

28th March 2022

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Baptist Schoolroom on Monday 28th March 2022, at 7.00pm.

Present.

Councillors Mike Elsey, John Moran and Philip Player

Also Present:-

10 Members of the public as per the register. Mr. David Green (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllr. Steve Hayler and George Smith

2. Minutes.

Resolved – that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021 previously circulated, be signed as a true record (Cllr. Elsey)

3. Matter Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report.

From the viewpoint of the Parish Council I suppose one might best describe this last 12 months as a year of contrasts: both good and not so good! In the area of major projects we have suffered some major disappointments. After investing a good deal of time and energy (not to mention money!) on the village hall cafe/shop we have felt obliged recently to abandon the project for two reasons. One was due to escalating materials costs which meant that quotes for the work were vastly in excess of the budget. The other was that the Rose & Crown has revealed plans to build a cafe/shop on their property which would have meant a clear duplication and probably rendered neither project viable.

Just as disappointing is the situation with the Affordable Homes Project at All Saints. After more than two years it is still unresolved and remains in the hands of solicitors while we await the results of yet another request to UDC for an open meeting.

On the plus side the PC has negotiated a contract with Fenland Leisure to replace the multi unit and up-grade the zip wire at the Rectory Lane play area and that work is due to commence late May. New oak gates have been installed at the cemetery entrance and, similarly, new gates will soon be in place at the entrance to the war memorial. Also on the "upgrading" list is the old village hall (including the provision of new disabled toilets) and the PC and Village Hall Committee are currently in discussions on how best to proceed.

It's a pleasure to confirm that, after several years of discussions and a great deal of hard work by Speedwatch, it seems finally that we are moving ahead with some speed prevention measures in the village. Applications for several individual installations have been submitted to the Highways Panel and the results are expected very shortly."

Cllr. Mike Elsey. Chairman of Ashdon Parish Council

5. County Councillor's Annual Report 2020-2021

There was no County Councillor's Report

6. District Councillors Report.

There was no District Councillor's Report

7. Village Hall

There was no Village Hall report in Cllr. Hayler's absence.

Village shop/hub/café.

Mrs. Mary Green asked that if the plans for a shop/hub/café at the Rose & Crown do not materialise in the 3 to 4 months time frame that the plans for such a venue in the village hall be revisited. She also considered that, as there was such a large majority (120 + for, 6 against), that a village meeting should have been held to seek the views of the village when all matters concerning the project, including funding, could have been openly discussed before the project was abandoned.

Note. Mr. Iain Ford joined the meeting at this point.

The Clerk asked Mr. Ford if the two stop notices he previously reported on the car park at the Rose & Crown had now been lifted. Mr. Ford explained that these were not in fact stop notices but notices giving warning that if work continued it would be against recommendations from the local authority and at the developer's risk. No such works had taken place. Mr. Ford also explained that the planning application dated 10th June 2021 for the "Proposed erection of a detached building at the rear of the Rose and Crown PH" was a pre-application and not a full application as stated in the covering letter. Discussions had taken place with the District Council regarding a new application which would be submitted in the near future.

8. Other Matters

Highways. Sheena Dale raised concerns regarding the sink/pot holes outside Jesters Cottage, Walden Road and the condition of Rectory Lane. Both of these had been brought to the attention of Highways but with little action being taken to date. The sink holes at Walden Road were causing the greatest concern particularly regarding the danger to cyclists and motor cyclists. The matter had been urgently brought to the attention of Cllr. Foley who had managed to get them prioritised by the County Highways. The Clerk also reported that he had brought the matter to the attention of the Police to seek their help in having the matter resolved.

Defibrillator. Mrs. Green asked if a list of the names of trained operators could be sited next to the device. Will be done. (Action. Cllr. Elsey)

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.35pm

Signed.....Chairman Date.....

