

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 24th November 2022 at 7.30pm

Present:- Councillors Andrew Hammond (Chairman), Rowland Eustace, Eleanor James, Emma Stevens and John Wyton

In attendance:- Parish Clerk / Janet Chester

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

Cllrs J Tector & L Coom, Three Crosses Ward Councillor Jonathan Lester

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

None.

3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meetings held 29th Sept and 25th Oct 2022

The minutes of both meetings held had been circulated and were APPROVED as a true and accurate account.

4. To Receive a Brief Report from Three Crosses Ward Councillor, Mr Jonathan Lester

Ward Councillor Lester had sent the following report along with his apologies for absence:-

Chair,

Apologies for tonight's meeting. It is my eldest daughter's 7th birthday party.

I have just finished attending a cabinet meeting.

The main issue is improvement in children's services continues to be the focus of the council. As you know I have been pressing the point about the need to make reunification of families where possible a greater priority. I was concerned that the Children's scrutiny meetings have been delayed but there is now a December meeting confirmed.

I scrutinized the planning service on 18th November. No formal recommendations were made, however, points were made about the need to strengthen communication, deal with the issues of putting realistic (and not too many) conditions on permissions, and the need to provide clarity for parish councils regarding NDPs when considering the next phase of the Local Plan.

The financial situation for the Council is grim. A budget variance of £11.2 million for this year, and a shortfall of £22 m for next year. My question to cabinet today about the issue was what's the plan to address this? No definite answer was forthcoming.

Both this meeting and the scrutiny meeting can be viewed on the Council's youtube channel.

I hope you all have a good meeting. Please let me know if you need my input on anything meanwhile.

5. 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

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

No matters raised

7. Finance:

- a) To Note National Salary Award & Leave Entitlement 2022-23 Decision and Implement

The pay offer was for a flat rate payment of £1,925 on each scale point with effect from 1 April 2022. In addition, the National Joint Council (NJC) has agreed that from 1 April 2023, all employees covered by this National Agreement, regardless of their current leave entitlement or length of service, will receive a permanent increase of one day (pro rata for part-timers) to their annual leave entitlement. With effect from 1 April 2023, the minimum paid annual leave entitlement is twenty-three days with a further three days after five years of service.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to pay the clerk at SCP25 with effect from 1st April 2022 and to increase annual leave entitlement to 26 days with effect from 1st April 2023.

- b) To Note Finance Report and Bank Balances 28.10.22 £18786.51

- c) To Agree 2023/24 Budget and Decide 2023/24 Precept Requirement

RESOLUTION: The Parish Council agreed the budget and decided to request £9750 precept for 2023-24.

- d) To Consider Payments of Outstanding Accounts

000524: Autela – Payroll Service Q2 - £53.28

000525: J Chester – clerk salary Oct/Nov – as agreed plus expenses Ink £112.99

RESOLUTION: All above invoices were approved for payment.

8. Highways/Footpaths:

- a) To Note any new Highway and Footpath Defects

The Inspection chamber on Dognall Lane still needs repairing
The required footpath signs are still outstanding delivery

- b) To Review 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: Ward Cllr Lester will ascertain responsibility for SID with Herefordshire Council reclaiming some matters from Balfour Beatty then Cllr Hammond will contact them for up to date information.

9. Information Section / Correspondence / Discussion:

a) To Review Information and Outstanding Actions

Noted and updated.

b) To Discuss Village Pond

The village pond on the village green is becoming overgrown and the willow tree needs pollarding and brambles need cutting back.

RESOLUTION: The willow tree can be pollarded at any time so a workforce will be put together to do that after finding out best time of year to carry it out. Because we don't want to damage the habitat for great crested newts advice will be sought by the chairman on when cutting of brambles and clearing of silt can be done.

10. Ashperton Village Hall

a) To Discuss Further Village Hall Improvements

Cllr Hammond has approached one company regarding toilet refurbishment but they do not seem interested so he is pursuing others.

b) Review of Village Hall Trustees

RESOLUTION: All parish councillors to be added and removal of Paul Barnes

c) Financial Arrangements / Link to Village Events / Event charging & FOC Events

RESOLUTION: A separate village hall bank account is to be opened for village events. A new social committee will be set up as a sub committee of the village hall. There will be no charge for funeral wakes for villagers.

d) Flicks in the Sticks

The new equipment in the hall would allow for film nights. Each Flicks in the Sticks film hired incurs an £83 charge.

RESOLUTION: It was agreed to have a trial evening of a family film and ask the school to send out a flyer advertising film, date and time. Cllr Hammond will mention it to the school.

11. Reports: To receive any reports from meetings attended – Cllrs Hammond and Eustace attended a planning workshop. All Herefordshire planning officers now work from home which was felt not to be the best way as no interaction with more experienced colleagues.

12. Training: To note any forthcoming training dates

Cllrs Coom, Stevens and Tector to attend new councillor training ASAP. The clerk will circulate HALC Training Diary when it arrives. Cllr Eustace hopes to attend a footpath meeting on 13th December and Cllr Stevens a highways training in Feb 2023.

13. To Raise Items for Next Scheduled Parish Council Meeting (no discussion)

Representatives on Ashperton Consolidated Charities
Village Pond
SIDS

14. To Confirm Date and Time of Next Scheduled Meeting as Thursday 26th January 2023

Meeting closed at 20.55pm

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)
2023 - Thursday 26th January, Thursday 30th March, Thursday 25th May

PARISH CLERK UPDATE

Road defects reported to Locality Steward / Herefordshire Council via website
Website updated
New Councillors forms sent to Herefordshire Council

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Balfour Beatty – Locality briefings *
Balfour Beatty – Herefordshire Road Closure Notices *
Herefordshire Rural Hub – Oct & Nov newsletters *
Herefordshire Council – Talk Community Covid19 updates *
Herefordshire Council – Leaders Newsletter *
HALC – Information Corner & Training Diary *
West Mercia Police – 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) |
| March 2022 | 11c | AH | ongoing | Investigate costs of disabled toilet installation and report at next meeting |
| March 2022 | 9a | clerk | ongoing | chase landowner about dangerous manhole cover in Dognall Lane |
| May 2022 | 13f | clerk | complete | add audio-visual equipment to Insurance Policy |
| May 2022 | 14a | clerk | requested | request footpath signs |

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

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

P221286 Ashperton Holiday Park The Coach House Ashperton Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2SE Variation of condition 2 172069/F (Proposed 3 no additional holiday let chalets.) - Change roof covering.

PC Comment: The Parish Council have no comment to make.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION: REFUSED 28.6.2022

P222728/N Whitwick Manor Lower Eggleton Ledbury Herefordshire HR8 2UE

The erection of and the construction of an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant with associated facilities, including feedstock storage clamps; tanks; lagoons and wetland filtration system; and connection to the national gas grid, together with the installation of photovoltaic panels on buildings, a grain store and dryer and the construction of anew vehicular access to the A417.

PC Comment: The Parish Council object on traffic impact on the village grounds

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL DECISION

DRAFT