

ASHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ashley Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2011 in the Pavilion.

Present Cllr Olive Oakervee (Chair) Cllr Marina Almond
Cllr Geoffrey Newell

Chris Lewis (Clerk)

Also in attendance: D Cllr Tom Kerby

D Cllr Sue Willows

1. Public Open Meeting

Five members of the public were in attendance, but no one wished to raise an issue at the open meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr's Carolyn Mahony and Ann Spurling.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011.

These were agreed and signed as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Oakervee and seconded by Cllr Almond .

4. Matters arising

- Recreation Ground – hedging and pruning works. – the Clerk confirmed these works should be completed by the weekend.
- Recreation Ground - provision of zip wire and youth shelter - installation was now virtually complete. The Clerk would contact Cambs Community Foundation to arrange payment of the grant and seek confirmation of the publicity requirements.

5. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations

6. ECDC – results of “Village Visions Survey”

Cllr Oakervee advised that the results of the Ashley Village Visions Survey had been released by East Cambs District Council (ECDC) . The response had been good and the analysis clearly indicated that a large majority of parishioners were against any large scale development. It would be interesting to see how these results were reflected in the emerging draft core strategy. It was agreed that the survey results

should be placed on Parish Notice Boards and uploaded to the village website.
www.ashleyvillage.org.uk

Cllr Oakervee also confirmed that the Council had submitted a further request, under the Freedom of Information Act, for details of discussions and a key meeting between ECDC and Strutt and Parker (agents for Darley Estates – owners of the land just south of the village that is being offered for development). Information about these contacts had been omitted from ECDC's earlier response.

7. Security of the Pavilion

In view of continuing concerns about security at the Pavilion following a recent break in it was important to look at what further measures could be taken to improve the security of the Pavilion and Children's Play Area. It was felt that in the short term the introduction of additional physical security measures, such as extra lighting and cameras may be helpful. It was agreed that a joint meeting (involving Parish Council and Pavilion Trust representatives) should be held with the Crime Prevention Officer, Cambridge Constabulary, to consider how the security might best be improved.

Clerk to arrange

The Clerk also reported that the Pavilion Trust were unhappy with the boarding up charge following the break in that was in excess of £160.00. However, it was recognised that urgent action was needed as the incident had not been detected until after midnight on 13 September. In view of this, there was little alternative to using the services offered by the Police in order to secure the premises.

8. Playground maintenance

The Clerk reported that the work in the Play Area arising from the ROSPA report was in progress. The contractor had rotovated the area, removed the "carpet of weeds" and had laid new play bark. It was hoped that in future, a weed killer such as "Round up" could be used . It was believed that some works to the gate had still to be completed. – *Clerk to check*

9. Pavilion Trust report

In the absence of Cllr Mahony, there was no Pavilion Trust report.

10. Youth Club report

A report received from Diana White, Youth Club Leader was read by the Clerk . This confirmed that the club, known as "Ashley Action for Youth" had been running since May 2009, and that it was open to all village youngsters between the ages of 9 to 16 years old. Meetings are held on 1st and 3rd Friday of each month and the entrance fee was £1.00 per person. The Club is run by a team of 4 volunteers who meet regularly to plan the sessions.

The number of youngsters attending had varied but numbers in recent months numbers had reduced significantly. A "Bring a Friend" initiative had been introduced to try and increase numbers, and as a result a couple of youngsters from Kirtling and Woodditton now attended. It was hoped it would be possible for the club to keep going as a number of youngsters really enjoyed coming along and benefitted from the sessions . It was suggested that additional publicity may encourage more attendees, perhaps through the parish magazine or direct leafleting.

11. Neighbourhood Panel

Cllr Oakervee reported that she had attended two meetings related to Neighbourhood Panels. The first had been an annual general meeting that included all panels district-wide whilst the second, had been a routine meeting of the South Panel held at Burwell on 5 October. Matters discussed had included rising levels of anti-social behaviour, reductions in the level of community policing and concern about traffic, in particular the increasing number of heavy vehicles traversing village streets. These issues were common to many villages across the panel area.

