

ASHPERTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7.00pm

In the Chair:

Mr R Eustace

In attendance:

3 residents of the parish Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester Mrs Janet Chester – Clerk to Ashperton Parish Council

1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Hammond, Emma Stevens

2. Welcome by the chairman of the parish council

Mr Rowland Eustace welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To Consider Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2022 (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

In Councillor Hammonds absence Cllr Eustace gave the following report:

MAY 2023 Annual Report:

Bookended, so to speak, by the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation, one could argue that this had been a year of celebration. At the former, a well-deserved presentation was made to Freda Helme, a previous chairman of this council, in recognition of the contribution she has made to the village over so many years. The financial support in helping to part fund the event was fully justified in that it helped seed a series of subsequent events organised by a Social Committee throughout the year thereby fostering and enhancing a community spirit within the parish.

The council is committed to erecting a Speed Indicator Device on the A417. It will not prevent vehicles exceeding the speed limits, but it is hoped will reduce the number of speeding drivers. To reap its maximum benefit, it is necessary to obtain the best advice for its position and utilisation.

Whilst the Phosphates issue has cast a blight over current planning, Herefordshire County Council unveiled for consultation its Plan for 2021-2040. This deeply flawed plan attempted to justify, so called, sustainable development in the rural areas. Sadly, the hard-earned Neighbourhood Plan will have little relevance once the plan is adopted. Despite Ashperton's low score in county terms, it featured prominently in the Ledbury HMA as a suitable place for housing development, which could dramatically alter the size of the village. The parish council has participated in the consultation and challenged their conclusions but with County planners' passion for spreading development around the county, Ashperton remains vulnerable as 'it fills in a gap on the map.'

In spite of the County Council's decision to reclaim from Balfour Beatty responsibility for the PROW network to 'in house', there has been no improvement in the service to this parish.

Lastly, thanks are due to all councillors who have given their time and effort for the benefit of the parish and Village Hall, in particular the hard work of Andrew Hammond as chairman. We wish him a speedy recovery.

5. Annual report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

Ward Councillor Lester reported on:

- The planning department are experiencing increased workloads and engagement with applicants has been lacking.
- All nine parish councils in the Three Crosses Ward have road safety issues in them, but the measures taken in Ashperton and Stretton Grandison are showing positive results in speed reduction.
- As a result of the Secretary of States report on the inadequacies in Childrens Services an improvement and monitoring plan is being implemented.
- Project proposed to offset phosphate levels
- Budget 2023/24 means £14m of savings to be found

6. To note the attendance of parish council members

ASHPERTON PARISH COUNCIL (7 SEATS) Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor

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



Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2021- 2022

NAME	MONTH							
	MAY	JULY	SEPT	NOV	JAN	MARCH		TOTAL
ROWLAND EUSTACE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6 OF 6
ANDREW HAMMOND	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6 OF 6
ELEANOR JAMES	N	APOL	Y	APOL	APOL	N		1 OF 6
NANCY NICKLIN	APOL	APOL	Y	Y	RESG	N		2 OF 4
EMMA STEVENS			CO-OPT	Y	Y	APOL		3 OF 4
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6 OF 6
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		6 OF 6
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	APOL	Y	Y	APOL	Y	APOL		3 OF 6

Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2022- 2023

NAME	MONTH							
	MAY	JULY	SEPT	OCT	NOV	JAN	MARCH	TOTAL
ROWLAND EUSTACE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
ANDREW HAMMOND	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
ELEANOR JAMES	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	N	APOL	4 OF 7
NANCY NICKLIN	N	APOL	RESG					0 OF 3
EMMA STEVENS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 OF 7
JOHN WYTON	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 7
LINDSAY COOM		CO-OP	Y	Y	APOL	Y	N	3 OF 6
JUDE TECTOR		CO-OP	Y	APOL	APOL	RESG		2 OF 5
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6 OF 7
J LESTER (WARD COUNCILLOR)	Y	Y	Y	N/A	APOL	Y	Y	5 OF 7

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 2021 – current account £13461.12

Income £9747.75 Expenditure £8804.50

Closing balances as at 31st March 2021 – current account £14404.37.

The annual budget for 2022/23 had been set at £10205 and the precept at £9250 which 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 1.1.2022 was £26416.98. Receipts total £2938.30.

Expenditure total £6936.05. Closing Balance 31.12.2022 £22419.13.

After Covid-19 the hall has been available again to all with regular bookings for band practise and puppy school. More volunteers are needed to help run the hall. Some of the funds have been used to improve the village hall facilities by installing a hearing loop and wi-fi and updating the toilets and installing a disabled toilet is the next project being considered.

b) Ashperton Consolidated Charities

Ashperton Consolidated Charities Report 2022 – Freda Helme - clerk

The Trustees held two Meetings during 2022, the Baggards Land rent Agreement was reviewed and to ensure continuity for both the Academy and Ashperton Consolidated Charities a ten year agreement was signed, rent to remain at £700 per annum until 31st December 2027.

