggard left the village 10 acres of land at the rear of Ashperton School, Two other people also left other items, and in 1980 these items were amalgamated with the charity commission to form Ashperton consolidated charities. Mrs Freda Helme is the clerk and there are six trustees and the chair is always the local vicar to the parish. Land rent is currently £90 per acre and has been agreed for the next three years bringing an income of £748 per year. Payment of £715 was made at Christmas to 13 recipients (£55 each), people long residing in the parish and £50 given to one student Helen Elkington. All students leaving school to enter work, an apprenticeship or university get a one off payment of £50. Beneficiaries are reviewed in October each year and suggestions of beneficiaries (the young, the old and the needy) for the year were invited to apply. The charity commission do not like large funds to be held indefinitely so the trustees of the account agreed to purchase a remembrance plaque for £2040 including installation and placed inside the church to remember the fallen of World War I and World War II. Further details of the consolidated charities are available inside the village church.

10/15 Open Forum

No matters raised

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed..... Dated.....