

ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 7.30pm

In the Chair:

Mr A Hammond (parish council chairman)

In attendance:

3 residents of the parish
Mrs Janet Chester – Clerk to Ashperton Parish Council

1. Apologies for absence

Nancy Nicklin, Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

2. Welcome by the chairman of the parish council

Mr Andrew Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. To Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2019 (previously circulated) (Please note there was no meeting held in 2020 due to Covid-19)

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 Hammond gave the following report:

“It has of course been an extra-ordinary year with the world coming almost to a standstill. However life has gone on and we can give thanks that in Ashperton we have fared better than many. However, some families have quietly grieved for loved ones lost to the pandemic and others have worked tirelessly in the front line in the health and social care industries. We should not forget them all.

Closer still to home the Parish Council has been holding virtual meetings via ‘Zoom’ and this has worked well under the circumstances. However the temporary arrangements which allowed such meetings have expired and all future meetings from now on will have to be in person and open to the public.

Early in the year considerable effort was expended on making the Village Hall Covid secure and putting in place protocols to enable the Hall to reopen following the first lockdown only to have to close again. However, we are now able to re-open subject to strict limitations. Hopefully we will be able to host an event to mark the final relaxation of restrictions at some future date.

On a much more positive note, the long delayed Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum was held on 6 May and the vote was 95 ‘yes’ and 11 ‘no’ with a turn out of just over 50%. I find it personally disappointing that 11 people decided to vote ‘no’ but I suspect that some, at least, may have been under the impression that they were voting for an alternative or amended Plan. Although the County Council

cannot formally adopt the Plan due to the River Lugg situation, it has been confirmed, at Director level, that the Plan will carry full weight in the determination of applications. This is very good news and thanks to all those that have been involved in the production of the Plan over what feels like a lifetime. Following on from that it was confirmed a few days ago that Herefordshire is one of 14 authorities selected to take part in a pilot of the National Model Design Code which is aimed at giving local communities greater involvement in developing design codes for their area. More good news, possibly”.

5. Annual report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Ward Councillor Lester had forwarded his apologies for not attending this meeting but had not provided a report.

6. To note the attendance of parish council members

ASHPERTON PARISH COUNCIL (7 SEATS)

NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR =
CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL =
EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING =
DISQUALIFIED =



Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2019- 2020

NAME	MONTH							TOTAL
	APRI L	MA Y	JUL Y	SEPT	NO V	JAN	M AY	
FREDA HELME	Y	RES G						1 OF 1
PAUL BARNES	AP O L	RES G						1 OF 1
ROWLAND EUSTACE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
ANDREW HAMMOND	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
E JAMES	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 7
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
NANCY NICKLIN				Y-CO- OPT	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 4
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	Y	AP OL	Y	Y	AP OL	Y	Y	5 OF 7

Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2020- 2021

NAME	MONTH						TOTAL
	JUN E	JUL Y	SE PT	NOV	JAN	MARC H	
ROWLAND EUSTACE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
ANDREW HAMMOND	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
ELEANOR JAMES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
NANCY NICKLIN	Y	AP OL	Y	Y	Y	Y	5 OF 6
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	5 OF 6
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 6

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

The clerk advised that the accounts had been internally audited and were subject to the annual external audit.

Opening balances as at 1st April 2020 – current account £11488.42

Income £9071.94 Expenditure £8102.32 (plus £1003.08 unrepresented cheques)

Closing balances as at 31st March 2021 – current account £13461.12.

The annual budget for 2021/22 had been set at £10000 and the precept at £9250 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 1.1.2020 was £912.42. Receipts total £10579.50. Expenditure total £2475.35. Closing Balance 31.12.2020 £9241.18 (unpresented cheques £224.61) A new bank mandate has been completed with the new signatories. The electricity contract has been reviewed and transferred to a cheaper supplier. Due to Covid-19 the hall has been unavailable for the majority of the year but government grants have been successfully applied for and £10000 received in 2020 with a further £17431 expected. More volunteers are needed to help run the hall once it fully reopens. Consideration will be given for using the funds to possibly improve the village hall facilities by installing a hearing loop and wi-fi.

b) Ashperton Consolidated Charities

Report given by John Wyton on Ashperton Consolidated Charities 2020 -

Opening Balance 1.1.2020 £1251.00

Closing Balance 31.12.2020 £1889.55

Income – Rent from School £700, Anonymous Donation £300

Expenditure - £500 has been given to 6 pensioners and 1 family, £200 given to Messy Church, £575 paid for hedge maintenance.

The Academy will be responsible for future hedge and ground maintenance. A woodland area and anderson shelter are to be built and plastic ground sheets installed for a parking area.

Parish Council further representative is Mrs Nancy Nicklin, who will seek election by the committee at the Annual Meeting.

9. To receive an update on Ashperton Neighbourhood Plan

The NDP passed the referendum stage on 6th May 2021 so carries weight when Herefordshire Council are deciding planning applications.

10. Open Forum

No matters raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed..... Dated.....