

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 14th January 2014 @ 7pm

in the Green Room, Ashton under Hill

Members and Officers present: Cllrs Barnett (chair), Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Sanger-Davies, Cllr Moor, Cllr Cope, Cllr Reese & Cllr Hague

In attendance: District Councillor Derby, Clerk & 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Hague declared an interest in the mowing contract renewal (item 10) & Cllr Fletcher declared an interest in the possible development on The Groaten (item 6).
 - 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.

The meeting opened @ 7 pm, two members of the public attended

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2013 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **Progress reports:**
 - a. Social Centre, it was agreed to give a donation of £6000.00 to AUHSC to cover costs to the playground as well as other necessary items.
 - b. Bredon Hill Conservation Group, no report
 - c. PACT – Clerk to invite the new PCSO to the March meeting **ACTION ME**
 - d. Lengthsman, various items were discussed and the clerk to ask M Woodhouse to attend to them. **ACTION ME**
 - e. Vehicle Activated Sign, working well however Lengthsman needs to turn the sign around the other way at the Cottons Lane Entrance. **ACTION JF/MW**
 - f. Trees in the village including overhanging hedges, particularly The Close footpath down to The Star were discussed and it was agreed they need attention. The tree on Gorse Hill has died, it was agreed to replace it in the Spring. **ACTION JF**
 - g. Flooding & Ditches & drains

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Parish Clerk: Michelle English, Delamere House, Hill Furze, Fladbury, Pershore, WR10 2NB
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5. Possible amendment(s) to road junction at Groaten triangle with Elmley and Beckford Roads. It was agreed to ask Highways to come to the March meeting to discuss this problem as well as getting the CSO to speak to residents about parking on footways and pavements.
ACTION DR
6. Possible use of Charles Archer's land off Groaten for building (as alternative to too much development opposite Middle School)
ACTION FM
7. Flooding in Groaten (see correspondence from inhabitants). It is believed the drains have been surveyed. Gulleys in the Groaten are blocked, clerk to advise the Lengthsman
ACTION ME/MW

8. **District and County Councillors' reports:** for information. (Items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting.)

Report from DC Darby

1 Planning. As I reported to the November meeting the Inspector examining the South Worcestershire Development Plan has indicated that he would expect to see a substantial increase in housing numbers. The councils' consultants are reworking the figures and a new target will be put forward in early February. This may result in further sites being needed in villages. Until we know what this figure is, it is unclear whether Wychavon has a five year housing land supply and thus it is difficult to resist a planning application in a sustainable location. A category two village such as Ashton will count as such. Offering a second site at the south end will not in itself prevent an application at the north end in excess of the SWDP figure from being successful. The test will be whether the development can be shown to be unsustainable even though the village itself is regarded as sustainable.

2. Finance. Wychavon has increased its Council Tax Base by 1400 houses, due half and half to an increase in the number of houses and to the new arrangements for council tax support for those on benefit (everyone now has to pay something). Ashton has increased its base by 7 houses, mostly due to the second effect. Because of this effect Wychavon will no longer be making up the 10% shortfall in council tax arising from the new central government grant arrangements.

3. The agricultural/ drainage contractors site at the Groaten. Enforcement officers are taking action.

9. **Planning:**

10. **Finance:** The budget for 2014/15 was agreed and the PC decided to keep the Precept the same as 2013/14.

The current account opened with a balance of	£13,267.25
Income Parish Plan	£ 524.96
Cheques written out to the value of	£ 3,927.49
CH 706 (AUHSC) still outstanding	£ 14.00
CH 724 (Elmley Scout Group)	£ 100.00
CH 727 (S Lane)	£ 240.00

Closing current account balance £10,458.72

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 2014

ASHTON UNDER HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Savings account balance £ 5,307.28

Total cash assets for the PC as at 21st October **£15,307.28**

Cheques for approval

M Woodhouse	£ 212.50
HMPS (bench x 2)	£ 480.00
M English	£ 476.23
OHL	£
S Hague	£1,540.00
St Barbara Church	£1,500.00
Beckford Group Mag	£ 86.00
Wychavon District Council	£ 87.64

It was agreed in principal to purchase a Defib for the village, this would come out of reserves. The PC need to discuss who will be responsible for the Defib, where it should go.

Running cost	£ 365.00 pa
Incidentals	£ 300.00
Purchase cost Zoll AED	£1 ,200.00

	£1,865.00

Grass gutting quotation – this will remain the same at 2013/14 £1540.00 was accepted

11. **Correspondence for Information:** To note the attached appendix of items which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting. (OR a list of items will be available at the meeting.)

12. **Clerk's report on Urgent Decisions since the last meeting.**

Litter pick date was set for the 8th Feb

13. **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.

Future Agenda items

Broadband

Dog Fouling

Footways – Memorial breaking up

Severn Trent

Potholes in Willow Close

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5. Date of next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for 11th March 2014 @ 7pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting @ 8pm. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

.....(chairman)

.....(date)