

ASHFORD-IN-THE-WATER PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2013 IN ASHFORD SCHOOL

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

24.13 Apologies for Absence: None

25.13 Declaration of Members' Interests: None.

26.13 To receive and approve requests for dispensations from members on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: None

27.13 Public Participation: Peter Foley and Mike Galsworthy of DDDC attended the first part of the meeting to discuss the future of the public conveniences in Ashford. Issues arising in Ashford regarding waste collection services were also discussed with Peter Foley.

27.13 1 Public Conveniences: The outcome of the discussions is summarised as follows:

1) Cost of Maintenance - DDDC: Peter Foley explained that the District Council had been responsible for maintaining public conveniences in 35 locations, but were no longer able to sustain this. A decision was therefore taken to refurbish the conveniences located in town centres, including Bakewell, and to explore ways to reduce the costs of maintaining the remaining conveniences, to include transferring the responsibility to parish councils, closing conveniences during the winter months and possibly closing some completely.

2) Current Maintenance Costs: Mike Galsworthy had obtained a quotation for the refurbishment of the conveniences and confirmed that the current maintenance costs are estimated as follows:

Business Rates:	£776.25
Electricity:	£213.00 - £290.00
Water:	£770.00 - £1,300.00

Repairs: Repairs will be undertaken by DDDC, or DDDC will pay a lump sum to the parish council, who will then arrange for the refurbishment.

3) Cost of Maintenance – Ashford: Cllr Windle explained that, due to lack of information from DDDC, no provision has been made in the 2013/14 precept for maintenance of the conveniences, therefore Ashford could not consider taking them over this year. Several other councillors also expressed the view that they did not feel that parishioners would be in agreement with the increased council taxes necessary to support the conveniences. Peter Foley reported that if DDDC remain in control of the conveniences, it is likely that they would be closed during the

winter, or possibly closed completely – he could give no assurances about this as the matter would have to go to Committee.

4) Joint Venture: Cllr Windle explained that the parish council's view is that this is a village facility that should be maintained throughout the year if possible. It was therefore agreed that the best way forward would be to share the costs between DDDC and the parish council whereby DDDC carry out the necessary repairs, after which an agreement could be reached whereby the parish council possibly take over the cleaning, opening and closing as from October. Mike Galsworthy confirmed that the contractors could start the refurbishment work after Easter.

5) Honesty Box: Peter Foley confirmed that DDDC would be in agreement with an honesty box being installed in the car park, the proceeds of which could be used by the parish council to offset costs.

6) Summary: It was therefore agreed that a joint venture arrangement, as outline above, would be pursued further, with the parish council reporting to DDDC no later than September 2013.

7) Action to be taken by Parish Council:

a) Look into employment of a cleaner after establishing a suitable schedule. Advertise to ascertain local interest and assess potential cost to the parish council.

b) Investigate possibility of opening and closing on a daily basis, possibly as part of the cleaner's duties, with a view to reducing energy costs.

c) Investigate sourcing and provision of an honesty box to be sited in the car park, or adjacent to the toilets.

27.13 2) Waste Collection Services: The recent problems experienced in Ashford were discussed as follows:

1) Size of Vehicles: Peter Foley acknowledged that the size of vehicles used were too large for some locations and some smaller vehicles were now being used in problem areas.

2) Damage to Footpaths/Verges/Kerbs: Peter Foley confirmed that Serco have repaired any damage caused, but only where such damage has been accepted as caused by their activities.

3) Cost Saving: Peter Foley stated that DDDC have estimated cost savings of £385,000 per year by changing contractor and that the initial problems resulting from the change are gradually being resolved.

28.13 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 5th February 2013: The minutes were proposed by Cllr Taft as a true record, seconded by Cllr Williams and signed by the Chairman.

29.13 Confidentiality: None

30.13 Items reported by the Clerk

6.12.14) Parish Council Vacancy: Two parties had expressed an interest in joining the parish council, namely Mrs R.McGovern and Mr J Tolchard. A vote was taken with the votes being cast as follows:

Mrs McGovern	1
Mr.Tolchard	4
Abstentions	1

It was therefore agreed to co-opt MrTolchard and to write to invite him to attend the next meeting of the Council. It was further agreed to write to Mrs McGovern to convey our decision and thank her for her interest.

108.12.5) Tree on River Bank at bottom of Watts Green: The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Tomlinson to see if he has arranged a date yet for this work to be completed.

111.12.1) Waste Collection Services: See item 27.13 2) above.

19.13 1) Village Policeman: It was agreed that PC Phil Maycock would be invited to a future parish council meeting, possibly in May.

22.13 a) Zurich Insurance: A quotation will be requested from Zurich Insurance for parish council insurance.

30.13.6 Letter from little Longstone Parish Meeting and Mrs Alison Fletcher regarding car parking at Monsal Head: This car park, operated by DDDC, lies within Ashford Parish, but the Parish Council has no involvement in its operation. The seasonal overspill car park, also within the Parish, is leased by DDDC from a private landowner and that authority periodically seeks approval from PDNPA for use as a car park. Ashford Parish Council always supports that application.

30.13.7 Request for reservation of plot in cemetery for Mr & Mrs Davies: To be discussed further.

31.13 Items reported by Members:

31.13 1) Part Night Steet Lighting: Cllr Windle reported as follows:

- 1) Watts Green: Lights will be left on all night
- 2) Court Lane: The light near the old people's bungalows will be left on
- 3) Highfields: To be switched off from midnight
- 4) Mill Lane: lights on A6020 cannot be switched off, but the light on Mill Lane could be switched off.

31.13 2) Lights at Trinity Close: The Clerk was requested to contact Dales Housing regarding brightness of their amenity lights.

31.13 3) Parking Issues at Junction of Church Street and Greaves Lane and adjacent to Ashford Hotel: Cllr Twigg agreed to pursue this and to contact James Adams, Parking Enforcement Officer at DCC, to find out if and when he has visited Ashford to investigate parking issues and whether it would be possible for such visits to be made.

31.13 4) Potential Closure of Post Office: The post office will be closing from 18th March unless a new sub post master can be recruited.

31.13 5) Use of Hall Orchard field for car parking during Well Dressing Week: Granted. The Clerk was asked to confirm this to the Well Dressing Committee.

32.13 Planning Matters:

1) Decisions (2 – one for listed building consent) – Ashford Hall – Proposed alteration works: Granted subject to conditions.

2) Decision – Chy Ny Dour, Vicarage Lane – Proposed extension to dwelling: Granted subject to conditions

33.13 Financial Matters

1) Bank Balances Noted:	
Business Reserve Account:	£16,800.29
Current Account:	£250.00

2) To approve payments:

a) Barry Wood Plant Hire (salt for grit bins)	£204.00
b) Clerk's salary for 3 month period (January to March)	£440.00
c) Clerk's expenses for 3 month period (January to March)	£104.61
d) HM Revenue & Customs (tax on Clerk's salary)	£110.00

3) To acknowledge receipt of payments: None

4) **Audit of Accounts:** It was agreed that Mr John Foster of West and Foster would be approached once again to audit the 2012/13 parish council accounts.

34.13 Correspondence/Matters Requiring Action:

a) Letter from the Post Office re Closure of Ashford Post Office: See item 31.13 4) above.

35.13 Date of Next Meeting: The next parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2013, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting, which will commence at 7.30 pm.