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| Ashleworth Parish Council  Clerk: Nicky Hill  **Tel**: 07771 610027 **Email**:ashleworthpc@gmail.com | small |

**Minutes of the Meeting of 9th January 2024**

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| **Councillors Present** | **In attendance** |
| Tony Eardley (TE) | Clerk: Nicky Hill (NH) |
| Paul Finch (PF) Vice Chairman | Members of the public: 2 |
| Aly Shayle (AS) |  |
| James Joyce (JJ) |  |
| Grant Elliott (GE) |  |
| Councillor Jill Smith (JS) |  |

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| 183/0124 | **Welcome from the Chairman**  Please note that the council meeting will be preceded by ‘Public Question Time’  A member of the public reported the damage to roads and verges from construction lorries accessing the new Redcliffe Homes development. It was also noted that lorries were still entering the village from Broad Street, despite assurances that all construction traffic would only use Lawn Road as access. Also noted that some of the lorry drivers were being inconsiderate towards other road users and pedestrians.  **TE** explained that the Parish Council previously received several complaints and serious concerns regarding construction lorries entering and leaving the village without due care and attention to other road users, excessive speeds and damage to verges. The Redcliffe development construction director had previously been informed and responded that he will send out reminders to all and discuss with site management team. **NH** will contact again to relay actions above are not being adhered to. Copy will also be sent to Highways informing that road surface deterioration may be caused by construction lorries.  Redcliffe Homes have said they will rectify verge damage once the development works have been completed.  A member of the public asked about using some of the CIL money to help clear untidy lane and mend wall between the school and playground. **TE** advised that the Parish Council will firstly need to investigate ownership and damage in order to proceed with releasing CIL money and will liaise with the school. **TE** also advised that this would apply to all requests and as much information per application would be gratefully received. |
| 184/0124 | **Apologies for absence.**  No apologies received. |
| 185/0124 | **Declaration of Interests.**  TE declared an interest on minute 190/0124 as he lives on the Green.  TE declared an interest on minute 192/0124 as he is on the Memorial Hall committee. |
| 186/0124 | **To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting 14th November 2023 and exchange of backed up/updated APC files USB.**  No amendments were necessary, and the minutes were agreed and signed. The Chairman and the Clerk exchanged the APC updated USB’s. |
| 187/0124 | **Matters arising /review of actions from the last meeting not on the agenda.**  None |
| 188/0124 | **Reports from invited speakers on relevant items.**  Councillor Jill Smith reported:  A public consultation on the Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) will open for feedback in January 2024. This primarily looks at development in Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough.  Members of all three councils approved the first draft to go out to consultation. Since this the maps of areas that have been put forward, under the Call for Sites exercise, have been included.  This is planned to be an online exercise using an interactive online consultation platform. There will also be a programme of engagement events that will run through January and February. We have not been given details yet of how this will work.  There is a dedicated site that it would be worth everyone looking at on Strategiclocalplan.org or contact Ian Bowan, Planning Policy Manager on ian.bowen@tewkesbury.gov.uk.  A Draft Garden Communities Charter consultation has been publicised. This is to raise the awareness of Garden Communities and to receive parishioners' feedback, by 31st January. It takes the format of an online questionnaire, or you can e mail gardencommunities@tewkesbury.gov.uk.  There is a grant given to TBC from the Kings Coronation fund to plant new micro woods and community orchards. Further information will follow. |
| 189/0124 | **Speeds through village.**  **JJ** raised concerns regarding speeds that are being driven through the village and lanes. **TE** explained, that as the Parish Council understands, there are no speed restrictions or signs to say otherwise and as no street lighting, there is no law to drive at 30mph or below.  The Parish Council did a speed survey in 2019 at the request of Highways, to collate evidence of any speeding issues. The survey proved that vehicles driving through the village on the whole, were not excessive, however, this was only limited to volunteers’ timescales.  **JJ** also requested speed limits restricted around the school area as a matter of safety.  The councillors agreed that the above are cause for concern and will seek advice from Highwaysand ask for Ashleworth School views on the speeds around the school**. JS** will also action. |
| 190/0124 | **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** reported that there had been no real update apart from advising of the name of the solicitor now undertaking the case. |
