

# ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester  
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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.00pm

### In the Chair:

Mrs F Helme (parish council chairman)

### In attendance:

36 residents of the parish  
Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester  
Mrs Janet Chester – Clerk to Ashperton Parish Council

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Hammond, Paul Barnes, Mr & Mrs Hartman

### 2. Welcome by the chairman of the parish council

Mrs Freda Helme welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 3. To Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (previously circulated)

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

### 4. Annual report from Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Helme advised that the parish council had met six times during 2016, the minutes of each meeting were available on the website [www.ashperton.org.uk](http://www.ashperton.org.uk). Members of the public are always welcome to attend. Two residents have come forward to fill the current vacancies. On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 an application for outline planning for 10 houses on land north of Ashperton Village Hall was approved by Herefordshire Council despite the parish council representing the parishioners objections. Three houses are also being built between 44 and 47 The Ditch. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is at pre-submission stage and it is imperative that we progress this through as soon as possible to Regulation 16 and formal adoption as Herefordshire Council cannot demonstrate their five year housing plan and the county is therefore at risk from developers. 900 new houses are proposed in Ledbury. Residents from Canon Frome Court very kindly donated a defibrillator to the village which is situated on the village hall outside wall. The Parish Council obtained a grant for the outdoor cabinet to hold it in. A heart start first aid course was well attended by villagers. Ashperton Parish Council have granted Ashperton Parochial Church Council a grant of £150 towards the mowing and upkeep of the churchyard. Volunteers have come forward to refurbish the village phone box and a maps will be placed in it for passers-by and ramblers. The chairman concluded her final report with thanks were given to Janet Chester the parish clerk who is now CiLCA qualified and gives support and guidance to the parish council, to fellow parish councillors, Grant Powell for mowing the village green and residents for their support during her chairmanship of the Parish Council.

## 5. Annual report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Cllr Lester advised he is the county councillor with responsibility for Childrens wellbeing. He wants to ensure that children are given the best health care and education and best opportunities for them to reach their potential. In 2016 the county results were in the early years achievement is above national average which has been sustained over the last 4 years. Key Stage 1 SATS were above national average and Key Stage 2 English above national average. High school results are in line with the national average and sixth form and sixth form college results above national average with 99% A\* to E and 32% obtaining A\* grades. 92% of primary school age pupils are taught in good or outstanding schools in the county. With high schools it was 80% but one schools recent result it has gone down to 65%. The department for this responsibility at Herefordshire Council has gone from 20 staff members to 1.6 members. Ward Cllr Lester is also responsible for safe-guarding. Herefordshire Council has 75 social workers, 31 family support workers, 3 heads of service and 11 managers, total workforce of 151 staff. There are currently 303 looked after children in the county, this number will increase with 7 unaccompanied asylum seeker children and a further 25 earmarked before July. The county's adoption service is rated as good. 29 children were adopted last year. Herefordshire Council are currently selling off their small holdings. Council tax has been increased by a total of 3.9% with 2% (£53million) ringfenced for Adult Social Care spending out of a total budget of £143 million. Herefordshire Council have their AGM later this week where the chairman of council will be elected and a debate on councillor allowances is expected. Herefordshire Council continue to support the new university project. Ward Cllr Lester closed by advising residents that if there are any issues or help required please call or email him accordingly.

## 6. To note the attendance of parish council members

### ASHPERTON PARISH COUNCIL Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2016 - 2017

NAME	MONTH						TOTAL
	MAY	JULY	SEPT	NOV	JAN	MAR	
<b>FREDA HELME (Chairman)</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<b>6 OF 6</b>
<b>PAUL BARNES</b>	Y	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	APOL	<b>3 OF 6</b>
<b>ROWLAND EUSTACE (V-Chair)</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<b>6 OF 6</b>
<b>ANDREW HAMMOND</b>	APOL	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	<b>4 OF 6</b>
<b>VACANCY</b>							
<b>VACANCY</b>							
<b>JOHN WYTON</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<b>6 OF 6</b>
<b>J CHESTER (CLERK)</b>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<b>6 OF 6</b>
<b>J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)</b>	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	<b>4 OF 6</b>

NO MEETING HELD =

NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR =

CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL =

EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING =



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

The clerk advised that the accounts were being internally audited by Mrs Sian Mather and were subject to the annual external audit. Mrs Mather was thanked for carrying out the internal audit.

Opening balances as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – current account £5059.09

Income £9289.79 Expenditure £8420.10 plus unrepresented cheques £852.77

Closing balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – current account £6781.55.

The annual budget for 2017/18 had been set at £6500 and the precept at £6750 and has been requested and accepted.

## **8. To Receive report on activities and accounts from:**

### **a) Ashperton Village Hall**

The kitchen refurbishment has been completed and the hall was let out 34 times in 2016. The hourly hire charge will be reviewed in September as it is currently well below other local village halls. The Parish Council are trustees of the hall. Janet Chester has taken on the role of treasurer. Andrew Hammond was thanked for donating some floor tiles to be laid in the entrance porch and it is hoped to refurbish the gents toilet. Damage to the hall and hall roof has occurred due to agricultural livestock haulage vehicles entering and leaving Dognall Lane. More volunteers are welcomed to look after the hall. It would be a great benefit to the hall for someone to look after the running of the premises ie looking at grants, energy rates, health and safety and other policies which need reviewing.

### **b) Ashperton Consolidated Charities**

Ashperton Consolidated Charities Report 2016

The 5 Trustees with Reverend Amanda Williams as Chair had a busy 2016. N C Pegler designed a WW1 Memorial for display in the Nave of St Bartholomew Church, it has inscribed the 14 men who died in WW1 plus 3 from the Second World War, in two corners are etched hop sprays. A fitting attribute to the mens background and in vogue with our Hop Church Membership, after a visit from the D A C and a payment of £289, a faculty was granted. The Memorial was installed in March, for a total cost of £1730 + VAT. It is planned to dedicate the Memorial on 3<sup>rd</sup> September by the Bishop of Hereford. Concern around access into the churchyard for agricultural tractors to undertake grass cutting and hedge trimming has been resolved thanks to the Trustees for the installation of a 14ft Gate from Baggards Land at a cost of £246 for materials, £200 labour. Christmas monies were given to 10 beneficiaries of £55 each, 1 family with special needs £120, 1 student grant £50, totalling £720. Baggards Land is undergoing reseeding, there has been a request from young residents for the land to change use and become a community project, this is in very early days, the Trustees need consultation with Charity Commission, to change use, with an income to meet Rev James Baggard Bequest . Any one needing help financially, the Trustees are available to discuss help. Further details of the consolidated charities are available inside the village church.

## **9. To receive an update on Ashperton Neighbourhood Plan**

The chairman asked the steering group to stand up and thanked them for working tirelessly to produce a plan for development in the parish up to 2031. The chairman of the steering group Andrew Tector advised that a copy of the draft plan submission document was available for all residents to take away and look at before giving feedback, copies would also be sent to residents not present at the meeting and a copy would be available to view on the website. He briefly outlined the contents of the document and advised that this would be the last opportunity for residents to have a say before referendum. A formal six week consultation is to be undertaken before forwarding the plan to Herefordshire Council. This would be followed by any amendments, examination and referendum.

## **10. Open Forum**

Local residents thanked Freda Helme for all her sterling work with both the parish council and village hall.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm**

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT