

ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

900.

27th JUNE 2017

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday 27TH JUNE 2017 in the Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Councillors present:- Mr R Leighton – Chairman, Mr A Ketteringham - Vice-Chairman Mrs M Forsyth, Mrs J Lusher, Mr M Blackman, Mr L Ready & Mr J Leggett. Also in attendance Mr F Sharpe, District Councillor and Mr F Eagle, County Councillor. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs M Helsby, due to holiday and Mr K Collins as he is in hospital.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were none.

The County Councillor gave his report as he had to leave early. He informed that each Councillor had been allocated £6000 to share between the parishes in his ward to be spent on minor Highway problems and he asked for applications from us for this money. If there is a project for the Partnership Scheme this could be added to this.

He also informed that the County has to find ways of making large savings in this next financial year but they hope to utilise their assets. There is a need for more retained fire-fighters so anyone interested should look on website for details.

The chairman thanked Mr Eagle for his time.

The Minutes of Meeting held on 25th May 2017 were taken as read, passed and signed as correct.

MATTERS ARISING

HIGHWAYS - Notification that Rangers will be visiting the Parish.

Matters for their attention :- cleaning road signs and cutting back overgrown hedges around signs, clearing of drains in Church Street.

Matters to report to Highways :- Problem tree in Church Street leaning on wires and brambles growing through, overgrown gardens to frontage of cottages in Church Street are causing traffic to drive in centre of road, the pavement in Dunnetts Close outside 22 and 18 has again risen up.

Concerns were raised by Mr Evans (member of Public) about the ivy growing on trees in Church Street that could weaken them and cause to fall.

Mrs Lusher asked that thanks be recorded to Mr Ketteringham for getting Horns Corner cut back so promptly and he informed that this was down to Mr McWilliams.

Notification of programme for footway micro surfacing in various areas in the parish.

The work on TROD will commence 17th July and there are plans for the ditch to be piped to the caravan site by FOL.

Information that Norfolk County Council Partnership Scheme will again be available for 2018.

The Clerk was asked to report the state of junction of Pages Lane/Watton Road in Saham Toney as visibility is so bad and there was an accident recently.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – Check carried out. The Clerk and Chairman had met with the ROSPA inspector mainly to verify that the work to roundabout could be carried out. She had informed that providing the repairs were like for like she could see no problem but she would like to see matting put round rather than tarmac. Also no major problems were found on other equipment but small slide will need attention soon and the rocker needs greasing.

Mr Leggett was concerned that there are a lot of brambles growing in hedge at front of Community Centre and hedge at side of driveway.

The car park is getting very overgrown with weeds as is the tennis court and it was agreed the Clerk should contact NORSE for a quote for spraying.

MUGA – After a struggle the Clerk had managed to get a reply from Playdale but they are unable to provide the larger area that we requested. As they have not been at all helpful,

it was agreed to ask Helen from HAGS to come out again to discuss further what we are proposing.

PLAYING FIELD – Confirmation that the painting of posts and the marking of the car park will commence 17th July.

The Tree Warden has retrieved the sleeves from the 'den' that has been created at top of field and put them back around the trees in the copse which he informs is doing well. A request has been received from the Playing Field warden for a notice re no dogs on playing field to be placed on tennis court as she has had to clear up around the play equipment. This will be done.

FOOTBALL TEAM - It was reported that the team has now held practice nights on Wednesday evenings at the Community Centre and has informed Mr Blackman that their first home match will be on 10th September. The Clerk requested that she be kept informed of dates when field is to be used. This raised the question of storage and Mr Blackman informed that St Johns and Cubs would have to be given notice of the intended requisition of the changing rooms. Mr Sharpe informed that he had contacted Mr Brennan in the Planning Department who had assured him that we did not require planning permission to site the containers providing they did not exceed 200 cubic metres. It was therefore agreed to purchase containers and Mr Ready is to investigate the corner pads required.

WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP – Mrs Forsyth reported that the open day in May was well attended. This was to show the community the work of the Partnership.

Result of questionnaire was 68% would like History/Heritage Festival, 61% would like a Food Festival, 58% Walking/Cycling Festival, 24% High Street Games Event and 61% would like better promotion of events.

Charlotte & Richard have taken over from Susan & Suzanne. Newsletter displayed with details.

