

## **ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Parish Clerk:** Janet Chester  
Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, HR8 2RZ  
Tel: 01531 670036  
e-mail: [ashperton.pc@btinternet.com](mailto:ashperton.pc@btinternet.com)  
website: [www.ashperton.org.uk](http://www.ashperton.org.uk)

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30pm**

### **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**

Paul Barnes

### **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 23rd May 2018 (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:

“Following my second year as chairman, I can report a quiet term. I hope that those who have wished to use the parish website have found it simple to do so. The Neighbourhood Plan, continued to stutter, but is now back on track so that regulation 16 can commence, but with the number of parishes at this stage I cannot imagine that it will become a speedy process.

The Village Green and War Memorial looked splendid for an impressive act of remembrance by the Little Marcle branch of the British Legion to mark the centenary of the first World War Armistice. Grant Powell must be thanked for mowing the grass on the green. As previously noted the County Council are devolving more responsibilities onto parish councils, so that they will become more dependent on volunteers to maintain their infrastructure. Cllr Andrew Hammond must be thanked for his advice and expertise on not only the Neighbourhood Plan but also an increasing number of planning issues and our hard working clerk, Janet Chester, must be thanked for ensuring that the council not only operates efficiently, but also within the law, and also all councilors for their support. Finally we have two councilors who will be retiring next month, both of whom will be greatly missed and who should be

gratefully thanked. Cllr Paul Barnes, who as a successful businessman in the parish, has given drive and sound advice to the council and Cllr Freda Helme, who has for so many years placed her unrivaled knowledge of the village at the service of the community. We now have three vacancies to fill, so that more than ever we would like volunteers to come forward and be co-opted onto the parish council.

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

This is the last parish council meeting I will attend before the elections. The past year has been an exciting one as I was elected leader of Herefordshire Council in March last year. As well as representing 9 parish councils from 18 parishes from their prospective, I also have the whole county prospective. Herefordshire Council has continued to invest in Herefordshires' economy whilst at the same time delivering services and keeping a resilient and caring community. Investment has been in schools, the university project, bypass and new housing to try and give young people the opportunities to continue working and living in the county. Schools results are consistently good. 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 (7 SEATS)

#### Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2018- 2019

NAME	MONTH							TOTAL
	MAY	AUG	SEPT	NOV	9TH JAN	30TH JAN	MAR	
FREDA HELME	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
PAUL BARNES	N	N	APO L	Y	Y	APOL	APOL	2 OF 7
ROWLAND EUSTACE (Chairman)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
ANDREW HAMMOND	Y	Y	APO L	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 7
E JAMES	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
VACANCY								
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	APO L	Y	Y	Y	N/A	APOL	Y	4 OF 6

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – current account £7321.22

Income £9894.33 Expenditure £8663.46 (plus £863.75 unrepresented cheques from 2018/19)

Closing balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – current account £9415.84.

The annual budget for 2019/20 had been set at £9865 and the precept at £9000 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 1.1.18 was £471.89. Receipts total £953.00. Expenditure total £642.09. Closing Balance 31.12.18 £782.80

A new bank mandate has been completed but the bank requires the new signatories to complete further forms. The cost of the electricity contract needs to be compared to other possible suppliers. Jenny Jones has currently taken over the cleaning duties from Freda Helme who continues to be booking clerk. New ideas are required on how to increase the lettings and income of the hall. It was suggested to add a cleaning surcharge deposit refundable if hall left as it was found. More volunteers are needed to help run the hall. A meeting of the hall committee will be arranged to discuss all issues outstanding.

**b) Ashperton Consolidated Charities**

Report given by Freda Helme on Ashperton Consolidated Charities 2018 -

The Trustees gave notice of termination to Mr D Orgee off the Baggards Land by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, equipment remained on the land finally cleared by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Negotiations between Ashperton Academy Head of Governors, Headmaster and Trustees took place in December, to discuss management of the land. The Trustees took the decision to seek Professional Legal advice, to draw up a short term Licence to Occupy between The Trustees of Ashperton Consolidated Charities and Ashperton Primary Academy, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 for the sum of £580.

A three year tenancy is available for occupancy from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, depending on any issues, which come to light during this short term let.

Access to Baggards Land will be through the Academy, with the installation of a 12ft gate, no vehicular access is permitted through by Upper House.

Grass management is the primary concern with nine acres to contain, the Trustees will allow mowing/sheep grazing, to reduce mowing costs, the Trustees have to cut back hedges in the Autumn before passing responsibility to Ashperton Academy.

The Charity Commission has agreed the land management with Ashperton Academy, change of use will be negotiated after the short term let providing both parties are in agreement.

8 Beneficiaries received £55 each, 2 Students received a Grant of £50 each.

Trusteeship change Mr Paul Barnes will seek Co-option as Independent. Parish Council representative is Mr John Wyton, who will seek election by Parish Council at the Annual Meeting.

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

A formal six week Regulation 16 consultation is to be undertaken once the election purdah ends. This would be followed by any amendments, examination and referendum.

**10. Open Forum**

Residents raised the following:-

- A footpath through the wood is very muddy.
- Could the stile by Tunnel House could be replaced by a gate?
- Two stiles on the footpath running from the main road by 2 Holly View towards the church also need replacing by gates
- Thanks expressed for repairing the stile by Budding Cottage.

**The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm**

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

