

20th February 2023

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 20th February 2023 in the Baptist Schoolroom at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Mrs. Michelle Lee and George Smith

Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs. John Moran and Mrs Alice Olley and Martin Foley (ECC)

2. Public Representations

Mrs. Julia Goodwin, Steventon End. Mrs. Goodwin reiterated residents concerns regarding the passage of traffic through Steventon End regarding the speed, size and the lack of footways. This would further be exacerbated when re-surfacing works started on the Bartlow Road, also when works started on the A1307 at Linton. Traffic going to Haverhill from the village would have to go via Steventon End. The gullies had been cleared, the drains had not.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council were fully aware of the concerns raised and that this was a general feeling throughout the village with the passage of very large vehicles; commercial, farm and domestic, leading to the erosion of verges and creation of pot holes. It was noted that a presentation would be held in Linton Village Hall, Monday 27th February regarding the road works in Linton and the A1307.

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

There was no address by Councillor Foley as he was attending the District Council Area Meeting in Thaxted. The following report had been received prior to the meeting and circulated to all Members:-

Highways

"Please find attached the LHP schemes for Ashdon:

Walden road, Radwinter Road - Speed indicators to replace existing VAS units.
Needs new speed survey - no funds available at present

Ashdon Village Traffic Calming - Appropriate measures at entrance points to village
Walden Road, Radwinter Road, Bartlow Road.
In validation

First one - I will push for funds to be made available ASAP Radwinter road ... Things are beyond tight at ECC right now .

Second one - validation is taking a lot longer than usual as staff shortages in Highways Dept.

New Booking System at Recycling Centres

In a word I think the new scheme is bonkers and they would have done well to speak to Parish Councillors/District Councillors and gone out to proper consultation first. I am strongly opposing it , as in the trial that has already been done recycling has gone down by 13% already in that area. I think the only thing likely to make a difference is if Residents, District and Parish Councillors complain.

ECC Council Tax Rise

A further report on ECC Budget to follow.

The increase is 3,5% but on initial findings there will be considerable cut to services.

A considerable amount of officers time is being spent on Thurrock Council which is efficiently bankrupt. Thurrock Council expecting £182.5m in government help –

BBC<https://www.bbc.co.uk/uk-england-essex-64438336>

28 Jan 2023 — A Conservative council that is effectively bankrupt is expecting to receive £182.5m in government support over the next year to help fund services".

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

There was no address by Councillor DeVries and no report in his absence.

5. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he is employed by the consultants providing transport surveys to the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

6. Minutes.

Resolved - that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2023, previously circulated, be approved (Cllr. Mrs. Lee)

7. Matters Arising.

i. Playing Fields.

- a. Rectory Lane. It is hoped to install the new zip wire structure either during the Easter school holiday or during the May half term
- b. All Saints Playing Field. Waiting for proposals from the District Council regarding the future of the field and the equipment thereon.

ii Highways. Traffic Management.

- a. Spriggs Lane. Nothing to report other than there is an ever increasing amount of building and thus traffic along this ancient sunken lane. The verges are coming under increasing pressure and degradation
- b. Spoil Butlers Lane/Byrds Farm. Nothing to report.
- c. Speeding. Radwinter Road - Flooding and Road Gullies

Further to Cllr. Foley's report,Cllr. Lee reported that the drains in Radwinter Road had been deemed inadequate but that any improvements would be a major undertaking which the County Council would not put in

hand. There were ongoing problems with pot holes and road degradation due to the Gigaclear installation throughout the village.

There had been no further progress on the proposed 20mph speed limit through the village

iii. Village Hall and White Horse House.

The light by the main entrance had been replaced. The light in the cellar had now been fitted with a PIR sensor (VHC)). The heaters in the small hall had been inspected and tested by Nulec Ltd and deemed safe and in full working order. Nulec recommended that the thermostat should be set no lower than 10° to ensure a low level of heat at all times and prevent degradation of the fabric of the building. (V Hall Committee)

One quotation had been received for the upgrading of the distribution board in White Horse House, a further quote had been invited.

Resolved - that on receipt of the required quotations the most suitable one, ensuring best value, be accepted and approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to enable the project to be put in hand as soon as possible.
(Cllr. Mrs. Lee) (Action Chairman/V. Chairman)

iv. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Nothing further to report

v. Community Led Housing.

Next Zoom meeting 1030am Thursday 23rd February when the District Council would put forward their proposals for the land adjacent to All Saints Close, the fitness equipment and the lease thereof

vi. Neighbourhood Watch.

The village was relatively crime free. Four new subscribers had joined the web site. Cllr. Mrs. Lee had met Mr. Gifford (NHW Coordinator) to update herself on the organisation.

vii. Planting of a Jubilee Oak at the "Fir" trees, Walden Road.

Done. A suitable plaque would be ordered to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee 2022

viii. Commemoration of the Centenary of Ashdon Meteorite 9th March 2023.

Plans were well in hand for March with Mr. Gerald Lucy

ix. Coronation of H.M. King Charles III.

Plans progressing. The next committee meeting would be Tuesday 21st February.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- i. Thaxted Area Parish Meeting. Monday 20th February 7.00pm. Zoom

10. NEW ITEMS.

- i. Neighbourhood Plan. To appoint a Member to liaise with Ms. Jane Gray on updates and further information on the Neighbourhood Plan.

To be decided at the next meeting when more Members would be present

- ii. To set a date for the Spring Litter Pick

To be decided at the next meeting when more Members would be present

11. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- i. UTT/23/0213/FUL. Conversion and adaptation of redundant barn to 1no. residential dwelling following approved application UTT/22/1491/OP Spriggs Farm

No Comment

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED.

- i. UTT/23/0020/DOC. Application to discharge condition 3 (materials) attached to UTT/21/2378/HHF. Spriggs Farm

Discharge Conditions in Full

- ii. UTT/23/0021/DOC. Application to discharge condition 3 (external finishes) attached to UTT/21/2379/LB. Spriggs Farm

Discharge Conditions in Full

- iii. UTT/22/2740/FUL. Extension and amendments to existing garage to create 1 no. dwelling
5 Church Hill

Refused

- iv. UTT/22/3316/HHF. Demolition of outbuildings. Erection of replacement outbuilding and Annexe.
Little Mortimers, Water End

Conditional Approval

13. FINANCE.

- i. Accounts for payment.

Resolved - that the Accounts, Appendix I, be passed for payment (Cllr. Elsey)

14. Next Agenda.

There were no items for the "Next Agenda"

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix i

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2023 9th JANUARY to 20th FEBRAURY 2023

Monies Received.	£
HMRC VAT repayment. DC	335.91

Invoices for Payment

Acorn Services;	Re-instate notice board at Carters Croft	
	Play equipment maint. Rectory Lane	589.00
	Village Christmas Tree	335.00
	VAT on the above	<u>184.80</u>
		1,108.80 Ch.No.102804
Ashdon Baptist Church.	Hire of Hall for meetings	65.00 Ch.No.102805
D. Green.	Stamps	21.76 Ch.No.102806
EALC.	Councillors Course	216.00 Ch.No.102807
John Thorn.	Web Site registration fee . 2 years	38.39 Ch.No.102808
John Thorn.	Web Site security and Facebook integration	179.83 Ch.No.102809
D. Green.	Stationery/ink cartridges	71.72 Ch.No.102810
D. Green.	Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book	169.20 Ch.No.102811
NPower.	Electricity January Account	35.07 Ch.No.102812
D. Green.	Telephone/Broadband	19.74 Ch.No.102813
Grasshopper.	Treat War Memorial grass	28.00 Ch.No.102814
Andrew Everitt.	Clear river bank. Cut bramble Rec. Play Area	540.00 Ch.No.102815
Nulec Ltd.	Replace faulty o/s light Village Hall	106.39 Ch.No.102816

Balances at Bank on 20th February 2023:-

Current Account:-	£2,106.21
Saver Account:-	£1,072.37
Saver Account:-	£69,561.66

