

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Delamere House, Hill Furze, Fladbury, Pershore, WR10 2NB
Tel: 01386 860502, email ashtonunderhill@yahoo.co.uk

Source Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2015 @ 7.00pm in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

Members and Officers present: Cllr Smith (Chair), Cllr Moore, Cllr Cope, Cllr Hague, Cllr Becket & Cllr McIntyre

In attendance: DC Darby, CC Hardman, Clerk & 5 member of the public

1. Apologies: Cllr Rowley.
2. Declarations of Interest:
 - a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. None
 - b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
 - d) Written requests for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.

Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

3. Minutes from September meeting were approved as true and accurate

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time at 7.05 to listen to Mr Fletcher, Mr Stephens, Mr Finch and Mr Facer (notes attached)

The time allocated is at the discretion of the council/chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the parish council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the parish council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoire.

4. Progress reports: for information / discussion and comments if necessary
 - a. Social Centre
The village hall has been redecorated and bark ready to be spread on the play area.
 - b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group, following the meeting on 21/10/2015
 - The joint Core Strategy for Tewksbury/Gloucester/Cheltenham is under public consultation and examination under which the Ashchurch Camp proposal sits for circa 5000plus houses plus other uses. Representation has been made to the inspector to consider measures to prevent the villages becoming 'rat runs' and that the woodland belt between the development and Bredon Hill side of the site is made wider to limit the visual impact on the AONB.
 - An agreement was reached to support Eckington to oppose an application to convert and extend the former MOD Radar Station to provide overnight accommodation and meeting room for the Deer Park Hall Weddings and Business Centre. The site sits in an SSSI and SAC.
 - It is expected an application will be submitted for the proposed Beckford care Village by the end of December - 100 dwellings and high end care unit for 48 and there appears to be mixed views within the village. Could have an impact on Ashton re additional traffic if the Groaten is used to access the development.
 - Bredon PC has submitted its draft document to Wychavon for the public consultation stage and Eckington PC have just adopted the draft document ready for public consultation. Cllr Matt Darby of Bredon PC is happy to provide Ashton PC with advise on the process.
The group are still without a secretary and suggested that Ashton PC can provide its social media/notice board to help advertise for the post.

It was agreed the PC would post an advert KR
 - c. PACT FM
Local incidents were reported

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- d. Lengthsman SH
It was agreed the Lengthsman could remove leaves
 - e. Vehicle Activated Sign SH
 - f. Defibrillator SS
Sold for £593.02
 - g. Flooding SH
Drains to be cleared
 - h. Highways issues (current traffic congestion proposal by WCC & School) FM/SS
CC Hardman was in attendance and discussed chasing the traffic survey. AH
 - i. Trees in the Parish NM
It was agreed to speak to a professional about the trees along the Groaten.
 - j. Communications KR
 - k. Footpaths
CC Hardman said he would check on the status of the footpath from the memorial to the church. He did state that there are years of backlog on path repairs and we could consider match funding to expedite. He would request a quote on this repair. Chair agreed to write to Highways with details of the issues. SS/AH
 - l. Neighbourhood plan
Document submitted to Wychavon. Going to consultation, expect to have answer end of the year, early 2016. Meeting to be scheduled between Cllr Janette Becket and Cllr Matt Darby as per the BHCG update.
4. District and County Councillors' reports: for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.)

Report by District Councillor Adrian Darby to Ashton under Hill PC 10 November 2015

Planning.

Your clerk sent me an email on 12 October asking me to look into this the application W/15/01918 by Mr Nicklin at the Pig Barn, The Groaten, saying that the Parish Council was not happy about it. Unfortunately it had already been signed off for delegated approval on that very same day. The Parish Council had not submitted any objection so far as I could see on the website. I had already raised an issue on this application in August to make it clear that the caravan should be removed, but I could not see any other planning reason to justify taking it to committee in the absence of any parish council objection.

W/15/01894 Barn at Paris. Change of use of Barn to Live/work unit. I have told the officer that I wish to see the response of the Cotswold Conversation Board before deciding on whether to ask for this to go to committee.

Apart from these two specifically Ashton applications I have been involved in various others in my capacity as Heritage Champion.

Appeal at Worcestershire Hunt Kennels. I am not sure whether I told you that I would be appearing at the planning appeal in August into the refusal for 90 houses at the Worcestershire Hunt Kennels. This was because one of the refusal reasons was the harmful effect on biodiversity, namely a traditional hay-meadow LWS. The outcome is still awaited but the effect on the Local Wildlife Site turned out to be irrelevant because the appellants modified their plans to reduce the impact on the important area of grassland.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 2015

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Application for 100 acre solar farm at Strensham near the Grade one listed church. This was approved at the last planning meeting in spite of my speaking against it in my capacity of Heritage Champion.

Appeal against non-determination by Tewkesbury Borough Council for 550 houses at Land off Aston Fields Lane Northway. This appeal is open for representations to arrive within six weeks of 26 October 2015. I will be making a representative as Wychavon District Councillor, essentially repeating the points I made against the original application. The Parish Council might wish to do the same if it objected originally.

General Wychavon News

At their last council meetings Wychavon and Malvern Hills resolved to share their senior management teams, following their earlier decision to share a chief officer. This has the advantage of saving some salary costs while making the top jobs more attractive to candidates by giving them increased responsibilities.

5. Planning

Decisions

W/15/01918 The Pig Barn – approved

W/15/02437 Graham House non material amendment to app W/15/01202 – refused

W/15/02584 Graham House amendment of permission W/15/01202/PP – PC had no objections

Current application

W/15/01894 Paris Barn, change of use – barn to live/work unit – no objection

W/15/02572 Honeysuckle Cottage – alterations to exist first floor bedroom and roof construction – no objection

6. New Homes Bonus

Looks like storage container & marquee are the clear winners. With benches and white gates close behind.

7. Phone box door has been removed, needs new wooden frame

FM

8. Finance

- Cheques for payment approved

M English	£ 481.49
Wychavon DC – Elections	£ 937.72
OHL	£ 9.04
Grant Thornton	£ 150.00

- Bank balance

Bank balance as at the 21st October £10,544.06

Savings- £ 3,3134.32

Total cash assets for the PC as at 21st October 2015 = £13,858.38

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- It was agreed to increase the precept, further meeting of the Finance Committee (All members) to be held to agree on the budget. This is after The Clerk confirms if a referendum is likely to be called for an increase of that size. In addition it was agreed to review likely expenditure for the coming year from ASC and Churchyard Maintenance, plus send out notification to the village via the Newsletter of likely increase, for comment.
9. Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting.
- Cllr Cope & Hague to send in Declaration of interest to Wychavon ASAP
 - Cllr Cope & Hague to take identification to HSBC in Evesham
10. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: Councillors may use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.
- Next year's Ashton Open Gardens weekend will be Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June 2016. The theme for the weekend will be Happy and Glorious to commemorate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Following the success of the event this year £5,425 has been distributed between St Barbara's, The Social Centre, The two Schools, The Guides and the WI.
11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th January at 7pm. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

.....(chair)

.....(date)

PUBLIC NOTES

Members of the public attended the meeting to request that the council continue to support both the Social Centre and the Church. They stated that both organisations could not run without this funding and requested that the council increase the precept in order to afford this. It was agreed to put a note out to residents advising them on the increase in the precept.

David Finch asked Cllr Darby about the planning application at the entrance to the Groaten

Mr Fletcher stated that trees in the Groaten need attention every two years, both sides of the hedge. He was also concerned that we have lost two trees in the parish and requested a second opinion be sought when felling trees.