

11th December 2023

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 11th December 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey (Chairman), Ms. Jane Gray, and Mrs. Michelle Lee, John Moran, Mrs. Alice Olley

Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Mrs. Melanie Horrigan and Martin Foley (ECC)

2. Public Representations.

There were no matters or representations from the public.

3. Short Address by Councillor Foley on County Council matters

There was no report from Councillor Foley. He had said that he would forward a report in the near future.

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

Councillor Moran told the meeting that the revised Local Plan was out for consultation until the 18th of this month. He had submitted his own comments but would refrain from commenting for the council as matter of fairness and balance to the two other villages which he represented as a District Councillor. He stated that in the plan Ashdon was considered as a large village despite having no shop and no other facilities over and above other like sized villages which had not been designated as such. The village was to be allocated 41 homes, the site for which had not been advised. It was his understanding that the homes proposed adjacent to All saints Close would be part of the 41. He would challenge the concept of a "larger village" due to the reasons already stated.

There are some maintenance issues with council properties at Rogers End. He would also take up the matter of the allocation of "Rural Homes" with the District Council as a matter of urgency for those people that wished to stay in the village but were increasingly unable to do so.

There had been some problems with refuse collection vehicles which meant to one of the collections being missed. The age of the collection fleet was causing some concern but replacement vehicles were proving to be very expensive.

There was nothing to report on the matter at Butlers Lane.

5. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Moran declared that he was member for Ashdon on the District Council

6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2023.

There appeared to be a discrepancy with cheque number 102906 recently issued in that appeared twice in the minutes dated....The Clerk would investigate.

Resolved – that the minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2023 be signed as a true record

7. Matters Arising from the above Minutes

i Playing Fields:-

- a. Rectory Lane. Cllr. Mrs Lee was investigating the possibility of further equipment and would report her findings. The Clerk reported that the possibility of installing a post and rail to replace the rope at the slide mound was being investigated. Mr. Everitt had reported that the hedge adjacent to the track from Ladywell could be pushed back to facilitate a better entrance and the surface levelled in the spring when ground conditions were suitable. The Clerk would contact Thurlow Estate to seek their advice.
- b. Church Field. Nothing to report.
- c. Mr. Chris Pardue had removed the damaged seat from the Cemetery

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.

Councillor Moran reported that the Highways Panel would meet in February. There was no update on the hoped for speed reduction measures although the scheme had been validated but that the funding was not available at this time.

The gulleys in the village and Steventon End had been emptied . Radwinter Road had not. The water flowing across the road at Springfield was still a matter of concern particularly as it had caused a sheet of ice across the highway in the recent frost.

- b Speeding and Highway Matters.

There was nothing to report from the Speedwatch Group which it ,was hoped to resurrect.

The Chairman reported that new 2improved” and slightly cheaper flashing signs were now available. The Chairman would continue to try and seek advice from Highways on siting of the signs.

iii. Roadworks at Linton

Roadworks are ongoing with a revised junction at Dean Road crossroads. The Bartlow Road remains closed in Linton.

iv. Village Hall and White Horse House.

Cllr. Mrs. Olley congratulated Cllr. Ms. Gray on the amount of work she had done on village hall matters. The flower border had been cleared and some bushes cut back to the rear of the car park. Invoices had been received for this work and also for the Electrical Inspection.

Resolved – that a meeting be convened with the Parish Council, trustees and Village Hall Committee to discuss the Terms and Conditions and responsibilities of the parties involved in the running of the village hall; and that Mrs. Danielle Frost , RCCE Village Halls Advisor be invited to attend and address the meeting. Date to be arranged. (Cllr. Elsey/ Cllr. Mrs. Lee)

- v Community Led Housing. The Chairman continued to get a date from the District Council for a meeting to discuss the proposed housing at All Saints. This was proving very problematic (Action Chairman)

Cllr. Moran would seek a meeting with the Cabinet member for Housing and the Lead Officer to try and seek a satisfactory outcome to the provision of housing adjacent to All Saints Close. (Action Cllr. Moran)

- vi Neighbourhood Watch. Nothing to report

- vii Allotments. Mr. Malcolm McGeoghan, owner of the Allotments, had been unable to attend the meeting with the Chairman to discuss the future of the allotments. Meeting to be re-arranged. (Action Chairman)

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

Resolved – that funding of £500.00 be made available to the Community Hub currently being held in the village hall to match that already promised by the Cllr. Moran (UDC). (Cllr. Elsey/Cllr. Mrs Lee)

8. Correspondence. No matters raised

9. New Items.

- i. Village Handyman .

