

6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Ms. Jane Gray, and Mrs. Michelle Lee

Cllr. Martin Foley (ECC), Mr. David Green (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Mrs. Alice Olley and Mrs. Melanie Horrigan

**2. Public Representations.**

Mr. George Smith. Mr Smith asked how the Parish Council will engage with the District Council over the proposal in the Local Plan to build 41 houses in the village. He added that, whilst no details were yet available as to where the houses would be built, in his opinion, it was very important that the Parish Council engages with the District Council over this matter. There will be an open consultation in the Town Hall, Saffron Walden on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 5-8pm. which he urged members to attend.

Councillor Mrs Lee asked why Ashdon was designated to have 41 houses when other villages in the area of similar size and with similar facilities would not. Mr. Smith said he could not give a definite answer other than Ashdon had been designated a “principle” village and that Ashdon was the only village in the immediate area to have had a site offered by a local land owner in the “call for sites”. Councillor Foley said that it was important that Ashdon take part in the consultation and that in his view, the allocation of 41 houses was not acceptable.

Councillor Ms. Gray added that the Neighbourhood Watch Group would be making representations to the consultation.

**3. Short Address by Councillor Foley on County Council matters**

Councillor Foley reported that a new County Council Cabinet Member, Cllr. Tom Cunningham, had been appointed as member with the Highway portfolio. He hoped that progress on outstanding matters including Radwinter Road would now be progressed. It is his intention to invite Cllr. Cunningham to a site meeting to bring him up to speed on outstanding Highway matters in the village.

The Draft Local Plan was now out and a consultation would be held as reported by Mr. Smith. The number of properties in the wider district had been reduced due to the proposed 1200 houses at the old Easton Airfield now called Easton Park, The final Plan was still a long way off. He reminded those present that there hadn't been a “Local Plan” since 2005 which had given rise to a “developers charter” in the District.

Cllr. Foley said that a schedule for drain clearing was required from the County Council for Radwinter Road. In response to a question from the Chairman regarding drainage from the building site “Bourn Vale,” he said that the Parish Council should

write to Nigel Browne, Development Manager at the District Council copying in Dean Hermitage, Head of Planning, to bring the outstanding drainage matters to their urgent attention.

**4. Short Address by Councillor Moran on District Council matters.**

There was no address from Councillor Moran.

**5. Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be signed as a true record with the following “corrections”-

- i. Apologies for Absence – Cllr. Moran. Remove Covid and insert “unwell”
- ii. Item 7. viii. Delete Action Ms. Gray after “November meeting” and insert Action Ms. Gray after “formalised”
- iii. Item 7.IX Village Christmas Tree. Delete Cllr. Mrs. Horrigan. Insert Unanimous (Cllr. Elsey)

**7. Matters Arising from the above Minutes**

i Playing Fields:-

- a. Rectory Lane. The two “spurious” benches had been removed. Still waiting for Andrew Everitt’s advice on the access from Ladywell
- b. Church Field. Mr. Chris Pardue would organise moving the new bench away from the fence.

ii. Highways: Traffic Management.

- a. Report on decision of the Local Highways Panel. Condition of the gulleys in Radwinter Road, Crown Hill and Water End. See Item 3. Cllr Foley’s Report
- b. Speeding and Highway Matters. See Item 3. Cllr. Foley’s Report. The provision of a 20mph blanket speed limit in the county would not now be put in place.  
Flashing Speed Signs. The Chairman would obtain quotations and would seek a site meeting with Sarah Tomlin, Highways, to see first hand the problems in Radwinter Road, the suggested siting of speed reduction signs and discuss the possibility of placing speed reduction signs on existing poles. Cllr Foley would also continue to investigate the possibility of a 40mph limit at the entrances to the village previous to the existing 30mph limit.

iii. To receive an update from Cllr. Mrs. Lee on the roadworks at Linton

Cllr. Mrs. Lee reported that the new roundabout at Linton was now in operation and improvements were underway at Dean Road Crossroads. She

had attended a Speedwatch meeting and was trying to get the village Speedwatch Group reinstated. Several people had volunteered but more were required.

Councillor Foley left the meeting at this point.

- iv. Potential grants for the Village Hall/White Horse House would be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.(Cllr. Ms. Gray)
- v. Community Led Housing. It had been reported that Highways were not happy with the entrance to the site adjacent to All Saints, the Parish Council were now waiting to hear from the District Council on this matter.
- vi. Neighbourhood Watch. Nothing to report
- vii. Allotments. Mr. Malcolm McGeoghan, owner of the Allotments, had been in correspondence with the Chairman regarding the possibility of the Parish Council leasing the Allotments in toto. He had suggested an annual rent of £1000.00, £500.00 for the allotments currently in use and £500.00 for the unused area.

**Resolved** – that the Chairman asks Mr. McGeoghan for a meeting to discuss the possible leasing of the Allotments by the Parish Council and to determine the responsibilities for the hedges, river bank, trees, culvert etc. (Cllr. Elsey)

- viii. Fireplaces Carters Croft

Under investigation by Cllr. Moran. Nothing to report in his absence.

