

ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

1163.

26th MARCH 2024

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday 26th MARCH 2024 in the Community Centre at 7.00pm

In attendance: Mr A Ketteringham (AK) Chair, Mr R Leighton (RL) Vice-Chair, Mrs A Binns (AB), Mr A Howell (AH), Mr J Leggett(JLg), Mrs J Lusher (JL), Mrs A Shepherd (AS), Mr A Thomas (AT), 23 members of the Public, the Clerk Jean Sangster. Mr F Eagle arrived later.

Apologies were received from Mr J Pearson (JP).

At the invitation of the Council this meeting was attended by three Members of the Fire Service to present the report on the Fire of 2022 and to answer questions this had raised.

The area manager advised he had been in service for 26 years and never experienced the problems that arose that fateful day due to heat and the number of fires across the County putting a strain on the Service. Individual questions were raised and are being dealt with direct but he explained that all 54 engines were in use that day and they would normally call on Services from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire & Hertfordshire but under the circumstances that day, they were not available and that is why engines had to be deployed from much further afield.

Ashill suffered the worst loss of property that day and lessons have been learnt to engage more with the local people especially where water supplies can be obtained and that training has been changed in light of this.

They have requested that information in our Emergency Plan be made available to them to include in their computer system to assist in any emergency within the Parish. This is to be followed up.

He stated that the Service was deeply sorry for the loss to the village and the effect this has had on the residents and also on the Firefighters who had to deal with this fire.

The report states that there was no indication of the source of the fire and they were unable to establish a cause.

The Chair thanked the Service for all they had done and for attending to provide the information that has come from this emergency.

At this point several members of the public left leaving 9 members in attendance and the PC meeting continued with the minutes of meeting held on 27th February 2024 having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

There were no additional Declarations of Interest.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT /COUNTY COUNCILLOR

FE reported that NCC were very disappointed to learn of the failure of the Western Link due to Natural England designating the area as a rural protected site for bats. The funding for this project had already been secured so this is even more disappointing.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

AK read a letter from resident regarding the grass cutting and re-seeding of area in Millfield. They wished to know how often cutting is carried out and why a certain area was missed. This is to be queried with Highways.

The question was raised regarding the access to the Permissive path that runs between Seaview and the new development and this will be investigated.

MEETING CONTINUED

Matters arising from last meeting

Highways – Further information regarding the request for a storage compound from Highways at the Community Centre whilst work is carried out in Dunnetts Close was received. They had suggested an area adjacent the tennis court but it was felt that this would restrict use and Clerk to advise that a better site would be on grass along side the driveway across to recycling bins and it was agreed to request a rental sum of £500-00 for the period of use (late May –July) with grass being reinstated after use.

Play Equipment – Monthly Inspection was carried out. Agreed to accept quote of £225-00 for Annual Inspection and see how this goes.

Playing Field – Contract sorted.

Police – Next SNAP meeting 29th April.

Speedwatch – Monthly report received from Mr Street. Now has 8 Members and agreed to advertise for more volunteers.

Footpaths – Missing sign in Common Road will be investigated and question of who is responsible for bridges was raised and it was agreed to follow this up.

Ashill Estate – Discussed later.

Wayland Partnership – AB had attended recent meeting in place of AS and advised that all running well especially the Men's Shed.

Old Allotment Close – AT had spoken with maintenance man who confirmed that ditch is inspected fortnightly between March and October and any debris removed but still no grill. Little more can be done so this item will be removed from Agenda.

Gas Installation – Cadent had sent further letter stating that no remedial work was required and this is an 'intermediate gas main'. The Council has agreed that it be recorded that Cadent be advised that if an accident occurs as a result of their failure to carry out any work that it will be on their heads and that PC and MP have done all they could. RL felt this was a matter for Press and he will send personal letter.

Allotments – Posts and numbers in hand.

Mindful Village Programme – Updates circulated.

Ashlink – Arrangements to be made for meeting with people who have volunteered.

Phone box Church Street – Agreed to accept quote received from Mr Barrett for £300 for repairs and agreed to repaint in telephone box red.

Fire Meeting – Report available and Councillors felt this was a very good meeting and will take forward the ideas to link with our Plan. Clerk to send thanks for visit.

Defibrillator – AB had reported problems with battery and on checking this had only been replaced last year so Clerk had contacted suppliers. After several checks they have agreed to take this away and provide one on loan. AB is making arrangements for collection and loan one to be placed in box and Clerk to relist on Circuit ready for use.

CORRESPONDENCE

NorfolkALC and Healthwatch Norfolk - Newsletters circulated.

Email received from resident of Church Street regarding the unsightly litter bin opposite his home and requested that this be moved further along the street. Position will be checked as may require permission from Highways. Suggested that purchase new bin with lid and Clerk will get price.

The request from resident for drains to have covers fitted to prevent ducklings falling in is to be advised that this is not possible.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Returned between meetings :- **3PL/2024/0187/HOU** – Application for Proposed Single Storey Extension to Rear to replace Existing & Proposed Oak framed porch at 8 Church Street with NO Objections.

Hale Road development – Reported that access path has been blocked and this is to be investigated.

Meeting with Mr Simon Wood the Head of Planning held on 29th February.

Members felt this had been most helpful and beneficial for the future. The matter of conditions issued at time of permission being granted to developers had proved to be very controversial for the village recently and ongoing and it was requested that the Planning Department ensure that when conditions are put in place they are adhered to.

He advised that the next stage of New Local Plan will be to look at potential develop sites that have been put forward but he assured this does not mean that all those will go further and another consultation will follow. Members requested that infrastructure should be put in place before any major developments.

They are looking at Settlement Boundaries and recent survey had requested if Parishes wanted these to remain.

Also the Plan is looking at affordable housing and working with the Housing Strategy to provide these.

We look forward to seeing how things progress.

FINANCE

PAID Direct Debit - SSE Energy Solutions - Payment for Power supply Jan. £252-43
Payment for power supply Feb. £236-11

The following accounts due for payment for March were passed for payment proposed by JL seconded by AH:-

K & M Lighting Services Maint St Lights	£150-03	
Mrs J Pickard Play field Warden Mar.)	Undisclosed	
Jean Sangster Clerks Salary Mar.+ 13hrs)		
Expenses	£124-59	
HMRC PAYE Jan. Feb. Mar.	£676-56	
M P Dennis & Sons Hedge Cutting in Ch St.	£150-00	(to be reimbursed from FE fund)
M P Dennis & Sons Hedge Cutting Allots + C.C.	£342-00	
Ashill Comm. Centre Hire of Hall Jan Feb, Mar.	£69-00	
Breckland Council Election Reimbursement	£2045.19	It was agreed NOT to pay this invoice until further details are received

B) Current A/C details and copy of bank statement circulated for verification.

C) Investments & Reserves update.

THE MEETING WAS AGAIN OPEN TO PUBLIC

Concerns expressed about the look of the Ch. St. hedge and debris left. This will be cleared in due course.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any Items for Annual Meeting should be forwarded to Clerk.

Reported that there is a tree leaning over on the Allotments and ownership to be established.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

The following resolution was passed:-

“That under Section 100(A) (4) of Local Government Act 1972, the Press & Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on Grounds that it includes the likely disclosure of confidential information

To Discuss Allotment Site & Clerk’s Contract.

Date of next monthly Meeting is TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM IN COMMUNITY CENTRE.

This Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed

Date