Cllr. Moran to investigate the possibility of having a Village Handyman and to see how other small villages manage “local” maintenance matters. (Action Cllr. Moran)

- ii. Dates of Meetings for the calendar year 2024
8th January, 19th February, 18th March (Annual Parish Meeting), 8th April, 13th May (Annual Parish Council), 10th June, 22nd July, 19th August, 23rd September, 4th November, 9th December.

- iii. Ashdon Emergency Plan. Plan being updated.

- iv. Parish Councils response to the proposed new Local Plan

Cllr. Ms. Gray had written a very detailed and excellent response to the matters regarding the Local Plan for Ashdon. It was agreed that Cllr. Ms.

Gray complete the document and forward it to the District Council as the Council's response to the Local Plan.

10. NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- i. UTT/23/2238/FUL. Removal of existing steel windows and doors and replacement with new uPVC double glazed units finished in white
Ashdon Primary School

No Comment

- ii. UTT/23/2780/CLP. Loft conversion with rear dormer
10. Church End

No Comment. Reported that this application had since been approved

- iii. UTT/23/2955/TCA. Crown reduction of 1-3m of 1 no. hazel trees, crown reduction of 3m of 2 no. hazel trees and removal of 1 no. Robina to near ground level
Wittenham Cottage, Crown Hill

No Comment

- iv. UTT/23/2987/DOC. Application to discharge condition 3 (materials), 4 (roof lights), 5 (hard/soft landscaping), 8 (biodiversity enhancement layout), 9 (renewables) attached to UTT/23/0895/FUL.
Barn at Spriggs Farm, Water End

It was considered that the Parish Council had previously commented on this application. To be confirmed.

- v. UTT/23/3041/HHF. Conversion of outbuilding to annexe
Brook Farm, Steventon End

Due to the rural nature of the site and the history of previous applications on the site it was unanimously resolved that Cllr. Moran have this application called in

- vi. UTT/23/3087/TCA. Fell in no. spruce tree and 1 no. ash tree. Reduce height back to previous points Of 4 no. conifers
Ashdon Village Hall

No Comment

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED.

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

12. FINANCE.

- i.. Accounts for payment

Resolved – that the accounts for payment (Appendix i) be approved (Cllr.Elsey/Cllr. Mrs. Lee)

- ii. Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2024/25 (previously circulated)

The Draft Budget for 2024/25 was not discussed.

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

To be discussed at the next meeting

13. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- I To discuss the possibility of co-opting Mrs. Julia Goodwin to the Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix i

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 11th DECEMBER 2023 6th NOVEMBER 2023 to 1st DECEMBER 2023

Monies Received.	£
Daniel Robinson. Purchase of grave & Interment Fee re Janet Marsh	165.00
Mrs. S. Upton. Purchase of grave for Interment of ashes	110.00
HJ Paintin. Interment of ashes re James Tilbrook	35.00

Monies passed for Payment

NPower Electricity October Account	65.93 Ch.No.102907
Blachere Illumination. Christmas Tree Star	224.40 Ch.No.102908
John Thorn. Microsoft Account	96.56 Ch.No.102909
D. Green Stamps	13.80 Ch.No.102910
AWF Trees. Village Christmas Tree S137	140.00 Ch.No.102911
Grasshopper Lawncare. Treat War Memorial grass	28.00 Ch.No.102912
PKF Littlejohn. Audit fee	378.00 Ch.No.102913
SLCC. Clerks membership annual fee	112.00 Ch.No.102914
Mary Green. Pansies War memorial S137	41.52 Ch.No.102915
David FitzSamuel-Nicholls Cemetery records restoration	765.00 Ch.No.102916
D. Green. Christmas Tree baubles. S137	24.00 Ch.No.102917
Ashdon Village Hall Committee. Hire of hall Nov.	18.00 Ch.No.102918
D. Green. Telephone/Broadband	22.30 Ch.No.102919
D. Green. Malwarebytes computer protection	49.99 Ch.No.102920
N.Power Electricity November Account	57.96 Ch.No.102921

Balances at Bank on 11th December 2023:-

Current Account:-	£5,207.89
Saver Account:-	£1,082.58
Saver Account:-	£74,198.40

Appendix i

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2023 25th SEPTEMBER 2023 to 6th 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	S137 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
MD Landscapes. Village Grass Oct Account	801.36	Ch.No. 102904
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 6th November 2023:-

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