

# 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 online via Zoom on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 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 Receive any Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason**

None

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

None.

### **3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held 27th January 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 at a meeting of Herefordshire Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February both the bypass and transport packages were cancelled and £12m written off. £3.8m has already been spent and may need paying back. This decision was made by a no named vote and met with dismay by the press and a Freedom Of Information request was made to find out how councillors voted. At a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February an increase of 4.99% in council tax was approved. 6<sup>th</sup> March meeting Council Tax was set. A motion was discussed to break the deadlock with the phosphate issue affecting and holding up planning application decisions. A scrutiny meeting was held to discuss the Fownhope road closure and why it took 15 months to resolve the matter – Balfour Beatty and partners designed a solution to then find out they didn't have a crane big enough. There is an ongoing debate at Central Government about whether council meetings can continue to be held online after 6<sup>th</sup> May deadline.

### **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*

A large polytunnel has been erected at a property in the village, no other complaints had been received to date.

## 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 – noted

## 7. Ashperton Neighbourhood Development Plan

- a) To Note Date for and Discuss NDP Referendum

Noted – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**RESOLUTION:** The parish council will produce a letter drop to remind residents to vote.

- b) To Discuss Implications of Decision not to make/adopt the NDP.

**RESOLUTION:** It was AGREED to proceed with the NDP referendum despite the ongoing complications phosphate levels in the River Lugg catchment area were having on planning applications and decisions.

## 8. Finance:

- a) To Note Finance Report and Bank Balances as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 - £14417.66

- b) To Consider Purchase of Replacement Parish Council Laptop

The clerk reported that the laptop has broken and wished to purchase a replacement to enable continuation of work.

**RESOLUTION:** The clerk was authorised to find a compatible laptop subject to a maximum budget of £650.

- c) To Consider Payments of Outstanding Accounts

000493: Autela - Payroll Services Q4 - £61.45  
 000494: J Chester – clerk salary Feb & March as agreed plus expenses  
 000495: HMRC – PAYE Feb/March - £15.20  
 000496: Eyelid Productions – Annual Website Support - £100.00  
 000497: HALC – Annual Subscription - £346.81  
 Direct Debit: ICO – Annual Data Protection Fee - £35.00

**RESOLVED:** All the above invoices were APPROVED for payment

## 9. Highways/Footpaths:

- a) To Note any new Highway and Footpath Defects

Cllr Nicklin has obtained a quote for the parish council to purchase a Speed Indicator Device for the village. Ward Cllr Lester is pressing Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty about the diabolical condition of the A417 and A4172 which are in the annual plan for repair.

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Nicklin was asked to forward details of the quote to all councillors and the clerk, so other quotes could be sought. The clerk is to check the insurance.

b) To Discuss the Quality of Repairs to Potholes in the Parish

Councillors are disappointed with the quality and speed of repairs to potholes in the parish.

**RESOLUTION:** Ward Cllr Lester will complain to Herefordshire Council on our behalf.

#### 10. Information Section / Correspondence / Discussion:

a) To Review Information and Outstanding Actions

Noted and updated.

b) To Discuss Ashperton Consolidated Charities Trustees

The above board normally has two members of the parish council on it, currently only Cllr Wyton is on the board. Its AGM will be held in May.

**RESOLUTION:** It was decided that Cllr Nicklin become the second representative from the parish council.

c) To Note Receipt of Ashperton War Memorial Book for Safe-keeping

**RESOLUTION:** Noted.

#### 11. Ashperton Village Hall

a) To Discuss Village Hall Safeguarding

**RESOLUTION:** Cllr Hammond is to obtain a Model Acceptance Letter from Community First.

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

- Layby opposite the school
- Fishpool Paths
- Speed Indicator Devices
- Village Hall Safeguarding
- Water Meter for Village Hall

#### 13. To Confirm Date and Time of Next Scheduled Meeting - Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.15pm

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

**Chairman of the Parish Council**

## Information Sheet

**DATES OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS** – (all held at Ashperton Village WI Hall at 7.30pm unless advised otherwise)  
2021 - TBC dates of online meetings via Zoom during Covid-19 restrictions  
Provisionally Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May, Wed 28<sup>th</sup> July, Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Sept and Wed 24<sup>th</sup> November

### PARISH CLERK UPDATE

Road defects reported to Locality Steward / Herefordshire Council via website  
Website updated  
VAT claim submitted  
Precept requested £9250

### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Balfour Beatty – Locality briefings \*  
Balfour Beatty – Herefordshire Road Closure Notices \*  
Herefordshire Rural Hub – Feb & March newsletters \*  
Herefordshire Council – Talk Community Covid19 updates \*  
HALC – Information Corner & Training Diary\*

\* 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
Nov 2019	10c	RE	ongoing	Footpath AP6 to have a drainage channel installed
Jan 2020	6	All	ongoing	All footpaths to be checked and repairs made as required
Jan 2020	12c	clerk		Put notice in parish magazine asking for volunteer cleaners for village hall

### **PLANNING RECORD**

[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:**

[200614 – Land adjacent No1 The Ryders, Church Lane, Ashperton, HR8 2SP](#) – Proposed new dwelling (Re-consultation as plans and supporting documents amended)

**PC Comment:** Members of Ashperton Parish Council have considered the above application and, taking account of representations from Ashperton residents, the consensus is that no further development off Church Lane should be permitted unless the visibility to the right at the junction of Church Lane with the A417 has been substantially improved. That visibility is effectively restricted to the width of Church Lane itself. Although there are already a number of properties off Church Lane any further development would materially increase the use of the junction resulting in significant incremental detriment to highway safety contrary to Core Strategy policies and to the policies of the National Planning Policy Framework.

#### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:**

[201343 – 40 Ashperton Road, Ashperton, Ledbury, HR8 2RY](#) – Removal of existing outbuilding and proposed single storey rear and side extension

**PC Comment:** The Parish Council have no objections.

#### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:** GRANTED 24.6.2020

[P202367/V - 1 The Ryders, Ashperton, HR8 2SP](#) Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the provision of a twin mobile home (not operational development) within the garden of the residential property for use as additional family accommodation (not material change of use). **ADVICE ONLY PC NOT CONSULTED**

#### **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:** Granted 14.9.2020

[P202984 - Land adjacent The Ditch 44 Ashperton Road Ashperton Ledbury Herefordshire](#) , Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 10 & 11 attached to planning permission 182827 **ADVICE ONLY PC NOT CONSULTED**