The Academy put on a Platinum Jubilee Celebration for pupils, parents and Trustees, on Baggards Land it was a wonderful scene to watch with Country Dancing as well as Platting the Maypole.

Christmas Benefactors,	3 Students grant @ £80 each = £240
Beneficiaries	5 O A P @ £80 each = £400
	1 Family = £200.
	Grant for a Village Children Christmas Party = £300.

Total of Donations distributed in December 2022 = £1140.

Income Rent from Baggards Land.	£700
Income from C C L A stock bonds	£418
Anonymous Donation.	£300.

Total Income £1418.

c) Ashperton Events Group

Report on the Activities of the Ashperton Village Events Group to the Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2023 – Allen Snowball

The Ashperton Events Group was formed as an ad-hoc committee to plan for celebrations of her late Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As such it was and remains open to all villagers who are interested in promoting a social life within our community.

The Parish Council allocated a grant of up to £1200 for the Jubilee. The provision of Strawberries at cost from Haygrove Ltd and Cake donations from parishioners enabled a free Afternoon Tea to be served in the Hall and later a free Hog Roast for 150 people at a cost of £650. Careful purchasing of Beer, Cider and Wine along with the donation of a barrel of beer by Heating Solutions allowed it to be served at a small suggested donation, and the event came in well below the budget ceiling at a cost to the Parish Council of £863.12p. The Dog Show was a great success raising some £90 in aid of The Dogs Trust. We were all grateful to Stuart and Lindsay Coom for the loan of their marquee.

The Jubilee was widely viewed as an outstanding success and so as not to lose momentum of the community spirit generated post lockdown, the ad hoc committee decided to organise another event later in the summer, prior to the start of the school year. The format was a 'bring your own picnic' and sports afternoon, to keep it low cost. Luckily the weather cooperated and most activities were outside on The Village Green. Traditional games such as skittles, welly wanging, were topped by several very competitive games of rounders in the Croft, courtesy of Harvey Davies. Beer wine and cider were once again provided at a suggested donation level to cover costs and tea/coffee and squash was provided free of charge. Lucia Lloyd-Clokier gave massage taster sessions and generously donated

two one hour session vouchers for the raffle to go with the many other donated prizes. The raffle raised the bulk of the £279 we made as profit enabling us to already have the funds available to provide a totally free Childrens Christmas Party.

We arranged another low-cost event in November by hosting a pub-style quiz in the hall and inviting everyone to bring there own favourite tippie. It was attended by over 45 contestants. We provided a ploughman's supper, but again it was the raffle that generated the bulk of the £155 profit. During the event we asked for suggestions for other events that the community might like to see. The suggestion of a Bingo night along the same lines as the quiz night seemed quite popular. The other comment we received from several people was it would have been better to have these entertainments on a Friday or Saturday in future.

The Ashperton Combined Charities Trustees awarded us a grant of £300 that is held by the Parish Council Clerk to help us finance future events.

The Childrens' Christmas Party was held on Sunday 11 Dec 22 rather than our preferred date of Saturday 17th due to a prior booking. A lesson to us for the future. It was attended by 20 children from the village and the Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Hammond, made a very convincing Father Christmas. In all it only cost £105. Our thanks to Chantal Scholefield for organising the face-painting.

We planned to hold a Bingo Night on 24 March 2023, but in the latter stage of our planning found the Friends of Ashperton School were planning a quiz night at the same time. We looked at moving the event to the 31st but this was not convenient for some of our organisers and would be coming close to Easter. So we decided to postpone the event. Another learning point being the need to check other events scheduled to be held in the village, as none of our Group have children at the school.

Our final event was the recent Coronation Celebrations. We held our event on the day of the Coronation itself as we wanted to repeat the Jubilee by having a Hog Roast and this was only available on the Saturday. Freda Helme wrote to the Parish Council asking them to cover the cost of the same, it having risen to £750, which they generously agreed to. The rest of the event was organised in a similar manner to those previously. Again the raffle raised a phenomenal amount resulting in a profit of £309.

After the last 4 events the Funds at our disposal comprise £638 in cash and £273 banked with the Parish Council. It would seem prudent to bank some of the cash to avoid too large a cash holding.

Future events under consideration include the Bingo Night, a Film Night and possibly a Race Night. We will also look to repeat last years successful picnic/sports event.

Although not strictly members of the Events Group we would like to thank Paul Barnes and Allen Dixon respectively, for providing the Bar facilities and keeping the Village Green tidy, particularly for our events.

The following have been active within the Events Group:

Stoyan Tenev
Freda Helme
Rowland Eustace
Jackie Dixon
Sharon Barnes
Edwin & Sharon Turnbull
Allen & Sue Snowball
Hayley Talma
Peter Elkington

9. Open Forum

No matters raised.

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

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