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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 14th March 2023**

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| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
|  | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) Vice Chairman | Members of the public x 4 |
| Aly Shayle (AS) |  |
| James Joyce (JJ) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
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| 100/0323 | **PF** chaired the meeting in the absence of **TE** andwelcomed everyone to the meeting.  4 members of the public attended and raised concerns over the planning application for 17 dwellings off Lawn Road,  The councilors discussed with the members of the public and further discussed on agenda item 109/0323 where it would be resolved if the Council will submit comments. |
| 101/0323 | **Apologies for absence.**  Apologies received from Councillor Tony Eardley, Councillor Jill Smith & Councillor Paul Mclain. |
| 102/0323 | **Declaration of Interests.**  None |
| 103/0323 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting 10th January 2023 and exchange of backed up/updated APC files USB.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed and signed. In the absence of the Chairman the Clerk did not exchange the APC updated USB. |
| 104/0323 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  **GE** reported that a upon inspection, the noticeboard in the bus shelter, would need replacing and that a suitable one has been sourced.  **NH** reported that the proposed WI noticeboard paperwork had been sent to TBC along with relevant documents for the planning installationof the board.  **NH** reported that the 2 Nup End road signs discussed at the last meeting, had been reported to TBC for possible replacement and that a reference number has been obtained from TBC Property Services team. |
| 105/0323 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items.**  **Cllr Paul Mclain sent the following report:**  Borough Councillor Report –  On a desperately sad note, there was the tragic and sudden loss of Cllr Phil Awford on Friday.  Current hot topic would be that the TBC element of the council tax is going up by 3.72%.  The average parish precept across the Borough is 4.05%, although as you know Minsterworth is 1.45%. The average is somewhat skewed by two parishes increasing by 65%!    Current financial year TBC is looking at a projected surplus of just under 1.2m, partly because the money set aside for pay rises has been been through the national pay awards, as well as the council receiving an increase in income investment  We have been working on the housing and homelessness strategy with a focus on providing a mix of affordable, shared ownership and social rent properties within new build and on returning empty properties into use.  The NHS has shown a lot of improvement in waiting times in Urgent and emergency care, ambulance response times and handover of patients. Also several measures and joint services working has enabled quicker hospital discharges, and prevention of admissions by providing the services to meet people’s needs in other resources.  There is still staffing issues across the NHS but recruitment and retention is an area of a lot of work to try to overcome some of these problems, |
| 106/0323 | **Highways – update**  Despite **TE** requests for updates and information, there has been no responses since the last meeting. |
| 107/0323 | **Village green and track registration update**  **PF** is still awaiting updates from Land Registry and the solicitor. |
| 108/0323 | **Playground Update**  **GE** reported that he has a 3rd site meeting and significant issues highlighted with regards to the proposed area. The current plan will not allow enough light in order for grass to grow (which would be the preferred surface). Options were discussed to move the area towards the Woodies, which **GE** thought would not get approval. Another option is to rubber mat the area, but this would not be affordable with the budget. The preferred option would be to remove further trees to allow the light in for the grass and possibly make use of some of the stumps and re plant suitable trees/plants that will not impinge on the play area.  It was agreed that **AS** will arrange a site visit and gain quote and advice for removal of trees. Next step would be to clear the site for grass coverage and to fence off which would mean removal of some of the old equipment. **GE** advised the potential opening of the Play area in summer 2024 and maybe have an official opening at The Village Show. |
| 109/0323 | **Planning Application 22/01337/OUT – 17 Dwellings off Lawn Road.**  **NH** advised that a comments extension had been granted to APC in order for the application to be discussed at this meeting.  The planning application was discussed and all councillors agreed to object and submit comments on the grounds of:  • The proposed sites access is close to a blind bend with no speed limit, on the Lawn Road which narrows to single track and has no public footpath. Highways refer to pedestrian access but is not clear as to how this would be possible, given that the narrow parts are steep verges that back on to neighbouring gardens. The Highway’s proposed map does not show the length of this stretch of road and needs clarity.  • The drains, sewer and rainwater has been problematic and exacerbated by the Rectory Close development and any further development will be detrimental to the village. APC are in dialogue with Severn Trent Water and submits photo evidence (as requested by them) every time the drains overflow and cause flooding. This does not seem to have been taken in to account!  • Amenities will not cope with any further development and indeed the School is at full capacity even before the new development of 40 houses goes ahead. There is not a village pub as stated on the plans.  • There are concerns regarding wildlife including deer and bats and this information has been clarified by neighbouring properties as evidence.  • The 17 dwellings are not in keeping with the village.  **NH** will action comments to the planning officer. |
| 110/0323 | **Internal Auditor**  It was agreed to use the GAPTC appointed auditor once again for the 2022/2023 audit, |
| 111/0323 | **Annual Parish Meeting**  It was previously agreed that the APM would take place on Tuesday 11th April 2023. **NH** will submit an advert for the WoSN and send out invites and posters to local groups. **APC** chairman and the clerk will prepare a reports for the meeting.  ASHLEWORTH PARISH MEETING  TUESDAY 11th APRIL 2023 7.30pm  ASHLEWORTH MEMORIAL HALL  A chance for you to hear what is happening in your village today and what will be happening over the next 12 months. All local Councillors will be present and available to discuss local, parish priorities. This is not a normal Council meeting but an opportunity to review past work and to explore future priorities in an open forum.  Representatives from the main local groups and organisations are expected to be present to summarise their activities and events.  Please contact the Council Clerk if you want your group to be represented.  Refreshments will be available.  ALL WELCOME |
| 112/0323 | **Nomination Packs**  **NH** has received the Nomination Paper packs from TBC and subsequent information regarding the Parish/Town Council elections on Thursday 4th May 2023 and were handed to the councillors present at the meeting. **GE** agreed to take a pack for **TE** and will collect from him.  **NH** reported that she has spare nomination packs should anyone wish to stand for Parish Council or papers can be collected from TBC offices and returned by hand no later than 4pm on 4th April 2023. **NH** has agreed to return papers collectively and councillors to arrange delivery to the clerk. |
| 113/0323 | **Bank Signatories**  **NH** has relevant paperwork that needs to be signed by **TE, PF & GE** at an official meeting.  In the absence of **TE**, it was agreed to have as an agenda item for the May meeting. |
| 014/0323 | **Finance:**   1. To approve accounts for payment: 2. Clerk wages for Jan/Feb - £187.68 x 2 chq numbers 000688, 000689– **Agreed** 3. Greenfinch -Annual Grass cutting - £660.00 chq number 000690 – **Agreed** 4. Hall Hire - £22.00 chq number 000691 **– Agreed**     b) To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - **Circulated and Agreed**  c) To agree budget balances to pay - **Circulated and Agreed** |
| 115/0323 | **AOB**  The PCC has requested a small increase to the Section 137 annual donation. *(Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act (as amended) empowers local authorities to make contributions to certain charitable funds and not for profit bodies providing a public service in the United Kingdom.)* Councillors discussed and as an agreement was not met, it will be an agenda item for the May meeting.  A member of the public noted that the Hall Car Park was still being used inappropriately, despite signs in place. The MOP suggested a polite prompt action.  A member of the public has offered to help with the coordination of a litter pick and councillors agreed to this course of action. APC will support as necessary.  **JJ** suggested a mark of respect for Councillor Phil Awford at the next meeting. |
| 116/0323 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 9th May 2023– **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 8.55pm** |