

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs A J Fox
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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2012 IN ASHFORD SCHOOL

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

34.12 Apologies: Cllr A Middleton,

35.12 Declaration of Members' Interests: None.

36.12 Public Participation: No members of the public present.

37.12 Minutes of Meeting of 22nd March 2012: These minutes were proposed by Cllr Spinks as a true record, seconded by Cllr Williams and signed by the Chairman.

38.12 Confidentiality: None

39.12 Items reported by the Clerk

17.12.1.Public Conveniences: Information is still awaited from Peter Foley regarding confirmation of DDDC's contribution. Cty Cllr Twigg and District Cllr Walker agreed to try to expedite this.

17.12 2.Completion of Bank Mandates: Cllr Williams has now completed all the necessary paperwork. The Clerk agreed to meet Cllr Taft at NatWest on Saturday 21st April at 10.00 am to complete his paperwork and finalise the mandate.

17.12 3.Ashford Play Area: Cllr Dinley reported good progress. Goal nets have also been requested. Cty Cllr Twigg reported that she may be able to make a donation to this from the Community Leadership Scheme. Cllr Dinley agreed to write formally to Cty Cllr Twigg requesting a donation.

17.12 4.Band Concert: Cressbrook Band have been booked for the Band Concert on Sunday 10th June 2012 from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. The parish council had no objection to them handing round a collection box.

17.12 7. Jubilee Event: 4th June 2012

a) Planting of tree: The Clerk had informed the Jubilee Committee that the suggested site in front of the Tithe Barn is acceptable.

18.12 1. 20 mph Speed Limit in the Village: A response had been received from DCC to the effect that Ashford in the Water would not meet the desired criteria for a 20 mph zone throughout the village.

28.12 8. Audit of 2011/12 Accounts: The return has to be sent to the Audit Commission by 24th May. The Clerk reported that she had arranged to take all the books etc to Mr John Foster of West & Foster following this meeting.

29.12.4. Sheepwash Pump: A quotation for £240.00 had been received from Wm Taylor Roofing for repair of the Sheepwash Pump. This quotation was accepted and Cllr Spinks agreed to ask Mr Taylor to proceed with the work. The Clerk was asked to find out from the insurance company whether an excess would be payable.

29.12.5. Parish Precept 2012/13: An explanation had been received from DDDC as to why they had claimed that the parish precept for Ashford had increased by 2.3%, when it had in reality remained the same at £11,650.00. The reason given is that the 2.3% increase shows the percentage change in the council tax payable, which is not the same as the percentage change in the parish precept.

29.12.3 Village Maps: The Clerk reported that she had endeavoured to obtain more details about this, but had received no response.

Cllr Williams left the meeting at this point due to another commitment.

40.12 Items Raised by Members:

1. Fence in Old Cemetery: Cllr Taft reported that the company he had approached for this work were not able to undertake it.

2. Fence in New Cemetery: Repairs have been completed by Mr Chris Whitham.

41.12 Planning Matters:

1) Thornbridge Hall – Proposed relocation of garage, demolition of 1960s brick built storage building and erection of new glasshouse and associated storage/gardener’s mess building: The parish council has no objection to this application as it does not appear to affect any important architectural structures.

42.12 Financial Matters

1)	Bank Balances Noted:	
	Business Reserve Account:	£17,690.89
	Current Account:	£250.00
2)	To approve payments:	
	a) DALC (subscription)	£192.05
	b) Barry Wood Plant Hire (filling of grit bins)	£192.00
	c) DDDC: Wheeled Bin (direct debit)	£58.50
3)	To acknowledge receipt of payments/donations:	
	a) DDDC – reimbursable expenditure – grass cutting	£1,020.00

43.12 Correspondence/Matters Requiring Action:

1) Bottle Bank: It was reported that the bottle bank area is again becoming unsightly. To discuss at the next meeting.

2) Signs in Hall Orchard: The Clerk was requested to obtain a quotation for signs “Dogs to be kept on lead at all times”. Cllr Windle agreed to email the Clerk with details of the exact wording of the signs.

3) Dog Fouling Signs: It was decided that these need replacing. To discuss at the next meeting to decide how many are required, where they should be located etc.

4) Footpaths: A footpath schedule is being drawn up.

5) Insurance Policy: The Clerk was requested to ask the insurance company if they could offer a more competitive price.

6) Drains in Court Lane: It was reported that these drains are blocked, as are the drains outside Great Batch on Church Street. The Clerk to report to DCC.

7) Email from Lewis Durdin offering quotations for general maintenance: The Clerk was asked to thank Mr Durdin for his email and to keep his details on file for future reference.

8) Part Night Lighting Scheme: Cty Cllr Twigg had reported details of forthcoming consultation on a part night lighting scheme. Full details will be available in due course.

9) Appointment of new DDDC Chief Executive: District Cllr Walker reported that David Wheatcroft would be retiring from the position of DDDC Chief Executive on 28th May and would be replaced by Dorcas Bunton. Some concern was expressed by the parish council about the salary scale for this post (around £100,000 per annum), given the current economic recession and consequent austerity measures; in particular, the possibility of a reduction in street lighting at night (see item 8 above).

10) Housing Need Survey: Isabel Frenzel, Rural Housing Enabler at DDDC, has asked to attend the next parish council meeting to present her Housing Needs Survey report. It was agreed to invite her to the beginning of the June parish council meeting (on 28th June).

44.12 Date of Next Meeting: The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 17th May 2012 at 7.30 pm in Ashford School. Cllrs Akeroyd and Dinley presented their apologies. This will be a short meeting, the main purpose of which will be to approve the accounts ready to send to the Audit Commission by their deadline date of 24th May.

The next full parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 28th June.