Letter of thanks received for donation.

POLICE - Crime Report – Website has not been updated since March.

Response from PCSO Bailey re parked car reported with no insurance or tax. Members concerned that there was little action and Clerk was asked to write to Commissioner.

FOOTPATHS – All very overgrown and request received for these to be cut. Clerk will report to Highways who deal with these. Chairman to see if the map drawn up years ago is still available.

SPEEDWATCH SCHEME - Mrs Lusher reported that 6 sessions had been planned but due to sickness and weather conditions had only allowed for 1 to be carried out and this had to be cut short due to Pollen Beatles attacking them. 6 Sessions are planned for July.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – The Chairman informed that the Centre is booked for a number of different events right up to Christmas. Next is Fete on 23d July – theme is Ashill by the Sea and Mr Blackman asked if playing field could be cut the week before.

Table Top and Car Boot on 2nd September and he requested use of car park for this – Granted.

LYCH GATE – Chairman still to consult with Vicar over wording for plaque.

SAXON GREEN – Confirmation that there was only to be a bollard sited at top of footway from Hale Road.

LOCAL PLAN – The Clerk had received the new Guideline for Planning Design which the Chairman felt would be most useful in the future.

ALLOTMENTS - Mr Leggett reported that saplings and rubbish removed but Mr Howell felt unable to carry out the cutting so it was proposed by Mr Leggett seconded by Mr Ketteringham that M P Dennis be asked to do this and cut hedge at same time. All agreed. Mr Evans (Member of Public) informed that the rubbish inside gate was fly-tipping and not from holders. He also felt that the route for piping for taps should go along path near his allotment to prevent digging up any plots. Mr Blackman will liaise with him. At this point the Clerk asked if Members wished her to begin the process of obtaining permission to sell the whole site. It was discussed and felt that the holders should be consulted so they will be invited to a meeting when rents are collected in October.

ASHILL ESTATE – Email received from County Council enquiring if any further decisions had been made over the purchase. It was proposed by Mr Ready seconded by Mr Leggett that land be valued by Brown & Co and Cruso Wilkins. All in favour with Mr Ketteringham taking no part in this discussion.

LEASE FOR GAS REDUCTION STATION – No further information has been received so Chairman proposed that the original lease be signed for the new amount of £400-00 per annum for next 3 years. An amendment was proposed by Mr Leggett seconded by Mr Ready that this be signed for 5 years and this was passed by 6 votes to 1.

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME – Still problems as the driver who could take passengers with wheelchairs has now moved from village so this service is no longer available and there had been requests from 3 different people for this during the last month. Drivers must not feel that they have to take passengers who need this assistance and Sarah will be advised to ascertain when bookings are made, if they are incapacitated in any way. Notification received that Norfolk Community Transport Association are proposing to wind up and wish us to vote. As Clerk is unaware of what service they actually provide she will speak to Mrs Goodwin before voting.

SHARED ACCESS LTD – No further news. Clerk to follow up.

STREET LIGHTING – The Clerk had spoken to K & M Lighting and they have confirmed that the column in Orchard Close has been replaced and the column in Acacia also straightened but this still needs some tarmac put around it and this will be carried out when old column removed in Orchard Close. They will also look at bollard lighting in driveway at Comm. Centre.

ASHILL IN BLOOM – Several barrels now in place and Mrs Helsby had sent in thanks to everyone for their help. It was agreed that they have certainly made an improvement to the village. Also received receipts for her expenditure but Clerk informed this had caused problems with accounting as Mrs Helsby had taken in donations and spent this money which if the Parish Council are responsible for, should have gone through books and PC paid for barrels and other expenses. The Clerk felt that this could not be done this way and it was proposed by Mr Ketteringham seconded by Mr Ready that Ashill in Bloom be run as a separate entity by Mrs Helsby and her helpers with the Parish Council giving a donation of £150-00 to her as agreed at last meeting. This was agreed by all.

ANY OTHER MATTERS – Letter from Head Teacher requesting support from Council re parking outside School. He says that the parents are written to on a regular basis but this seems to fall on 'deaf ears' and they continue to park inconsiderately. Members felt that there is very little that they can do without the support of Police.

CORRESPONDENCE

All newsletters from County Assoc. have been forwarded to Members during month. Notification from Norfolk County Council that they are making a Planning Application for changes to the Recycling Centre to include a reuse shop and small scale sale of non-recycled products

Breckland Planning forwarded details from Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas re windfarms.

Update on Training from various set-ups other than County Assoc. Chairman felt that if possible the training provided by Assoc. should be used.

Grant info received from CAN & NCF.

Email from Mrs Fenwick re fly-tipping on Bennetts site and Highways sign in verge near Lewis Close. Both matters will be dealt with.

Info from AF Affinity Ltd re buying services.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr Sharpe informed that the Local Plan goes to Council on 6th July and if accepted by them it goes to the Government Inspector for his decision.

The new Housing Strategy is designed to prevent homelessness and assist in the provision of new housing. Also to bring back into the rental market properties that have been long term empty in private ownership. Also the addition of Debt and Welfare Advice. All in-house. The Chairman asked if the Council had any proposals for building new Council Houses as these had provided important rentals for people in the past but Mr Sharpe said there were no proposals for this as these are provided by Housing Assocs.

AT THIS POINT THE CHAIRMAN INVITED QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was reported that the SERCO grass cutter had broken the box o/s Alba, Hale Road.

It was also reported that a number of people had waited that morning for the mobile Post Office and the Clerk explained that she had been informed late the night before that due to technical problems the van would not be able to visit and that she had placed a notice on the tree where the vehicle normally stands but obviously nobody had read this.

Query as to the plaques for the bus shelters – this is in hand.

Also concerns that someone will trip over walking the overgrown footpaths and who would be responsible.

Mr Evans felt very strongly that allotment holders be kept informed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3PL/2016/1458/O – Land between Edelweiss and no 6 Hale Road – now withdrawn.

3PL/2017/0387/D - Amendment to development of 7 bungalows next Comm. Centre Hale Road to reduce floor space and amend garages & carports, access to comply with Highways. No objections.

3PL/2016/1467/HOU – 11 Fir Park Appeal – This has been dismissed.

FINANCE

A/C PAID – Car Scheme payments to 19 drivers.

£629-67

The following Accounts were passed for Payment for JUNE proposed by Mrs

Forsyth seconded by Mr Blackman:-

K & M Lighting Services Ltd Maint Street Lights Jun..	£120-13
E.ON Power Supply to Street Lights May.	£266-30
Jean Sangster & Mrs J Pickard Wages June	Undisclosed
Expenses Jun.	£73.51
HMRC PAYE Apr.May Jun.	£472-22
Ashill in Bloom Donation Section137	£150-00
NORSE Maintenance Limes & Acacia Jun.	£ 96-76
Ashill Comm. Centre Hire of Hall Apr.x2 May Jun	. £48-00
James Marshall Strim.C C.May	£50-00
Anglian Water Supply to Allotments	£22-37

It was agreed to look at the investments and to contact Lovewell Blake to see if there are any better companies to invest with.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed that the telephone box in Church Street has been painted at the expense of Sir David Ralli as he was advised that the Parish Council own this. The Clerk felt sure that this is still owned by BT so it was agreed that this be investigate further before any action taken to turn it into a lending library.

At this point the Chairman allowed Mr Evans (member of public) to speak further about his concerns for the allotments. He had heard rumours that the site is to be sold later in year and he was assured that this is not the case. He also queried the minutes stating that allotment holders would be informed last month and this had not been done. The Clerk pointed out that the minutes actually stated that ONE holder had queried the situation and been informed. Mr Evans apologised for his mistake and the Chairman again assured him that all would be discussed in October when rents are collected.

Mr Evans also expressed concern re the corner of the building near telephone box Church Street as slates are loose and he felt a danger to the public walking by. The Chairman agreed to speak to new owner.

The Chairman had received a complaint from a resident of Millfield who walks his dog along the Hale Road that he is no longer able to walk inside the field to Edelwiess to avoid the dangers on the road from speeding traffic. The Chairman had pointed out that this was not a public footpath and had only been allowed by the owner of the land as a goodwill gesture.

The offer from Mr Howell for us to purchase some crushed concrete to fill the track leading to Ashill Estate was rejected.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 25th JULY 2017 at 7.30pm in Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 10.13pm.