**Resolved** – that this item be removed from the Agenda. (Cllr. Elsey)

- ix. To consider the possibility of making a donation towards the running of the Community Hub currently being held in the Baptist Chapel Schoolroom.

Deferred until the next meeting in Cllr. Moran's absence

- x.. Village Christmas Tree

**Resolved** – that Mr. Stuart Brundritt be asked to provide a Risk Assessment for the Village Christmas Tree. (Cllr. Ms. Gray)

**8. Correspondence.** No matters raised

**9. New Items.**

- i. Emergency Plan. It was suggested that the Village Emergency Plan be updated
- ii. Village Handyman – next Agenda at the request of Cllr. Mrs. Horrigan in her absence

**10. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

- i. UTT/23/2398/TCA. 1. no. Beech-Crown reduce upper canopy by up to 3m Waltons Park

**Tree No Objections - UDC**

- ii. UTT/23/2408/TCA. 1 no. magnolia – Overall Crown size to be reduced by 1.5m and lifted by 1m to prevent damage to cars on driveway Hillview, Walden Road.

**Tree No Objections – UDC**

- iii. UTT/23/2611/NMA. Non material amendment to UTT/22/2226/DFO amendments including changing dining room window to double doors with side lights, main entrance door to have side windows either side, kitchen corner window and door arrangement to include oak columns and beams, landing windows to change to apex window and master bedroom double door to have side windows and apex window above.  
Land south of Kates Lane.

**No Comment**

- iv. UTT/23/2715/DOC. Application to discharge condition 2 (material) of UTT/22/2226/DFO  
Land south of Kates Lane

**No Comment**

- v. UTT/23/2726/DOC. Application to discharge condition 7 (Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy) of UTT/19/1220/OP (granted under appeal ref APP/C1570/W/19/3238810)  
Land south of Kates Lane

**No Comment**

**11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED.**

- i. UTT/23/2202/CLP. Proposed use of building as accommodation for day and night residential care for elderly  
Mortimers Farm, Water End

**Proposed – Approve Certificate of Lawfulness**

- ii. UTT/23/1676/HHF. Proposed new double garage and conversion of existing single garage to boot/utility space.  
Fairview, Church Hill

**Approve with Conditions.**

- iii. UTT/23/2696/TCA Sycamore – Reduce to previous pruning points (approximately 1-2m crown reduction). Maple – Approximately 1m Crown reduction  
Jesters Cottage, Walden Road

**Tree No Objections UDC**

## 12. FINANCE.

- i.. Accounts for payment

**Resolved** – that the Accounts. Appendix i be passed for payment. (Cllr.Elsey)

- ii. Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2024/25.

The Draft Budget for the fiscal year 2024/25 had been circulated. To be discussed at the next meeting.

- iii. To review the Clerk's number of hours worked.

To be reviewed at the next meeting.

- iv. To review the Standing Orders

**Resolved** – that the Model Standing Orders 2018 (England), Updated 2023 issued by the NALC be adopted (Cllr.Elsey/Cllr. Mrs. Lee)

- v. To review the Financial Regulations

**Resolved** – that the Model Financial Regulations 2019 issued by the NALC be reviewed at the January meeting (Cllr. Ms. Gray/Cllr. Elsey)

## 13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no "Items for the Next Agenda" other than those already previously mentioned.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed  
Chairman

Date

## Appendix i

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 to 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

Monies Received.	£
Mrs. S. Salt. Purchase 2x plots for ashes. S&S Salt and Ms. E. Witty	220.00
UDC Precept	21,580.00
Interest BPA Account 5/6/23 – 3/9/23	2.88
Interest BPA Account 5/6/23 – 3/9/23	157.50
HMRC VAT Repayment (Village Hall)	2,076.52

#### Monies passed for Payment

D. Green. Ink Cartridges	78.88 Ch.No. 102896
RBL Poppy Appeal Wreath	<span style="color: red;">S137</span> 40.00 Ch.No. 102897
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband	22.32 Ch.No. 102898
N.Power Electricity. September Account	56.86 Ch.No. 102899
D. Green. Grasshopper Lawncare. War memorial	28.00 Ch.No. 102900
EALC. Course fee. Ref Inv. 17096 J. Gray	20.40 Ch.No. 102901
Ashdon Village Hall Committee VAT repayment	2,076.52 Ch.No. 102902
MD Landscapes. Village Grass. September Acc	414.45 Ch.No. 102903
Ashdon Village Hall Committee. Hire of hall 3 hours @£6	18.00 Ch.No. 102904
D. Green. Tel/Broadband	22.32 Ch.No. 102905
MD Landscapes Village Grass October Acc	801.36 Ch.No. 102906

#### Balances at Bank on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023:-

Current Account:-	£4,208.22
Saver Account:-	£1,078.82
Saver Account:-	£78,939.91