

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

At a Meeting of Ashdon Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present.

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

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

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

There were no Apologies for Absence. All Members being present.

**2. Public Representations.**

There were no matters or representations from the public

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

**The Local Plan Consultation** period had now closed and was available on the UDC web site. Phase II, the Final Plan, should be completed by June. There is to be a full Council meeting next week regarding having the new Plan in place by 2025. It was noted that the Gt. Chesterford Neighbourhood Plan was under threat due to the possibility of the planners allowing a new development not previously catered for to go ahead. If this were to be so then it could possibly negate the effectiveness of all Neighbourhood Plans and allow development to take place against the wishes of the local community. This could include Ashdon. Cllr. Moran would be monitoring this closely and reporting back on the decisions made. **Chimneys at Carters Croft.** Cllr. Moran was seeking a meeting with the relevant Cabinet Member to put the case for the residents to have the chimneys retained. It was noted that Cllr. Mrs. Lee had written to Kemi Badenoch MP on this matter putting the case for the retention of the chimneys. When power cuts occur there are no other forms of heating. **Development at All Saints.** There had been objections from some residents. Cllr. Moran said that he understood this had been put "on the back burner" by UDC due to other pressures. Highways objections to the access could be overcome by reducing the number of dwellings to seven. **Landfill at Butlers Lane.** Cllr. Moran said that this was not currently on UDC's "radar" and Enforcement were not actively investigating the matter. Mr. Chris Pardue, who had been pursuing this matter, would give an update at the next meeting.

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

Cllr. Foley reminded Members that there had not been a Local Plan in place since 2005, however the new Plan was progressing rapidly. Highways. Cllr. Foley would be visiting the village with the new Highways portfolio holder Cllr. Cunningham on the 24<sup>th</sup> January along with a Senior Highways Officer Julia Johnson when they would inspect the problems of drainage at Radwinter Road and other outstanding Highway matters in the village. This would also be an opportunity to view the proposed sighting of the speed reduction signs. The Officer with responsibility for speeding reduction measures, Sarah Tomlin, would need to be consulted on the positioning of proposed signs. Cllr. Foley had sent through the minutes of the Highway Panel meeting and the full report of the Boundary changes which had been circulated.

Councillor Foley left the Meeting at this point.

**5. Declaration of Interests**

There were no Declarations of Interests.

**6. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

**Resolved** – that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be signed as a true record (Cllr. Elsey/ Cllr. Moran)

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

i Playing Fields:-

- a. Rectory Lane. Discussions were in hand with the Tenant regarding improvements to the “vehicular” access. This would involve facing the hedge back, levelling the track and installing a 4ft field gate. Cllr. Moran would carry out and record weekly inspections of the equipment
- b. Church Field. Nothing to report. Cllr. Mrs. Lee would carry out and record weekly inspections of the equipment.

ii. Highways: Traffic Management and Speeding

The request for speed reduction measures had been verified. Funding was now awaited, hopefully in February. Cllr. Elsey would identify suitable flashing reduction signs and obtain quotations. Cllr. Moran would advise on the type of sign installed in Arkesden

iii. Roadworks at Linton

Works at Dean Road crossroads had been completed. Remedial works including verges was on schedule for completion late January/February. The final handover was scheduled for March.

iv. Village Hall and White Horse House.

The Clerk had written to Fairstone Group requesting reimbursement for costs incurred in the installation of the fire alarm system and the lease. No reply to date. Cllr. Mrs. Olley said that the rent from White Horse House should go to the Village Hall Management Committee which it currently was.

**Resolved** – that the Parish Council pay the Village Hall Charitable Trust £17,120.00 this being the White Horse House rental income from the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. (Cllr. Olley/Cllr Gray)  
Unanimous

**Resolved** – When the outstanding monies are received from Fairstone Group those monies be passed to the Village Hall Charitable Trust (Cllr. Moran/Cllr. Olley). Unanimous

v Community Led Housing. See Councillor Moran’s report Item 3.

