Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council

Ashbury Village Hall

Monday 8th July 2019 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present: Cllrs C Davies (Chairman), P Cowx, A Alvarez Nishio, County Cllr Y Constance, District Cllr E Ware

L Evans (Clerk)

6 Members of Public

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **18** | **To receive apologies for absence**  District Cllr S Howell, Cllr C Prentice |  |
| **19** | **To receive any declarations of Personal, or Personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting**  Cllr Alvarez Nishio declared personal interest item 33 Upper Mill Pond |  |
| **19a** | **To Co Opt new council members**  Anne Reynolds as Councillor- all agreed.  Cllr A Alvarez Nishio informed the members of the public that APC are still looking for another member of council. |  |
| **20** | **To take reports from the District and County Councillors**  **County Cllr Y Constance acknowleged the hard work ANP had done to get a great referendum result and had come to celebrate with the Parish.**  County Cllr Y Constance to follow up with the appropriate personnel regarding the accident in Berrycroft.  County Cllr Y Constance will investigate the pot holes on Chapel Lane, but suggested that the road may not be adopted.  District Cllr Report presented by E Ware (attached to minutes in appendix 1)   1. **Anti-idling Campaign “Turn it Off”** – promotional campaign from Environmental Services regarding cars idling on drop offs- Cllr A Alvarez Nishio to communicate to the school, District Cllr E Ware to provide leaflets and stickers. 2. **Pop Up Business school-** Arrangements are being made for a Pop up Business School in Shrivenham between 7th and 11th October- more details to follow. 3. **Local Plan Part 2 –** Planning have declared that the LPP2 is sound and subject to local democratic approval. 4. **Planning Training -**  A training course will be running on Planning on 9th September 14.00pm-16.00pm and 18.00pm-20.00pm- further details to follow | **AAN** |
| **21** | **Shopperbus**  John Charlton from Shopperbus presented a report explaining the need for funding contributions for the Dial-a-ride service, 80% of the users of which are Ashbury residents. to be able to continue. The amount required annually to run a service on Fridays only will cost £7400.  Cllr C Davies asked about a service running from Ashbury to Shrivenham where the buses and bus routes are a more diverse & frequent would be more pratical. John Charlton explained that this would be ran by a comet service but the local depot for this is Witney so would not be cost efficient.  The dial-a-ride service runs Wednesdays and Fridays and statistics show that Fridays are the day that the service is used the most, dial-a-ride will be discontinuing a Wednesday service by the end of August. Cllr A Alvarez Nishio suggested that this information be put onto the Council newsletter.  Cllr C Davies explained to John how tight the budget is for Ashbury so this year we would not be able to make a contribution but to approach again next year.  Member of the public asked if precept was ring fenced for anything like this, Cllr C Davies explained that we are looking to reorientate where precept is spent.  Cllr C Davies stated that the dial-a-ride service will now be included in the assets survey-see item 29 below.  Cllr A Alvarez Nishio explained that all the feedback collected was positive.  **Subsequent to the meeting Cllr C Davies is writing to John Charlton protesting strongly on the intentions to reduce the service while also seeking a contribution.** | **AAN**  **CD** |
| **22** | **To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2019**  Approved |  |
| **23** | **To address matters arising from the previous meeting**   * **Trees on Ashbury Hill –** Cllr C Davies to chase SSE as work has still not been completed. * **Potholes-** Ongoing action for Cllr C Davies * **Access –** Member of the public asked if access could not be provided through the children’s playground and incorporated within the improvements to the Village Green. Cllr C Davies explained that this was not possible as the fence surrounding the park is owned by a third party. | **CD** |
| **24** | **To take questions and comments from the Councillors**  Cllr C Davies explained that Reverend Norma Fergusson has been appointed the Vicar of Shrivenham and wished to congratulate Norma stating that she will be sadly missed by the parish community having played such a positive roll during her tenure in the parish. Endorsed by the council members present and those members of the public attending. |  |
| **25** | **Update on Planning Issues**   * **P19/V1158/LDP – Sarsen Cottage, Kingstone Winslow –** District Cllr E Ware explained that there was notification that this application has been declined,   Cllr C Davies asked E Ware how the application got so far with regards to the legalities surrounding the application, District Cllr E Ware explained that applications only get looked at in their entirety neat the closure date   * **P19/V1314/HH – Craven Cottage, High Street, Ashbury- Alteration to Chimney Stack-** No objections. * **P19/V1535/DIS- The Old Dairy, Kingstone Winslow- Barn owls roosting site-** No objection * **P19/V1095/HH- Hillfurlands, Walnut Tree Hills-** Demolition of the single storey section and a two storey extension added- Cllr C Davies explained that this would need to be looked into further as there is a restricted covenant on the property. | **CD** |
