

# 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 Thursday 31st March 2022 at 7.30pm

**Present:-** Councillors Andrew Hammond (Chairman), Rowland Eustace and John Wyton

**In attendance:-**

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 if required

Cllr Emma Stevens (illness) and Ward Cllr Jonathan Lester

### 2. To Receive Nominations to Fill Councillor Vacancies by Co-Option

None.

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

None.

### 4. To Consider Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held 27th January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held 27th January 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 Cllr Lester had sent his apologies and the following report:

Please accept this email as my report.

At a cabinet meeting today the cabinet has proposed to use £11m of reserves to invest in improving Children's Services. Added to this they plan to add £4.5 m to the annual budget for Children's Services. I raised various issues about the magnitude of the increase and requested that evidence be obtained to ensure that such increases will solve the issues and that the money is spent wisely.

General Scrutiny scrutinized the planning service on 21<sup>st</sup> March and came up with about 20 recommendations. My focus was on customer care and the need for better communication. There is still more work to be done about scrutinizing the planning service and this work will continue. It may interest you to note (the Chairman in particular), that the assistant director stated that Planning Enforcement was a discretionary service. I reminded them from the chair that it is not. There is a duty to investigate. What is discretionary is whether enforcement action is taken, (NPPF paragraph 59, 2021).

All will note that the Council Tax rise of 2.99% has been implemented. My colleagues and I proposed a zero increase funded by monies given to the Council from government and the use of reserves. I thought it necessary to do our bit to address the cost of living issues that have been mounting for some time, however, this was not voted for.

Lastly, at the last council meeting it was heartening to note that my group proposed a motion to support Ukrainian people. In the past the Council has supported refugees and unaccompanied asylum seekers from different countries and so we wanted to be on the front foot to assure Government that we are willing to help as a council. Since then I have been approached by members of the public and a parish council to ask how best they can help.

I note your recent correspondence with Simon Hobbs, please let me know if I can help, along with any other matter raised tonight.

## 6. Public Participation Session for Local Residents to raise matters relevant to the council

No matters raised

## 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: **(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

## 8. Finance:

- a) To Note National Salary Award 2021-2022

**RESOLUTION:** The national increase of 1.75% was noted and it was AGREED to award the clerk the increase, back date pay to April 2021 and future payments to be at SCP24.

- b) To Note Finance Report and Bank Balances

Finance report Noted. Bank Balance 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 £14126.62

- c) To Consider Payments of Outstanding Accounts

000514: Autela Payroll Services – Q4 - £52.20

000515: J Chester – clerk salary Feb & March as agreed plus expenses £57.95 defibrillator pads

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

## 9. Highways/Footpaths:

- a) To Note any new Highway and Footpath Defects

The clerk has written to the landowner regarding a broken drain/inspection chamber by the kissing gate on Dognall Lane next to the village hall but nothing has been done yet.

**RESOLUTION:** Clerk to chase landowner.

- b) To Discuss Progress on Speed Indicator Devices

A solar powered indicator showing your speed and thank you / slow down was the preferred choice. The clerk has received a quote and will arrange a meeting with Balfour Beatty re installation locations. The clerk has explored grant opportunities with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

**RESOLUTION:** The clerk has received a quote for two units and arranged a meeting with Balfour Beatty to discuss suitability and positioning. A grant may be available from WMPCC to help with funding.

## 10. Information Section / Correspondence / Discussion:

- a) To Review Information and Outstanding Actions

Noted and updated.

**b) To Decide Date for Annual Parish Meeting**

**RESOLVED.** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in Ashperton Village Hall

**c) To Discuss Designation of Individual Responsibilities**

Deferred.

**d) To Discuss HM Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration**

A working group of volunteers led by Cllrs Eustace and Stevens have met up to discuss arrangements

**RESOLUTION:** A budget of £1200 maximum was AGREED.

# **11. Ashperton Village Hall**

**a) To Discuss Village Hall Safeguarding**

**RESOLUTION:** The clerk has obtained an example safeguarding policy. The clerk has checked who is listed with Charity Commission as trustees.

**b) To Discuss Future Booking Conditions and Safety Measures for the Hall**

**RESOLUTION:** measures to remain the same and review in the Autumn if appropriate

**c) To Discuss Village Hall Improvements**

A hearing loop, projector and screen are to be installed in the hall at the beginning of May.

**RESOLUTION:** Installation or alterations to allow for a disabled toilet is also to be investigated. Cllr Hammond will report back with costs at the May meeting.

**d) To Discuss Village Hall Electricity Contract**

**RESOLUTION:** A three year fixed term deal with British Gas Lite was AGREED

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

Councillor Vacancies	Vice-Chairman Appointment
Designation of Responsibilities	Speed Indicator Devices
Village Hall Safeguarding Officer Appointment	Village Hall Improvements
Platinum Jubilee Celebration	

# **13. To Confirm Dates and Times of Next Scheduled Meeting –**

Next meeting - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Ashperton Village Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised

Meeting closed 21.00pm

**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)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### PARISH CLERK UPDATE

Road defects reported to Locality Steward / Herefordshire Council via website

Website updated

VAT refund received £497.75

Defibrillator Pads renewed

### 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 \*

Herefordshire Council – Leaders Newsletter \*

HALC – Information Corner & Training Diary \*

West Mercia Police – Feb & March Newsletter \*

\* 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
Jan 2020	6	All	ongoing	All footpaths to be checked and repairs made as required
Sept 2021	9c	clerk	complete	Obtain firm quote for SID and liaise with Balfour Beatty re location
Sept 2021	10c	All	ongoing	Carry out weekly checks on defibrillator status (Pads expiry date 09/2024)

### 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:** ON HOLD DUE TO PHOSPHATES

[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:** GRANTED 16.4.2021

[P212403FH - Drews Orchard Ashperton Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2RY](#), Proposed single storey extension and a garden studio.

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

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:** GRANTED 17.9.2021

[212011 – Little Tuston, Woodend, Herefordshire HR8 2RS](#) Proposed change of use of existing annexe to a separate C3 residential dwelling

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

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION:** ON HOLD DUE TO PHOSPHATES