

**Ashton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
Held at Ashton School @ 7.30pm
12th May 2010. AGM**

Members of the Parish Council Present

Bernard Day – Chairman
Andrew Fowler
Terry Turvey
Sandra Lemon
Ginny Wareham - Clerk

1. Welcome to Sandra Lemon our new Parish Councillor.
2. Apologies – Jamie Watters, Jeremy Roy, Steve Green & Martin Wilson (District Councillor)
3. Elections:
 - a) Chairman. Bernard Day agreed to stand again. Proposed by Andy Fowler and seconded by Sandra Lemon.
 - b) Vice Chairman. Although not present Jeremy Roy agreed to stand again. Proposed by Bernard Day and seconded by Terry Turvey.
 - c) Financial Office. Ginny Wareham agreed to stand again. Proposed by Terry Turvey and seconded by Sandra Lemon.
4. Minutes of the previous AGM. These were read out by Bernard Day and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Andrew Fowler and seconded by Terry Turvey. NB Change to 12 x. The land is owned by the charity fields and not Ashton PC.
5. Matters arising. The benches in the millennium garden are still waiting to be done. The rugby club sign is pointing towards the land before and not the rugby club. Ginny Wareham to speak to Mike Northall. The sign coming into Ashton from Hartwell says please D i e slowly instead of drive. Ginny Wareham to speak to SNC.
6. The Chairman's report

The playground committee made some progress but has now come to a standstill as Yvonne is unable to continue.

Speedwatch. We are just completing a three week period for this year. We got just a few offenders but we do slow down the traffic.

3 Canons. The field on Stoke Road has now changed ownership. The threat of illegal activity seems to have passed for now.

Streetlights. We are grateful to Terry and Keith for the second street light survey, undertaken in October 2009. Various problems were identified, not least the number of wooden poles coming to the end of their time.

Churchyard. A contractor has been appointed to mow the churchyard and periodically maintain the millennium garden.

Strategic Plan. A sub committee met several times last summer, working on the strategic plan. One idea was the Christmas tree and carol singing evening which proved popular. When circulated in the AVN the plan drew minimal response which was disappointing.

Litter picking was organised for Stoke Road in October and Roade Hill in April. A more frequent programme is needed to be more effective.

During the year we had an issue with confidentiality which made us look closely at Standing Orders and other regulations by which we are controlled.

There have been two resignations from the council and we have been fortunate to find two new members.

Finally, thank you to the volunteers who strimmed the churchyard last year. Thank you to speedwatch volunteers, Christmas Tree helpers and litter pickers.

I am grateful to councillors and staff for their contributions, support and work behind the scenes.

Bernard Day 12/03/2010

7. District Councillors report.

It has been a difficult year financially not only in the country generally but for the District Council too. As I have mentioned at previous meetings about 75% of our income comes from central government grant and it is apparent that ours is going to be cut by about 10% next year--whoever wins the election.

Also interest received is now about 1% as opposed to 6% a couple of years ago. Add in the drop in planning fees caused by the recession and life is very difficult.

However unlike the private sector where demand for your product falls demand for other council services increases eg benefit payments.

So if faced with making the budget balance difficult choices have to be made and this will become apparent over the next few months.

The council tax at SNC has increased this year by 3% or about £5 per year for a band D property. The County Council, Police and Parish precepts are in addition of course and although we collect them we pass them on to the relevant body.

The interim rural housing policy is also in operation. Ashton was classed as neither a sustainable nor a semi sustainable village.

The bulk of developments being directed to these two classes-eg Roade. So Ashton should be protected although the concept of old confines boundaries is largely gone.

Anyone having questions on these or other matters please contact me.

Martin Wilson.

8. Precept. This was agreed at £5500 for 2010_2011 and £2750 was paid in April and £2750 will be paid in September 2010.

9. Internal Control Questionnaire and Audit. Ginny Wareham presented the accounts and the questionnaire to the councillors who all agreed that both looked ok.

10. There were no matters arising from the floor.

11. Street Lights. The report from Eon has been circulated already to the councillors. It has been agreed that we will use the last of the £1000 grant to upgrade street light number 1 which will cost just under £1000.00.

This was agreed by Terry Turvey and seconded by Andy Fowler.

The rest could potentially be funded by the sale of the "hut land". This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting in July and was agreed that the Hut land committee should be invited to discuss this.

12. AOB

i) Flooding. Dave Farrand wrote to Bernard showing him the flooding outside number 32 and 34 Stoke Road. Ginny Wareham is to write to the council to see what they can do.

ii) Ginny had an email from Lindsey Bramble about the cars parking on Hartwell Road bend just on from the pub. This was discussed and agreed that it helped to slow the traffic down and was not a problem.

iii) Gerry McLaughlin wants to use the playing field behind the pub as a car park when he hosts a charity event in July. This went to a vote and 2 voted for it. Andrew Fowler voted against it and 1 abstained. It was there agreed that this was OK. However, Mr McLaughlin is completely responsible for this and must ensure there are signs pre warning of the closure to villagers and that it is properly supervised.

iv) The parish council were also approached about the landing of a helicopter in September for a special occasion. Again, this was agreed but proper measures and supervision must be taken.

v) Footpaths. The state of the local footpaths is not very good and there are stiles and gates which are damaged or have gone. There are some metal signs that either been bent or are on the floor. Terry Turvey would like to take over as footpath warden from Jeremy Roy. The Parish were happy with this as long as Jeremy Roy agreed. Terry Turvey to speak to Jeremy Roy.

vi) Terry Turvey has bought up that there is too much horse muck on the roads of Ashton.

vii) Yearly Insurance from Allianz. It was agreed by the PC that we would pay up to the sum of £873.20. Ginny Wareham need to investigate on some of the things we are covered for and some things we are insured for before we pay the bill. This was proposed by Terry Turvey and seconded by Sandra Lemon.

13. The date of the next meeting was agreed to be brought forward by 1 week to 7th May 2010 and Ginny Wareham will put a notice on the board to advise the public of this.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Action Points

B/Fwd from 10th March 2010

Law on dog fouling within the village confines

Ginny

Article in AVN re dog fouling

Bernard & Sandra

Write to SNC re curbs on the "Pond Land"

Ginny

Rugby sign in wrong place (Mike Northall)

Ginny

Please Die slowly sign. Replace

Ginny

New No 1 street light. Doug Millard

Ginny

Allianz insurance

Ginny

Flooding outside 32 and 34 Stoke Road

Ginny