

ASHPERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs J Chester, Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2RZ
Tel: 01531 670036 website: <https://ashperton.org.uk>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Ashperton Village Hall on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Present:-

Councillors Rowland Eustace (chairman), Andrew Hammond, Eleanor James, Nancy Nicklin and John Wyton

In attendance:-

Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: 7

The Chairman Cllr Eustace welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To Accept any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason

Three Crosses Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester and resident Jenny Jones.

2. To Record any Declarations of Interest and Consider any Requests for Dispensations

None.

3. Councillor Vacancies – To Note Councillor Vacancies and To Receive any Nominations for Co-Option

There remain two parish councillor vacancies. Councillors will continue to spread the word about the remaining vacancies.

4. To Consider Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 25th September 2019

The minutes of the meeting held 25th September were APPROVED as a true and accurate account and duly signed by the chairman.

5. To Receive a Brief Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor, Mr Jonathan Lester

Ward Councillor Lester had sent his apologies together with the following report:-

The last main meeting of the administration was Cabinet on 24th October. The meetings are now held in the evening to attract more people however it was poorly attended with only two or three members of the public.

The next cabinet will be held at 6.00 pm in Leominster. I made the point that Hereford, due to its central location is the best place to hold meetings. It makes no odds to me to travel to Leominster, however, councillors having to travel all the way from the south of the county may have a different view, and vice versa when it is held in Ross for those in the north. They replied that they are trialling it. Ashperton will be the second parish council meeting I have missed due to these evening meetings.

On the cabinet agenda was items relating to corporate parenting, fostering and adoption and the use of reserves.

At the corporate parenting strategy report, where the council focuses on its responsibilities for looking after children in care some of the progress was listed by Cllr Norman. I politely reminded them that these were steps forward taken by the last administration. I also pointed out that the progress report wasn't explicit

enough about what steps staff are taking to recruit and retain social workers, which did sound encouraging once officers went into detail.

With regard to the Fostering report I praised staff and carers because we do have a good service. I stressed that councillors in the past had been keen to focus on a few bad things and did not focus on the many achievements, this service being one of them. However, I warned that if the Council does not tackle the high look after children numbers then it will only put too much pressure on the fostering and adoption service and so things needed to improve.

With the item on reserves I warned that these were funds that should be spent on unforeseen issues that arise from demand led services and the uncertainty around Brexit and funding from National Government. Our administration had been prudent and taken the prudent steps in increase reserves. I pointed out that the only way to replace them would be to burden the taxpayer; also a penny saved is a penny earned.

In other news, with regard to the bypass I see it as a real positive that the Cabinet member for Infrastructure agreed with the wisdom of the Scrutiny committee to carry on with work concerning the bypass projects whilst they review the whole initiative. Whether that will continue remains to be seen.

This week there is the next cabinet meeting with a packed agenda regarding the Better Care Fund, a programme regarding dementia care, and a programme to extend Marlbrook School in Hereford.

On Friday I will be chairing the first of the scrutiny committees regarding the budget. Details of both of these agendas are on the Council website and they are well worth a read.

6. Public Participation Session for Local Residents to raise matters relevant to the Parish Council

(Please note: Decisions cannot be made on items not on the agenda) *This item to be limited at the discretion of the chairman*

Residents present expressed their strong concerns over the planning application 191013 Land North of Ashperton Village Hall. Changes have been made during the planning process and they wondered if the public will be consulted on these changes. They feel that the public comments already made are being undermined by the actions of the planning department and its incompetence.

Footpath AP6 needs a drainage ditch alongside it to make it less muddy. The stile by Tunnel Cottage needs making safe or replacement installed.

N.B. The public left the meeting at this point.

7. Planning: NB: no paper copies of applications are available to view at the meeting unless specified

a) To Consider Planning Applications referred for comment: None

b) To Note Details of Decision Notices Received from Hereford Council: as per planning record

8. To Receive an Update on Ashperton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Herefordshire Council NDP Regulation 16 Consultation is ongoing and runs until 10th December. After this the plan can proceed to examination stage.

9. Finance:

a) To Note Finance Report and Bank Balances

Noted. Bank Balance as at 5th November 2019 £13877.93

b) To Decide Parish Precept Requirement for 2020/2021

The clerk had circulated a draft budget for the financial year 2020/2021 for the September meeting. Councillors were minded to request a precept of £9000 (the same amount as 2019/2020).

RESOLUTION: It was decided to request a precept of £9000 for 2020/2021.

c) To Consider Payments of Outstanding Accounts

000468: J Chester – clerk salary Oct/Nov (as per contract) and expenses £79.01 (antivirus software)
 000469: HMRC – PAYE Oct/Nov – £9.00

All the above invoices were APPROVED for payment and the cheques signed

10. Highways/Footpaths:**a) To Note Weekly Reports from Balfour Beatty Locality Steward – Noted****b) To Note any new Highway and Footpath Defects and work for the Lengthsman**

As minute 6 above.

c) To Discuss Footpath AP6 Ashperton Park Wood

Due to the high rainfall this year the footpath is very muddy.

RESOLUTION: When conditions allow a drainage ditch alongside the path will be installed and improvements made to drainage across the path so that water does not pool on the path.

d) To Consider Salt/Grit stock for the parish

Balfour Beatty have offered to supply 1 tonne of salt for the parish. It needs to be stored inside on a hard surface.

RESOLUTION: The clerk will put a notice in the local magazine asking if anyone has suitable storage area and is willing to hold this stock .

