

ASHILL PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd May, 2018. In the absence of the Chairman, Alan Ketteringham took the Chair.

Election of officers for the coming year took place. Chairman Richard Leighton, Vice Chairman Alan Ketteringham, Planning Sub-committee Richard Leighton, Martin Blackman, Marylin Helsby, Footpath Warden Keith Collins, Tree Warden Michael Fletcher.

The County Councillor Fabian Eagle addressed the meeting. He said a number of roads in Ashill will be surface dressed this season. Following the resignation of the leader of the County Council it is hoped a new leader will be elected shortly. It was brought to his attention the speeding at the entrance of New Allotment Close, he suggested the police be informed of drivers driving without due care and attention.

Items discussed included:-

HIGHWAYS – will be contacted and asked to repair the edges etc of the roads before they are surface dressed. It will also be reported that weeds are coming through the recently re-surfaced pavements in The Oaks and the work carried out to the road in Dunnetts Close is unsatisfactory.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – chains on the swings have been repaired and the roundabout is now refurbished and back in situ. Thanks were expressed to Gavin Barnes and Bernie Corps for the work on the roundabout. It was agreed the Parish Council will form a working party to re-paint the other equipment. The quality of workmanship on the new MUGA was felt to be unsatisfactory. ROSPA will be asked to inspect. It was agreed to withhold part of the payment until a satisfactory conclusion is met. The contractors will be asked to re-install the fencing which they had removed.

PLAYING FIELD – the public were reminded that dogs are NOT ALLOWED on the playing Field.

CONTAINERS – the electricity to the containers will be connected shortly and a quote was accepted for re-painting and a new locking device will be fitted. The AVA will be offered one of the containers to hire at a cost in line with other rents of £2.50 per week.

WAYLAND PARTNERSHIP – Marcia Forsyth gave a report.

POLICE – there was one reported crime in March a robbery near Fairholme Close.

SPEEDWATCH SCHEME – due to illness of the co-ordinator a meeting will be held with the other volunteers to see the way forward.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – will be closed the first two weeks in August for re-decorating the main hall.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SCHEME – it was agreed to give a donation for plants and compost for the tubs to be placed around the village.

ALLOTMENTS – Martin Blackman gave a report on the recent course he had attended

ASHILL ESTATES – the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council for an update.

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME – the Administrator reported that one new driver had come forward.

CHURCHYARD - the damage to the tomb stone will be put right this week.

STREET LIGHTING - the light in Acacia Avenue is still awaiting connection. The new Maintenance Agreement was signed.

DATA PROTECTION – the policy was agreed and will be put on the Parish Council website.

OTHER MATTERS – following the last meeting, Breckland Council had informed the Parish council they were unable to assist as the Japanese Knotweed problems are on private land, it was confirmed that no trees have been removed from The Green and the Bus shelters will be cleaned shortly.

CLOTHING AND BOTTLE BANK - The total raised last year was £916.75.

THANKS – A letter from a resident was read thanking the council for providing the MUGA.

PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT – items included brambles and stinging nettles around telephone poles, and overhanging hedges on the Swaffham Road pavement, the Provision of the safety matting under the refurbished roundabout, and the condition of the edge of road outside Green Hedges.

PLANNING - The revised plans for the development at The Willows was objected to by the Parish Council, reasons given included failure to deliver affordable housing and the under-development of the site which could cause problems in the future requirements of houses to be built in Ashill. The application for the Extension at Pollywiggie Cottage and Breckland Dog Training were approved by Breckland Council.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS - It was reported that bottles from the bottle bank had been thrown around and broken on the Car Park at the Community Centre, the public are requested if they see the banks are full to ring the telephone number on the side of the container.