

10th January 2022

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 in Ashdon Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), John Moran, Philip Player, and Corey Vost

Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Steve Hayler, Cllr. George Smith, Cllr. Martin Foley (ECC) and Cllr. James De Vries (UDC)

2. Public Representations

Mr. David Bidwell reported that he was growing increasingly concerned over the deepening of the hole in the road opposite Clayes and the condition of some of the trees opposite the garage. Both had been previously reported to the relevant authorities by Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Moran would contact Cllr. Smith and they would follow up to see what progress had been made in bringing these matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

3. Short address by Cllr. Martin Foley on County Council matters

Councillor Foley's monthly report would be circulated on receipt

4. Short address by Cllr. James De Vries on District Council Matters.

Cllr. De Vries reported that he would be speaking with the relevant authorities regarding the forthcoming application at Byrds Farm, Butlers Lane and would keep the Parish Council fully informed.

5. Declaration of Interests

There were no interests in matters on this agenda

6. Minutes.

Resolved - that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th December 2021, previously circulated, be approved (Cllr. Vost)

7. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

a. Rectory Lane.

The final costings for the replacement of the climber and the servicing of the aerial runway had now been received from Online Playgrounds (previously Fenland Leisure);

i. Servicing of the aerial runway as per their Quotation 48598 dated 4th January 2022 £1,894.00 + vat

- ii. Replacement of the climber unit as per their Quotation dated 4th January 2022 £18,628.50 + vat

Resolved - that the Chairman sign and return the Acknowledgement of Order 48598 and that the project be put in hand for completion during the school Easter Holiday to facilitate access via the school. Ground conditions would also be more favourable at that time.

The following updated estimates had been received from Acorn Services:-

- i. To remove, clear way the existing climber and wooden edging. Infill with topsoil, compact and sow with grass seed £1564 + vat
- ii. To remove existing platforms, ramps and steps and replace same with treated softwood slip resistant decking boards, make any extra framing as required for the sum of £1,527.60 + vat.

The above to be done in conjunction with the installation of the new equipment. (Cllr. Vost)

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

- a. Water End/Spriggs Lane. Councillor Smith had reported that Uttlesford Planning were aware of the damage and the concerns raised by both residents and the Parish Council on the approaches to this site. He had reported that the lane is in a very poor state of repair. The contractor does backfill the holes but they quickly open up again. The residents of Lt. Mortimers are having problems with delivery vehicles not being able to access their property, not least the oil delivery lorry which refused to go along the lane with fear of becoming stuck.
- b. Spoil Butlers Lane/Byrds Farm. See Item 4. Cllr. De Vries report.
- c. Speeding. The request for speed reduction measures in the village had been submitted by Cllr. Moran. The Local Highways Panel would be meeting on Monday 17th January when, it was hoped, some of the items submitted would receive the backing of the panel.

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House

In Cllr. Hayler's absence, the Clerk reported that the light above the cellar steps was not working making entrance to the cellar dangerous. The Village Hall was also subject to power outages. Investigations were ongoing. Whilst this work was in hand it was requested that the light over the entrance at White Horse House could be replaced at the same time. (Action Village Hall Committee)

Offices at White Horse House.

Nothing further to report

iv. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. (NHPG)

Nothing further to report at this time

v. Community Led Housing.

a) Update on the proposed houses adjacent to All Saints Close

Now in the hands of the solicitors.

b) Ground Rent. Cllr. Moran reported that the Government were aware of the situation and that steps were being taken to prevent exploitation of tenants by extortionate increases in ground rents. He was in contact with Kemi Badenoch M.P. regarding this matter.

vi. To receive a report on the Village Community Hub including revised quotations

A revised quotation of £89,000 had been received from Sparrow Builders for the conversion works at the Village Hall. Additional ancillary works would probably make total expenditure £100,000. In view of the fact that two Members were absent one self isolating and one due to illness, it was decided that an extraordinary Parish Council Meeting be convened at 6.30pm on Wednesday 19th January. Agenda, one item only:- "To discuss the proposed development at the Village Hall to provide a Community Hub/Shop/Café"

vii. Superfast Broadband.

Nothing to report

viii. Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing to report

ix. Event/Plans to celebrate H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Smith had contacted organisations in the village regarding this event seeking their support. He was awaiting responses. In view of the above Cllr. Moran would contact Cllr. Smith and they would seek to forward the project with some urgency (Action Cllrs. Moran, Smith)

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Various emails distributed to Members. Members had been requested to raise any matters received by email under correspondence. None received.

8. NEW ITEMS

There were no "New Items"

9. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no New Planning Applications

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

There were no Planning Determinations

11. BUDGET 2022/23 and ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

- i. To review the 2022/23 Budget, (Appendix i), previously circulated. To set the Precept for the fiscal year 2022/23.

Resolved - that a Precept of £43,160 be placed on the District Council for the fiscal year 2022/23. This represents an increase of £1,660.00.
Carried Unanimously.

Clerk's Note. The above represents a Band "D" increase of £2.20/annum from £110.86 to £114.06. The actual percentage increase is 2.89% as calculated by the District Council. This is in line with Government recommendations

- ii. To review the Cemetery Charges and Fees

Resolved - that:-

- i. the Cemetery Fees, Payments and Sums be increased by 10% and where appropriate the figures be rounded up as per Appendix ii;

- ii. That the following paragraph be added to the regulations:-

"On grave spaces no kerb stones will be allowed. Prior permission must be obtained from Ashdon Parish Council before the placing of any adornments on graves or the planting of any shrubs or bushes. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove such adornments at their discretion". (Cllr. Moran)

- iii. Accounts for payment.

Resolved - that the accounts (Appendix iii) be passed for payment (Cllr. Player)

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no "Items for the Next Agenda"

The meeting concluded at 8.37 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix iii

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2022
13th DECEMBER 2021 to 10th JANUARY 2022**

Monies Received	£
Interest BPA 6/9/21 - 5/12/21	0.03
Interest BPA 6/9/21 - 5/12-21	1.91
Monies passed for Payment	£
D. Green. Telephone, Broadband	21.99 Ch.No. 102684
Graham Marsh. Handyman work	472.50 Ch.No. 102685
Balances at Bank on 10th January 2021:-	
Current Account:-	£3,392.75
Saver Account:-	£1,071.30
Saver Account:-	£78,490.25

