

ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, HR8 2RZ
Tel: 01531 670036

e-mail: ashperton.pc@btinternet.com
website: www.ashperton.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7.00pm

In the Chair:

Mr R Eustace (parish council chairman)

In attendance:

8 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

None

2. Welcome by the chairman of the parish council

Mr Rowland Eustace welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. To Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2017 (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

Councillor Eustace gave the following report

“Annual Report

Following my first year as chairman, I can report a relatively quiet time. We resolved our dispute with the Herefordshire planning department regarding their handling of the application for the development North of the Village Hall. I think we convinced them that our objections were not out of pique, but constructive and valid. The Village website has been revised and so it should be easy for residents to follow what we do as a council as well as providing an easy access to current planning applications within the parish made to Herefordshire County Council. The Neighbourhood Plan, regrettably, has stuttered due to

technical requirements, but is now back on track and the regulation 14 consultation finishes on the 26th June, so that we should be in a position to move forward to the next stage. I wish to thank the volunteers, who revealed the village pump – like sleeping beauty freed from her thicket of thorns, and, also, the larger group that tidied up the village pond and Green. The Village was seen in its best light by the large number in the parish who helped motorists stranded in the snow, not only shovelling snow, pushing or towing vehicles, but also charitably looking after those who were stuck over night. It would be nice if the public spirit displayed extended to filling the vacancies on the council. I hope that the village can join the county wide effort in removing litter. Whilst it is not a major problem, there is still plenty in the verges and ditches alongside the roads. Parishes are becoming more dependent on their volunteers as the tendency for the County Council is to pass responsibilities, with their attendant costs, to the parishes. Grant Powell must be thanked for keeping the grass on the Village Green cut, Cllr Andrew Hammond for his advice on planning issues and particularly to the Clerk, Janet Chester for ensuring that the council not only operates efficiently, but also within the law and finally all councillors for their support.”

5. Annual report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Cllr Lester reported that the last year had been a busy one. For the majority of the year he was cabinet member for childrens services with a highlight of this being the official opening of the new Colwall Primary School in February. On 9th March he was elected leader of Herefordshire Council and three cabinet meetings have been held since his election where subjects discussed have included support for young carers, allocation of social housing and corporate plan priorities for the coming year. Cabinet meetings are now audio-cast to enable anyone to listen to the proceedings of each meeting. A grant of £4.6 million has been granted to Marlbrook School. Key decisions are still to be made on the Hereford bypass route and the future provision of libraries and museum and archives. A recent corporate review peer challenge has recently taken place. 70 people in Herefordshire Council were interviewed and an analysis took place resulting in the council being told it is doing well but needs to promote what they are doing more and work with communities to achieve better results. The sale of Herefordshire Council small holdings was valued at £37 million but achieved £46 million when they were sold. 25 farmers bought their own farm, renewed the tenancy with the new owner or retired. The next full council meeting is the AGM where the chairman, vice-chairman and leader are elected, councillor responsibilities decided and the constitutional review discussed.

Ward Cllr Lester closed by advising residents that if there are any issues or help required please call or email him accordingly.

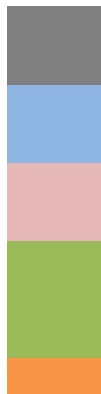
6. To note the attendance of parish council members

ASHPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2017- 2018

NAME	MONTH								TOTAL
	MAY	AUG	SEPT	9TH NOV	NOV	JAN	FEB	MAR	
FREDA HELME	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 8
PAUL BARNES	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	APO L	Y	6 OF 8
ROWLAND EUSTACE (Chairman)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 8
ANDREW HAMMOND	APO L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	6 OF 8
E JAMES	Y	Y	Y	APOL	N	APOL	APO L	N	3 OF 8
VACANCY									
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 8
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 8
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	APO L	Y	Y	APOL	APO L	Y	APO L	Y	4 OF 8

NO MEETING
HELD =
NOT ELECTED
COUNCILLOR =
CO-OPTION ON
TO COUNCIL =
EXTRA
ORDINARY
MEETING =
DISQUALIFIED =



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

The clerk advised that the accounts had not yet been internally audited and were subject to the annual external audit.

Opening balances as at 1st April 2017 – current account £6781.55
 Income £8155.00 Expenditure £6762.56 (plus £852.77 unrepresented cheques from 2017/18)
 Closing balances as at 31st March 2018 – current account £7321.22.

The annual budget for 2018/19 had been set at £8425 and the precept at £7430 and has been requested and accepted.

8. To Receive report on activities and accounts from:**a) Ashperton Village Hall**

The treasurer reported that the opening balance as of 1.1.17 was £512.88. Receipts total £788.00. Expenditure total £828.99. Closing Balance 31.12.17 £471.89

A new bank mandate and new signatories will be completed. The hall floor is softening and has been damaged by some of the ride on toys and kindly repaired by Jenny Jones. The electricity contract is due for renewal in August. The toddler group no longer meets. New ideas are required on how to increase the lettings and income of the hall.

b) Ashperton Consolidated Charities

Ashperton Consolidated Charities Report

The trustees have met twice during 2017, 23rd February and 20th November. At the February meeting the chairman Rev. Amanda Williams gave details of a meeting with parents outlining ideas for community use. At the November meeting it was decided to terminate the lease of Baggards Land to the current tenant on 31st December 2018. A new strategy for use will be decided during the year. Monies were given to 11 beneficiaries totalling £635. Ashperton Primary Academy were given £50 towards wild flower seeds and bird boxes. Total spent £685.

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

A formal six week Regulation 14 consultation is to be undertaken before forwarding the plan to Herefordshire Council. The consultation ends on 26th June. This would be followed by any amendments, examination and referendum.

10. Open Forum

The village pump and trough are to be put back in position. The hedge needs trimming back to its original width and distance from the road. A meeting has been held with Herefordshire Council representatives to discuss ways to lower the speed of vehicles through the village. Various options are being explored including speed threshold gates and speed indicator devices.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....