| 191/0124 | **Playground Update**  **GE** reported that all the old play area equipment had been removed and **GE & PF** had assisted in making the grounds good for Greenfields fencing to commence early January.  **GE** attended a site meeting with some of the Woodies committee and the fencing area has been shown and marked out. Greenfields have provided a quote for further groundwork in the play area. All agreed to submit this preferred quote to TBC for the release of S106 monies. **NH** will action.  **AS** reported that the 3 companies chosen to provide quotes for the play area equipment will be contacted to finalise these quotes and also suggested that these companies present the final quotes at the next Parish Council meeting. **TE** suggested inviting early to the meeting, to enable a fair viewing from each company and possibly decide later on as an agenda item.  **JS** will be contacting her source to request if any funding is available and believes that as the Parish Council owns the land, this should be a possibility. |
| 192/0124 | **Village Hall funding request.**  **TE** had noted the potential conflict of interest with this item as he is on the village hall committee. **PF** chaired this item and **TE** did not participate.  APC have received a request from the Memorial Hall committee to fund £900 for an extension to the stage.  Unfortunately, the Council decided that the stage works did not fit the criteria under the CIL payment guidelines in order to benefit whole community and could not support the funding of £900 for the extension works.  However, after the explanation of the Enovert grant and the 10% contribution required from Ashleworth Memorial Hall for the roof repair, the councillors agreed that funding could be supported through the CIL monies for this. **PF, GE, AS & JJ** unanimously agreed to fund 50% of the £2200 contribution required from AMH = £1100.  NH will relay decision and liaise with Memorial Hall committee for funds to be released. |
| 193/0124 | **CIL & S106 monies clarification.**  **CIL:**  **NH** reported that the first CIL payment had been received £9,594.70.  2 further payments will be made:  28 April 2024 - £19,533.01  28 October 2024 - £29,127.71  **CIL** monies can be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area. This gives communities freedom and power to spend the money on a wide range of things, in consultation with the community. Parish Councils should spend their local CIL monies within 5 years of receipt.  Further discussions were had as to where the CIL money could be spent.  Suggestions were:  Village Hall roof fund  Contributions towards Play area equipment.  Replace bench on village green.  Bus shelter refurbishment.  Wall near to school (need to establish ownership)  TE will submit a WOSN article to request applications and suggestions from parishioners.  **S106:**  **APC** were allocated S106 funds for the Play Area after the first Redcliffe development. This was described as ‘Off-site open space’, £776 per dwelling x 35 = £27,160 which, after indexation became £32,631.08. |
| 194/0124 | **Precept 2024/2025**  **NH** reported that the precept amount had to be submitted by the end of January. **JJ** suggested an increase in the precept in line with inflation. **NH** stated that the Precept requirement is the difference between the Parish Council’s estimated income and its  anticipated spending requirements for the financial year (its budget). The 2024/2025 budget prepared and circulated did not show a need to request an increase or a decrease, however, if councillors agreed to increase the precept, then this increase would be proportionally added to residents Council Tax bills. The Parish Council have a healthy bank balance and **TE, PF, GE & AS** could not justify increasing this year and did not foresee any plans for extra spending. **PF, GE** and **AS** agreed with the Chairman and it was voted that the precept submitted will be the same as last year at £5500. **TE** will closely monitor the budget and the precept for 2024/2025 will be reviewed at the next budget. |
| 195/0124 | **Finance:**   1. To approve accounts for payment:   1) Clerk wages for Nov/Dec - £187.68 x 2 chq numbers 000716 & 000717 – **Agreed**  2) AED Battery replacements - £52.74 chq number 000718 - **Agreed**     1. To agree the bank reconciliation and cash book updated - Circulated and **Agreed** 2. To agree the budget balances to pay **–** Circulated and **Agreed** |
| 196/0124 | **AOB**  Planning application 23/01117/FUL Conversion of agricultural building to student HMO – Harpers Farm. Application received after agenda had been published. **No objections.**  A letter was received after agenda was published regarding the changing of the flood bank and safety concerns of flood walkway at the Quay/church. Whilst safety concerns were evaluated, unfortunately the Parish Council did not consider it is within their remit. **NH** will advise to contact Tewkesbury Borough Council who have organised community flood recovery advice and support. |
| 197/0124 | To confirm date of next meeting as Tuesday 12th March 2024 – **Agreed** |
|  | **Meeting closed at 9.20pm** |