

# 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 Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held online via Zoom on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30pm**

### **Present:-**

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

### **In attendance:-**

Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester  
Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

### **Members of the Public: 0**

The Chairman Cllr Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

None.

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

Cllr Eustace declared an interest in agenda item 8c as he is currently a member of Ashperton PCC.

#### **3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> May were APPROVED as a true and accurate account and duly signed by the Chairman. The Chairman will forward the signed copy to the clerk.

#### **4. To Receive a Brief Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor, Mr Jonathan Lester**

Ward Cllr Lester advised that Herefordshire Council are implementing changes under Emergency Active Travel Measures in town centres for covid-19 social distancing with making roads either one way, 20mph or closing them. This has created a backlash by traders particularly in Market Towns as it could block trade which is vitally needed by businesses and shops to recover after the past three months of closed premises. During lockdown parking in towns was free but on the day that businesses and shops re-opened parking charges were re-introduced by Herefordshire Council, again met by businesses with some anger so a u-turn was made so that there will not be any parking charges for another month whilst businesses recover. There is a cabinet meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July to solely discuss the performance of Herefordshire Council over the last 12 months. On 17<sup>th</sup> July there will be a full council meeting via zoom. Cllr Lester advised that Herefordshire Council has purchased Maylord Shopping Centre for £4.5m but have no firm proposals of what to do with it to guarantee a good return on the investment.

#### **5. 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*

None.

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

- a) To Consider Planning Applications referred for comment: **(to be viewed online prior to the meeting)**

None.

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

**7. Finance:**

- a) To Note Finance Report and Bank Balances as at 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 £15134.68

- b) To Receive 2019/20 End of Year Accounts

Opening Balance 1st April 2019 £9415.84. Income £9000.00 Expenditure £7535.16 unrepresented Cheques £607.74 Closing Balance £11488.42. All income and expenditure was £1465 within the budget figures and reserves are healthy.

- c) To Consider the Internal Auditors Report

It was RESOLVED to approve the Internal Auditors Report

- d) To Approve the Annual Governance Statement for the External Auditor

It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Return Governance Statement which were signed by the Chair and the clerk.

- e) To Approve the Annual Accounting Statements for the External Auditor

It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Return Accounting Statements and they were signed by the Chair.

- f) To Consider Completing the Certificate of Exemption for External Audit of End of Year Accounts

It was RESOLVED, that as the parish council did meet the requirements, to approve the signing of the Certificate of Exemption from External Audit. The certificate was signed by the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer.

- g) To Consider Payments of Outstanding Accounts

000478: Herefordshire Council – Election May 2019 Fee - £77.32

000479: HALC – training course Leading Lights Cllr Nicklin - £48.00

000480: J Chester – clerk salary June as agreed plus expenses

000481: Eyelid Productions – website accessibility compliance fee - £50.00

RESOLVED : All the above invoices were APPROVED for payment

**8. Highways/Footpaths:**

- a) To Note any new Highway and Footpath Defects

The hook on the gate on the village green has disappeared

- b) To Discuss Dam and Path alongside the Fishing Lakes

Residents have raised concerns that they are no longer allowed to walk over the dam at the fishing lakes which they have been doing for a number of years. The dam belongs to Ledbury Anglers Club and although not part of a Public Right Of Way has been part of a popular and well used circular walking route.

RESOLVED: The clerk will invite the chairman of Ledbury Anglers to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss their plans.

**c) To Discuss Letter received from Ashperton PCC re footpath through the churchyard**

A letter requesting funding for top dressing the recently exposed footpath has been received by the clerk from Ashperton PCC.

RESOLVED: After lengthy discussion it was decided that the parish council would not fund the top dressing of the path. The Parish Council were not consulted before the project began and feel that the path in its current state is level and smooth and would allow easy wheelchair access and that the edges would be easily maintainable. If top dressed with gravel or chippings wheelchair access would be problematic. The clerk will advise the PCC.

**9. Information Section / Correspondence / Discussion:**

**a) To Review Information and Outstanding Actions**

Noted and updated.

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

Village Hall Roof Leak  
Telephone Kiosk

**11. To Confirm Date and Time of Next Scheduled Meeting - Wed 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 7.30pm**

Meeting closed 20.55pm

**Signed:**..... **Dated:**.....

**Chairman of the Parish Council**