12. Finance matters

(a) Approval of expenditure Sept/Oct

£

Nb: The invoices listed below include those received since the agenda was issued

- **Clerk's expenses** 41.84
- **Moore Stephens** (External Audit Costs) 183.60
- **Victim Support** (S137) 25.00
- **CGM Cambridge** (Grasscutting 3rd & 24th September) 601-20

(b) Members noted the following urgent payment approvals from Sept which were actioned by agreement with the Chair

£

- **Ashley Pavilion Trust** (Room Hire- July-Sept) 30.00
- **Ashley Pavilion Trust** (Pavilion Buildings Insurance Premium) 411.23
- **CGM Cambridge** (Grasscutting 13 August) 300.60

(c) The following receipts were also noted:-

£

- **Cambridgeshire County Council** – grasscutting rebate 357.02
- **ECDC Precept** - second instalment 5750.00

(d) **Clerk's salary** - it was noted that no salary review had taken place since the Clerk took up paid employment on 10 March 2009. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk's salary should be increased by two incremental points to Scale LC1 19. The implementation date would be 1 October 2011. Proposed by Cllr Almond and seconded by Cllr Newell

(e) **Half Year Financial Report , 2012/13 Budget & Precept** - a detailed financial report for the period ending 30 Sept 2010 had been previously circulated. The Clerk reported expenditure was on track but the purchase of new equipment for the Recreation Ground could affect cash flow pending the recovery of VAT. Following discussion it was agreed that :-

- The budget re-allocations suggested in the financial report (table 1) aimed at assisting cash flow be accepted;
- the funding package supporting the purchase of the zip wire and youth shelter (table 2) be approved. This involved the input of £1,650 max of parish funding, pending the recovery of VAT

The provisional budget for 2012/13 which required a precept of £12,250 was also

discussed. It was agreed that to allow time for further reflection, a decision on the precept should be remitted to the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Newell and seconded by Cllr Almond.

(f) Completion of external audit - the Clerk confirmed completion of the audit. – there were no issues to report.

13. Planning cases

No planning cases had been received. However, the Clerk had received a booklet from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) which gave information on how Parish Council's should respond to planning applications. It was agreed that additional copies should be obtained and made available to the Ashley Action Group.

Clerk to action

14. Footpaths

The County Council had notified a new funding stream which could support footpath maintenance and improvement. However, this grant scheme, which is operated by the Princes Trust, appeared to be geared mostly toward the facilitation of economic links rather than just pure enjoyment of the countryside.

The Clerk confirmed that action was in hand to establish who was responsible for grass cutting along Footpaths no 4 and 10 at Silverley. Both paths required urgent attention

15. Public Consultations

The following public consultations had been notified to the Council:

- **Cambs County Council** - are consulting on their proposals to change and reduce bus services subsidised from Council funds. – full details on line at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview
- **East Cambs DC -Conservation Areas** – Draft design guide – the revised edition of the Guide is available on line at <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/>
The closing date for representations is 17th October 2011.

16. Correspondence

- **ECDC –re-launch of Community Grant Scheme** – under this scheme small grants are available to community groups and other organisations.
- **Village SOS Competition** - this is a lotteries funded grant programme aimed at kick-starting community businesses. Grants of between £10,000 and £30,000 could be available to successful applicants
- **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons** – this notification from HM Paegentmaster invites participation in the events being arranged for 4th June 2012. For those wishing to get involved it was necessary to register by 30 April 2012.
- **CPALC Annual General Meeting** – this was to be held at Bluntisham Village Hall on 3 December 2011 – all members were invited to attend.

20. Urgent matters

Traffic – County Cllr Mathew Shuter had met residents of the Sheltered Scheme on 12 September to discuss their concerns about the speed of traffic in the High Street. It was noted that although several drop kerbs had been placed near the bus stop, a Zebra crossing had not been installed. It had been agreed that the reasons for this should be investigated but nothing had been heard. It was agreed that Cllr Almond would make further enquiries. *Action Cllr Almond*

21. Date of next meeting

This will take place in the Pavilion on Monday 14th November.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm