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| Ashleworth Parish Council  Clerk: Nicky Hill  Orchard Cottage  Hill Farm Lane  Tirley  GL194EZ  **Tel**: 01452 781028 **Email**:ashleworthpc@gmail.com | small |

**Minutes of the Meeting of 9th March 2021**

**Held via Zoom**

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| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
| Tony Eardley (TE) Chairman | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) Vice Chairman |  |
| Aly Shayle (AS) |  |
| James Joyce (JJ) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
| Paul McClain (PM) |  |
| Jill Smith (JS) |  |
| Philip Awford (PA) |  |

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| 883/0321 | **TE** welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was held via Zoom courtesy of **GE**  Although advertised for members of the public to join, there were none on this occasion. |
| 884/0321 | **Apologies for absence.**  None |
| 885/0321 | **Declaration of Interests.**  **TE** declared an interest minute 891/0321 as he is lives on the Green. |
| 886/0321 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting 8th September 2020.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed to be signed at a mutual time and place with the clerk. |
| 887/0321 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  None |
| 888/0321 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items**  Cllrs P McLain and J Smith reported on:   * Recent updates and the Councillors received a presentation on the Ashchurch Garden Town and the Golden Valley Garden Community. Both large developments progressing well. Information can be found online. The Garden community is a joint project with Cheltenham Council and will provide some 3700 more houses and much employment, especially around cyber security, making the area one of the top areas in the country for this type of employment. * Consultation on the M5, Junction 10 has closed and feedback is being reviewed. The summary of the findings will be available later this month, with the full report mid 2021. * Health Overview and Scrutiny meeting stressed there should be no relaxation of Covid measures and to please all stick to the Government Guidelines. Vaccine rollout continues to go well in Gloucestershire with the County being one of the leading areas. * TBC Local Plan is undergoing a virtual examination in public. This is to check the soundness of the plan and it is judged against National Planning Policy. * Census 2021, please encourage all to complete this. * **PM** advised of an e-petition (Reduce flooding, examine flood risk in detail before allocating more development sites) He will send link to the clerk.   Councillor Philip Awford reported on:   * Highways - ongoing School Pitch and Longridge Road works * County Council Budget has been set * Christmas floods – worst seen since 2007   **GE** enquired if the Lengthmans scheme was still in place. **PA** will flag up with Highways.  On behalf of Neighbourhood Watch **GE** reported:   * Regular postings about usual Scams - don’t give your details to anyone who calls you. * Warning to new dog owners (as a result of lockdown) - keep them safe and watch them at all times - thieves will happily relieve you of your treasured pet. * A long list of vehicle crimes - mostly tools stolen from work vans in the middle of the night. * Lowbands NHW - Phil Waring. Is trying to get the various local NHW groups to communicate their alerts. The current system relies of alerts going to NHW head office and then being posted locally (which doesn’t happen). He will be putting an article in WoSN next month. |
| 889/0321 | **Planning Matters & Decisions**  **a)** 20/01010/FUL Erection of 2 storey building - Nup End - **No Objections and has now been Permitted**  **b)** 21/00009/FUL Erection of 4 No. detached dwellings and the demolition of a  Gymnasium building (Use class D2) (Revision of permitted application 20/00487/FUL), at Lawn Road – **Objection letter has been submitted on behalf of APC** |
| 890/0321 | **Highways - update**  **TE** reported of Highways intention to start works at School Pitch in the new financial year. There were concerns regarding the current work at Longridge Lane with the road closed and diversion signage. Once excavated Highways found another issue further down a little hence the last second closure. This was actioned with works to put in a larger gully. Highways have requested ownership of opposite ditches.  **TE** reported that the official complaint of the state of the road from Stream Farm heading towards Stonebow, had been reported again, with reference number obtained and advised that Highways will be doing a safety inspection. **TE** will contact Highways on all of the above and provide updates at the next meeting. |
| 891/0321 | **Registration of village green and track**  As **TE** had noted the potential conflict of interest with this item, **PF** chaired this item and **TE** did not participate  **PF** reported that a solicitor had been appointed and Land Registry informed of intention to register the green and the track on behalf of APC. **PF** will continue to liaise with solicitor and Land Registry |
| 892/0321 | **Grass cutting – village green**  It was previously reported to the Parish Council that the grass cutting had not been done since the school had closed during lockdown and was starting to look a mess and unkept. APC appointed Greenfinch to mow the grass and agreed to cover the costs on this occasion. |
| 893/0321 | **Wild Flower planting proposal**  **TE** reported that a member of the public had approached APC with a request toplant flower bulbs alongside the current areas of wild daffodils on the verges. It is part of a ‘Go Wild in Ashleworth’ project currently being set up. **PF** advised that the grass cutting contractor for APC had no objection to this as long as the bulbs were close to existing plants and also suggested planting around the 2 village entrance signs.  **TE** will liaise with the group |
| 894/0321 | **Bank Statement Error Complaint**  **NH** reported that there had been 2 unauthorised Direct Debit payments by British Gas, taken from the APC bank account and reported to Yorkshire Bank.  **PF** contacted the bank and following an investigation, it was found that British Gas were currently under investigation by Pay.uk and is a known issue by the bank. Yorkshire bank state this is not a bank error, and should APC wish to pursue, it would need to be taken up with BG Services. The monies have been returned and it was agreed not to pursue further but all documentation to be held for reference. |
| 895/0321 | **Community Minibus Parking**  Ashleworth Hub is intending to take over the Community Minibus and have requested that they are able to continue to park in the allocated space in the Village Hall Car Park. All councillors agreed to the Hub continuing to have use of the carpark.  **TE** will inform the Hub of the decision. |
| 896/0321 | **Budget review 2021/2022**  **NH** prepared and circulated the budget for 2021/2022 in view of the precept which was decided in January |
| 897/0321 | **Precept based on budget review**  **NH** reported that the precept amount had to be submitted by the end of January and following the circulation of the Budget for 2020/2021, it was agreed that the precept submitted will be the same as last year at £5000. The decision was unusually decided via email as APC could not have a face-to-face meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions. Following guidance from TBC and in line with the transparency code, the following statement was publicised on the website:  Please note that due to the cancellation of the APC January meeting because of Covid restrictions, the agenda item of the Precept amount must still be submitted to TBC by the 31st Jan. The Parish Council have requested that the amount remains the same as last year at £5000 (five thousand pounds) and should any members of the public wish for more information or to discuss, please contact the clerk no later than 28th January. |
| 898/0321 | **Internal Auditor appointment letter**  **NH** circulated the appointment letter and costs (£105). The councillors agreed to once again appoint GAPC to do the audit. |
| 899/0321 | **Finance:**   1. To formally approve accounts for payment:   1) Clerk wages – Sept/Oct - £176 x 2 chq numbers 000621, 000622 - **Agreed**  2) TSOHOST – Web hosting annual fee - £45.48 chq number 000623 **Agreed**  3) ICO – Data protection annual fee -£40 chq number 000624 - **Agreed**  4) Clerk wages – Nov/Dec - £176 x 2 chq numbers 000625, 000626 - **Agreed**  5) R Cockburn - Hedge trimming - £216 chq number 000627- **Agreed**  6) GRCC Membership - £25 chq number 000628 **Agreed**  7) Clerk wages – Jan/Feb - £176 x 2 chq numbers 000629, 000630 - **Agreed**  8) GAPTC – membership renewal - £158.41 chq number 000631- **Agreed**    b) To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - **Circulated and Agreed**  c) To agree budget balances to pay - **Circulated and Agreed** |
| 900/0321 | **AOB**  **GE** noted that The Woodpeckers Sports and Social Club had continued to pay rent to APC at 2 x £50, throughout the pandemic year and had not had its full use. **GE** proposed that the rent be refunded as a gesture of good will. **TE** declared an interest in the club and abstained from the vote. **GE,PF,AS & JJ** agreed to the proposal and **NH** agreed to inform the club. **NH** suggested that for ease, to waive the next 2 x payments instead of a refund, which was duly agreed. |
| 901/0321 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 11th May 2021– **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 8.20pm** |