- vi Neighbourhood Watch. Nothing to report
- vii Allotments. Waiting for the landowner to revert with dates for the proposed meeting.
- viii. Village Handyman. Deferred until the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February

**8. Correspondence.** No matters raised

**9. New Items.**

- i. Ashdon Emergency Plan. Progressing
- ii. Parish Councils response to the proposed new Local Plan submitted. (Held on file)
- iii. Request for funding for maintenance and repairs of the Village Hall.  
  
**Resolved** - that this item be removed from the Agenda (Cllr Ms. Gray)
- iv. Up-date on quotes requested to check all HR, H&S, and necessary contracts are in order and up-to-date. Deferred to the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February
- v. To discuss the possibility of Mrs. Julia Goodwin being co-opted to the Council. To be added to the Agenda for the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February when Mrs. Goodwin would be co-opted.
- vi. Seat at the Cemetery. The Clerk would obtain quotations for replacement seat for installation in the spring

**10. New Planning Applications.**

- i. UTT/23/3138/LB. Removal of single-storey lean-to structure to east of gable of barn (no works planned to listed barn building directly)  
Barn at Waltons, Steventon End  
  
**No Comment**
- ii. UTT/23/2844/HHF. Whole-house thermal upgrade works to an existing detached property which include external wall insulation, insulating roof above rafters, installation of solar panels on the thermally upgraded roof and installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP)  
The Lamb, Walden Road  
  
**No Comment**

**11. Planning Applications Determined**

- i. UTT/23/2987/DOC. Application to discharge condition 3 (materials), 4 (roof lights), 5 (hard/soft landscaping), 8 (biodiversity enhancement layout), 9 (renewables), 10 (lighting design scheme) and 12 (additional drawings) attached to UTT/23/0895/FUL.  
Barn at Spriggs Farm, Water End  
  
**Conditional Approval**

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

**Conditional Approval**

**12. Finance.**

- i.. Accounts for payment

**Resolved** - that the Accounts, Appendix i be approved for payment (Cllr. Elsey/  
Cllr. Mrs Lee)

Investigations would be made as to whether higher rates of interest could be obtained from other accounts..

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

To be set at the 19<sup>th</sup> February following a Budget Meeting to be arranged for the 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Resolved** – that the Precept for the fiscal year 2024/25 be set at £43,160.00 being the same as the fiscal year 2023/24. This represents an increase of £1.31/annum or 1.2%. A Band D property will increase from £111.04 in 23/24 to £112.35 in 24/25 or approx.. 2p/week

- iv. To review the scale of fees and charges at the Cemetery.

To be reviewed at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February

- v. To review the Financial Regulations

**Resolved** – that the Model Financial Regulations dated 2019 issued by the NALC be adopted.(Cllr. Mrs. Horrigan/Cllr. Moran)

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

To be reviewed at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February..

**13. Items for the Next Agenda**

- i, Village Hall Car Park

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed Chairman

Date

**Parish Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**Accounts for Payment 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Monies Received.	£
BPA Interest 4/9/23 – 3/12/23	258.49
BPA Interest 4/9/23 – 3/12/23	3.76
J. Gray. Reimbursement for EALC course fee	20.40

Monies passed for Payment

D. Green. Diaries for playing field reports	4.80 Ch.No. 102922
Ashdon Baptist Church. Hire of hall for meetings	170.00 Ch.No. 102923
Note. Ch.No. 102852 (15/.5/23) Cancelled	
Ashdon Village Hall Charitable Trust Hire of hall.December	18.00 Ch.No. 102924
John Thorn. Computer protection	123.06 Ch.No. 102925
Ashdon Baptist Church. Community Hub Grant	500.00 Ch.No. 102926
D. Green. Gift to owner of fork lift for help with Christmas Tree	20.00 Ch.No. 102927

Balances at Bank on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024:-

Current Account:-	£5,207.89
Saver Account:-	£1,082,58
Saver Account:-	£74,198.40