

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2011 IN ASHFORD SCHOOL

Present: Cllr D Windle (Chairman), Cllr R Akeroyd, Cllr W Dinley, Cllr R Spinks, Cllr B Taft, Cllr T Williams, County Cllr J Twigg, Mrs A Fox (Clerk)

104.11 Apologies: Cllr A Middleton, District Cllr C Walker

105.11 Declaration of Members' Interests: None

106.11 Public Participation: Flooding Issues

Allison Bradley of the Environment Agency and Ian Shuttleworth of Derbyshire County Council were welcomed to the meeting. The purpose of their visit was to discuss flooding issues in Ashford and the following issues were explored:

1) Public Awareness Campaign: Derbyshire County Council and the Environment Agency wish to work with Ashford parishioners to increase awareness of flooding issues and plan to visit those properties most at risk.

2) Parish Flood Risk Assessment: Steve Mead from DCC is compiling a flood risk assessment for the parish and once all the necessary data has been collected, he will be arranging a meeting with the parish council to examine how best to manage the flood risk.

3) Insurance: The parish council pointed out that Ashford residents are now having difficulty obtaining property insurance since the publication of the Environment Agency's flood map and asked if the Environment Agency would consider supplying a letter emphasising the flood defences which have been put in place in Ashford. Allison informed the meeting about the National Flood Forum, an independent group which offers assistance to those having problems obtaining property insurance. Ian pointed out that an agreement exists between the Government and the insurance industry that insurance companies will provide cover for those in flood risk areas, providing the Government continues to invest in defence schemes.

4) Drains/Surface Flooding: The parish council expressed concern about the state of the drains in Ashford, pointing out that they are often blocked and even though these are reported to the DCC, it can take weeks for any action to be taken to clear the drains, thus increasing the risk of surface flooding. Concern was also expressed about surface water running down into the village from the fields and the need to improve field drainage. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged with Steve Mead of DCC before Christmas to inspect the drains and make provision for their adequate maintenance, and also to look at the issue of field drainage.

5) Emergency Plan: Cllr Dinley, Ashford's Flood Warden, stated that he welcomed this, but would wish it to be carried through to completion, which previously has not happened.

6) Flood Warden Training: Cllr Dinley reported that, as Flood Warden, he has been offered no training from the Environment Agency. His comments were noted.

7) Public Meeting: It was agreed that a public meeting would be held in Ashford Institute before the end of March to discuss the above issues. The Environment Agency agreed to publicise this with flyers and possibly home visits

107.11 Minutes of Meeting of 5th October 2011: These minutes were proposed by Cllr Spinks as a true record, seconded by Cllr Dinley and signed by the Chairman.

108.11 Confidentiality: None

109.11 Items reported by the Clerk

1. Public Conveniences: A response had been received from Peter Foley as follows regarding the proposals for Ashford public conveniences:

- The Parish Council would lease the toilets from the District for an initial period of 3-4 years, after which things would be reviewed.
- Under the terms of the lease, the Parish Council would become responsible for all of the operating costs for the toilets but would have total flexibility of how they would be run.
- The District Council would retain the car park but allow the Parish to place an honesty box on it, the proceeds from which would be retained by the Parish to help offset the costs of running the toilets.
- The Council would be willing to pay a lump sum to allow the Parish to undertake the refurbishment of the toilets. The original figure identified in the stock condition survey was £3,625 but we recognise this needs to be reviewed and brought up to date. Hopefully we will not be too far away from the £4,500 you requested in your letter but my colleague Mike Galsworthy will arrange for this to be done.
- The arrangement is only for the toilets at Ashford in the Water and does not include the facilities at Monsal Head.

It was agreed that the Clerk would email Mike Galsworthy to expedite finalisation of the lump sum agreement. In the meantime, a site meeting was arranged for 19th November at 2.00 pm to identify the level of refurbishment work required so that quotations can be obtained.

2. Completion of Bank Mandates: Cllrs Akeroyd, Dinley, Middleton, Taft and Williams to take their own completed bank form and ID details to any branch of Nat West to be verified prior to the December meeting.

3. Ashford Play Area Committee Meeting Report: Cllr Dinley reported on the meeting held on 2nd November. It had been decided to include 2 young members of the community on the Committee to represent the youth of the village. Young members of the community wishing to join the Committee will declare their interest by entering the play area design competition, which will be judged in January. Cllr Dinley agreed to include an appropriate article in the December parish magazine.

4. **Footpaths:** Cllr Windle confirmed that he is liaising with the Peak Park Authority regarding the footpath from the car park at Monsal Head, which is considered hazardous in places.
5. **Grit Bins:** Two grit bins require filling – on John Bank Lane and The Duke's Drive. A quotation had been received from Barry Wood Plant Hire for £60 for filling the first salt bin, each additional bin thereafter being £50.00. The Clerk was requested to ask Barry Wood Plant Hire if they would fill both bins for £100.00.
6. **Schedule of Drain Cleaning:** This is still awaited from DCC.
7. **Christmas Tree/Christmas Lights:** Cllr Windle reported that Mr Peter Hunt had kindly offered to supply the village Christmas tree. Cllr Taft confirmed that he is investigating suitable Christmas tree lights.
8. **Cemetery Rules and Regulations:** It was unanimously agreed that no change would be made to the current cemetery rules and regulations.
9. **Approval of Memorial:** Memorial approved.
10. **Parish Precept 2012/13:** To be considered at the next meeting.
11. **Grass Cutting 2012/13:** The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation from Mr Chris Whitham.
12. **Band Concert 2012:** to be discussed at the next meeting.

110.11 Items Raised by Members:

1. **Community Response Plan:** It was agreed that Cllr Taft would obtain prices for a hand gritter.

111.11 Planning Matters:

1) **South Lodge, Thornbridge – Change of use from self catering accommodation to single family dwelling house. Demolition of previous extension, erection of new extension and refurbishment of historic lodge:** The parish council are of the opinion that this is totally out of character with the existing listed building and environment and that it is too large.

2) **3 Fennel Street – Replace existing flat-roofed outbuilding with 2-storey pitched roof extension:** The parish council have no objection to this application as they feel it would improve the appearance of the building by removing the existing extension.

3) **Decision – Land to the West of A6020: Proposed new agricultural access:** Granted subject to conditions.

112.11 Financial Matters

- 1) Bank Balances Noted:

Business Reserve Account: £19,223.20

	Current Account:	£250.00
2)	To approve payments:	
	a) B & B Tractors (snow shovel for Snow Warden)	£31.20
3)	To acknowledge receipt of payments:	
	a) Memorial for Frederick James Hawley	£30.00
	b) Cremation: Mr Christopher Bennett	£50.00
	c) Cremation: Frederick James Hawley	£50.00
	d) Burial: Rose Frances Jones	£200.00

113.11 Correspondence Requiring Action: None.

114.11 Date of Next Meeting: The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th December 2011 at 7.30 pm in Ashford School.