11. Information Section / Correspondence / Discussion:**a) To Review Information and Outstanding Actions**

Reviewed and Updated.

b) To Discuss Speed Reduction outside Ashperton School

The clerk has spoken to Fownhope Parish Clerk and they run a Community Speed Watch programme. Volunteers receive training and carry out a speed watch a couple of times a month collecting data and reporting to the Safer Roads Partnership.

RESOLUTION: It was felt this was a good idea if enough volunteers came forward. The clerk will put a notice in the local magazine asking for volunteers to express their interest.

c) To Discuss Safer Roads Partnership Speed Van Frequency.

The clerk had received correspondence from the Safer Roads Partnership advising that there is no set schedule for when the van/bike are in the village but they come to Ashperton and Stretton Grandison frequently.

d) To Discuss Provision of Bus Shelter at top of Heywood Lane

RESOLUTION: It was decided to ask Herefordshire Council to carry out an assessment of where to put a bus shelter in the village.

e) To Discuss contact for Village Hall Bookings

It was agreed that Cllr Hammond become the contact for village hall bookings.

RESOLVED.

12. Reports:

The clerk had attended the HALC Conference and AGM. The topic for the day was "Community".

13. Training / Meeting Dates: To note any forthcoming training and meeting dates

The latest HALC Training diary had been circulated.

The next parish council summit is due to be held on 19th March 2020.

14. To Raise Items for next scheduled Parish Council Meeting (no discussion)

- VE75

15. To Confirm Dates and Time of Ordinary Meetings for the ensuing year

All held at Ashperton Village WI Hall at 7.30pm unless advised otherwise

2020 – Wed 29th January, Wed 25th March, Wed 27th May

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed:.....Chairman

Dated:.....

Information Sheet

DATES OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS – (all held at Ashperton Village WI Hall at 7.30pm unless advised otherwise)

2020 – Wed 29th January, Wed 25th March, Wed 27th May

PARISH CLERK UPDATE

- Road defects reported to Locality Steward / Herefordshire Council via website
- Website updated
- NDP Support work undertaken
- 2020/2021 Draft Budget Prepared
- Financial Regulation amended
- Floods in parish reported

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Balfour Beatty – Weekly Locality briefings *
- Balfour Beatty – Herefordshire Road Closure Notices *
- Balfour Beatty – PFO Briefing 23rd Oct *
- Balfour Beatty – slides from PFO Briefing *
- Herefordshire Rural Hub - Oct & Nov newsletters *
- HALC – Information Corner & Training Schedule*
- HALC – Conference & AGM 23.11.19 *
- Herefordshire Council – Herefordshire Travellers Site DPD Adoption *

- Herefordshire Council – Climate Change The Great Collaboration *
- Herefordshire Council – PC Summit Fri 20th Sept workshop notes*
- Herefordshire Council – Budget 2020/21 & Corporate Plan Consultation *

* Circulated to Cllrs.

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS - These are the consolidated actions outstanding after the last meeting:-

Meeting	Minute	Action	Status	Comments
Sept 2017	9.2	RE	Ongoing	Contact Cricket Club re installation of footpath gate
Aug 2018	12c	AH	Ongoing	Village Hall Keyholders contacts to be put on notice board/window
July 2019		clerk	ongoing	Arrange date with bank for village hall bank mandate

PLANNING RECORD

182827 Land adj. The Ditch, 44 Ashperton Road Proposed new build cottage style building

PC Comment: PC no objections

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION GRANTED 15.10.18

183941 – The Hopton Arms Public House, Ashperton, HR8 2SE

Proposed change of use into two semi detached dwellings complete with ancillary amenity space and external garden areas, on site parking for both new dwellings, on site turning heads and suitable reformed access drive into application site

PC Comment: The Parish Council strongly object to this application. A letter outlining these objections will be formulated and forwarded to the planning department.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION – REFUSED 28.3.19

184628 – Land to the South West of Holmlea, Ashperton, HR8 2RZ

Outline planning application for 2 dwellings on land south west of Holmlea. Amendments to the existing access to improve highway safety.

PC Comment: The Parish Council object to this application. A letter outlining these objections will be formulated and forwarded to the planning department.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: REFUSED 10.6.19

P190682/F - The Ditch, Building Plot 2 44 Ashperton Road Ashperton Nr Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2RY

Proposed new build detached dwelling

PC Comment: The Parish Council object on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: REFUSED 14.10.19

P190646/FH - Croft Orchard Ashperton Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2RY

Proposed double bay oak frame carport extension to existing garage

PC Comment: The Parish Council have no objections

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: GRANTED 18.4.19

P190452/FH - Walnut Tree Cottage Woodend Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2RS

Proposed alteration to existing rear extension to extend first floor over

PC Comment: The Parish Council have no objections

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: GRANTED 11.4.19

192073 Tuston Farm House Ashperton Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2RT

Proposed erection of three polytunnels

PC Comment: The Parish Council have no comments to make.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:

191013 Land to the North of Ashperton Village Hall Ashperton Herefordshire ,

Application for approval of reserved matters following Outline 152041 (Proposed residential development of 10 dwellings(amendment to original application)) for the approval of Appearance, Landscaping and Scale including details to address conditions 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 & 24)

PC Comment: The Parish Council object to the drainage proposals and the appearance and scale of the dwellings as being totally out of character with the existing properties in the village. They also wish to ensure that the flats/offices above the garages have conditions attached to them so they cannot become separate dwellings. It is also felt that the proposed number of car parking spaces allocated for the dwellings is not adequate.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: