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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 10th May 2022**

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| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
| Tony Eardley (TE) Chairman | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) |  |
| Aly Shayle (AS) | Members of the public - none |
| James Joyce (JJ) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
| Phil Awford (PA) |  |

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| 019/0522 | **TE** welcomed everyone to the meeting.  No questions received. |
| 020/0522 | **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2022-23 (in accordance with local council regulations)**  Tony Eardley was duly elected as Chairman (proposed by GE and seconded by AS)  Paul Finch was elected as Vice Chairman (proposed by TE and seconded by GE) |
| 021/0522 | **Apologies for absence.**  Apologies received from Councillor Paul McLain. |
| 022/0522 | **Declaration of Interests.**  **TE** declared an interest minute 029/0522 as he lives on the Green. |
| 023/0522 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings 8th March 2022 and exchange of backed up/updated APC files USB.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed and signed. The Clerk exchanged the APC updated USB with the Chairman. |
| 024/0522 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  **GE** noted that progress had been made in resolving the parking issues around the school area and junction. |
| 025/0522 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items**  **Cllr Awford** reported that the current Highways manager will be leaving this post, however **PA** will continue with the campaign regarding current village issues that have yet to be resolved**. PA** suggested that **TE** contact the Highways manager’s superior in order that the unresolved issues are kept current.  **Cllr McLain sent the following report:**  Finance and resources budget set 2022/23, despite challenges it includes the addition of £450,050 of ongoing growth in services and £392,548 of one-off growth to support ambitions  Economic growth: despite covid restrictions the growth hub held 53 events/ working with GCC re j10  Housing and communities new housing and homeless strategy in place and supported delivery 150 affordable homes  Customer first new digital platform ‘Liberty Create’/bulky waste service completely reformed  Garden communities the garden town initiative continues to progress close to the M5 J10. This will address a considerable amount of the pressure on required housing numbers  Sustainable environment Small electricals waste collection now in place/ Car park solar canopy initiative will meet the vast majority of the council’s energy needs.  Covid 19 5,477 individual business grants awarded - £31.6m. £425k to support residents with test and trace. 130k for small community grants. £170k for “Welcome Back” shops support  The budget book for the forthcoming year is available under ‘Budgets and Finance’ on the Website.  The council are obviously continuing to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme.  The local plan has been signed off by the Inspector and comes back to the council for final approval shortly. If this is passed it should provide the necessary housing supply figures which will make it much more difficult for developers to successfully apply for permission on inappropriate development sites. |
| 026/0522 | **Planning Matters & Decisions**   1. 22/00150 FUL – The Brake, Wickridge Street   **The councillors were invited to a site meeting to view plans of the project. 4 of the councillors attended the site visit and relayed views and concerns at the Parish Council meeting. It was discussed and agreed to send comments of objection to TBC on the grounds of the extensive size of the proposed property and also concerns about how many trees would need to be removed to accommodate the build.**  b) 22/00356 FUL – Yew Tree Cottage – Garage/Car port – **No Objections**  c) 22/00238 FUL – Rectory Close – single storey ext – **No Objections**  d) 22/00416/APP – Reserved matters 42 dwellings – **No Objections on the reserved matters, however, there were still concerns regarding drainage capability. TE has raised matters along with other previous discussions and is awaiting responses.** |
| 027/0522 | **Highways – update**  **TE** reported that there had still been no responses to the concerns, that have previously been reported to Highways, despite persistent emails.  Councillor Phil Awford, agreed to chase with the Highways manager before leaving his post as the Highways Manager and to ensure the new appointee is kept up to date with the ongoing problems in the village. |
| 028/0522 | **WI – Contribution towards Jubilee project**  An email has been received requesting if the Parish Council would consider contributing financially towards a suggested Local village notice board.  The councillors agreed in principle to consider the request, but will be asking for further information on size, design and location.  **TE** will contact the WI for an update for the next meeting in July. |
| 029/0522 | **Village green and track registration update**  **TE** had noted the potential conflict of interest with this item as he lives on the Green. **PF** chaired this item and **TE** did not participate  **PF** is awaiting updates from Land Registry and the solicitor and advised that he may have to undertake some of the tasks himself as there have been notably slow responses so far. |
| 030/0522 | **Playground Update**  **AS** and **GE** have identified 4 companies to advise and help plan with the Playground project. 2 companies have visited the site and **AS** and **GE** will gather findings and compare once the other 2 companies have submitted their input. **GE** reported that a company has been very helpful and informative regarding surface types and timber framed equipment. **AS** has researched other local play areas for ideas and has come up with suggestions for the more popular types of equipment. Both councillors noted the lack of input from groups or residents despite advertising for ideas and suggestions. **TE** asked if a planned public consultation would be the next step. **AS** and **GE** agreed that this would be the way forward, however, they would need to get the design plans in place in order to have a timescale for a consultation and will update at the next meeting in July. |
| 031/0522 | **Insurance review/quote**  **NH** circulated the insurance review and quote. This year’s policy renewal quote has slightly increased from £369.09 to £370.45 and the Parish Council are on a 3 year plan with Zurich Insurance which guarantee to keep premiums reasonable with inflation. It was agreed that the quote is acceptable and **NH** will proceed with processing the renewal. |
| 032/0522 | **Annual inspection of assets**  **NH** reported that monthly asset inspections checks have taken place including the monthly reporting of the AED checks and submitted to the reporting provider,The Circuit. |
| 033/0522 | **Items for annual Review/adoption**  a. (updated) Standing Orders 2022  b. (updated) Financial Regulations 2022  c. Privacy notice  d. Asset Register  e. Risk Register  f. Code of conduct  All of the above have been updated and circulated prior to the meeting. All agreed that the documents have been reviewed and subsequently adopted at this meeting. Documents can be inspected on the village website. |
| 034/0522 | **Declaration of exemption from limited assurance review and confirmation that APC has met with the exemption criteria**  **NH** explained that as per audit report, the declaration of exemption certificate had to be reviewed and minuted as well as being posted to the website for the transparency code to be adhered to.  For reference the criteria for claiming exemption are as follows:  • Total gross income and total gross expenditure below £25k; and  • no public interest report/statutory recommendation/advisory notice/judicial review/application to court re unlawful item of account issued by its external auditor in the prior year; and  • the relevant financial year is not one of the first three years of the authority’s existence, hence, if claiming exemption for 2021/22 that means the authority has been in existence since before 1 April 2015.  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 035/0522 | **Approve and sign Annual Governance statement**  Each smaller authority is required by law:  • to prepare Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in the form required by proper practices using the relevant Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms  • to approve and publish the AGAR including the Accounting Statement  • to provide for the exercise of public rights, as described  and  • to publish the AGAR, including the signed external auditor report, by 30th June 2022  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 036/0522 | **Approve and sign the Accounting Statement**  **Approved and signed by TE** |
| 037/0522 | **Clerk pay review**  The National Association of Local Councils released a new rates of pay which was circulated to Ashleworth Parish Councillors prior to this meeting. It was agreed to raise the clerks SCP to 12 which equates to £11.73 per hour and to start from the next payroll in June 2022. |
| 038/0522 | **Finance:**   1. To approve accounts for payment:   1) Clerk wages for March/April/May - £176.00 x 3 chq numbers 000661, 000662, 000663 – **Agreed**  2) Annual Admin charges - £98.00 chq number 000664 - **Agreed**  3) APM expenses – 1 bottle of wine and 1 bottle of Presse left over to donate to village show. £37.40 chq number 000665 - **Agreed**  4) Zurich Annual Insurance - £370.45 chq number 000666 – **Agreed**  5)Hall hire - £30.00 chq number 000667 **- Agreed**  6) Playground Inspection report - £84.00 chq number 000668 – **Agreed**    b) To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - **Circulated and Agreed**  c) To agree budget balances to pay - **Circulated and Agreed** |
| 039/0522 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 12th July 2022– **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 8.40pm** |