| **26** | **Other Planning Matters**   * **S/OUT/17/1990 – Great Stall East – Land South of A420 South Marston – Action closed** * **S/19/0703 – New Road link A419 Common Head Roundabout to New Eastern Villages Development – Action Closed.** |  |
| **27** | **Update on Neighbourhood Plan**  Cllr C Davies presented the report (attached to minutes in appendix 2).  Cllr C Davies confirmed that it was an overwhelming result with a 46.2 % turnout producing a 94.7% in favour of adopting the plan, Cllr C Davies explained that the cost of the slight alterations to the plan for the Referendum had not yet been advised but may be met by Vale of The White Horse.  Member of the public would like to thank ANP committee for all their hard work.  A resident raised the fact that the lights on some of the properties in Wixes Piece are always on overnight and this contradicts the ‘Dark Skies’ policy of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr C Davies to feedback to Steering Group. |  |
| **28** | **Update from Village Green Committee**  Cllr A Alvarez Nishio presented the update (attached to minutes in appendix 3)   * Priority is to get the playing field built, Cllr A Alvarez Nishio gave a breakdown of funding so far- £4093 is still needed to be able to start the project. * Cllr C Davies asked if there was any particular reason what access will be via Malthouse Close and not through that off Wixes Piece given that the PC has an undisputed Row for maintenance. * There is a collection box located in the Village shop for anyone wishing to make a donation.   The very generous donations we have received from the community so far will enable us to go ahead with the work on the Playing Field planned for August. Our appeal for community support will continue so that we can move forward with the next phase of the Village Green project (the Heritage Tree Trail) and also build up funds to provide for future maintenance. |  |
| **29** | **Update from Ashbury Parish A Team (Planters Group)**   * **Parish Council Assets A Team actions for progressing maintenance work requirements for this year**   P Smith presented the report (attached to minutes in appendix 4)   * Obtaining three quotes for the bus stop as to have a better understanding of work needs to be carried out and cost. * The waste Team at VWH are reviewing the bin collections which are the War Memorial bin, and the Play park bins due to the cost of disposal, VWH will update P Smith if any of the Parishes bins will not be emptied. * Jonathon Loose is in talks with CPC in regards to making the old churchyard into a wild friendly area.   It was suggested that there be some public recognition should be made to those residents who care for the War Memorial and cut the grass, and to those residents who maintain other areas of the parish. Cllr A Alvarez Nishio to collect the names of the residents for the newsletter.  The Council and P Smith proposed a vote of thanks to the resident who fixed the round bin on the war memorial.  Cllr C Davies advised that a survey would now be launched to determine how residents wish to deal with the need for ongoing maintenance of the Parish assets. | **AAN** |
| **29a** | **Report from the Village Fete Committee**  Raised £781.90p after costs- Cllr C Davies explained that this is the only event in the parish that makes full use of the Village Green and is run both responsibly and successfully, and would like to see other groups coming forward to make full use of the provisions of our covenant. There were some issues with access caused by the tight turning circle but these were all addressed by the fete committee.  Cllr A Alvarez Nishio proposed a vote of thanks to the Village Fete committee, seconded by Cllr P Cowx- unanimously agreed.  Cllr Davies also wished to thank residents of Malthouse Close that had shown real community spirit by cooperating with the need for access given the constraints imposed on the intended access- unanimously agreed. |  |
| **30** | **Village Green Access Update**  Cllr C Davies explained that a costed plan is to be submitted to improve the entrance to the Village Green via Malthouse Close, and submitted to HM Land Registry with the hope of seeking compensation for their failures of the intended access. |  |
| **31** | **Finances to Note**  Financial Report is attached to minutes in appendix 5 |  |
| **32** | **Agenda Diary**   * **Playground Inspection-** This is to be conducted in July, once report is received Clerk L Evans to forward to the Councillors. * **AGAR-** AGAR was signed by Cllr C Davies and Clerk L Evans- Clerk to submit | **LE**  **LE** |
| **33** | **Correspondence**   * **21/05/2019 – War Memorial Bin-** No Further Action * **23/05/2019 – Upper Mill Pond –** Cllr C Davies explained this is regarding the state of the pond and smell, Cllr C Davies wrote to the owner and the other interested parties which District Cllr E Ware passed to the Environment Officer. His report confirms that the landowner has a statutory duty to maintain the pond and the outflow, and this is an enforceable requirement. This is to be monitored and reported on at the next meeting. * **14/06/2019 – Children’s Air Ambulance Recycling Bank-** Clerk L Evans received correspondence regarding a textile bank, Cllrs suggested contact the pub to see if this is a possible site. The Children’s Air Ambulance will regularly collect and also deal with if any fly tipping issues should arise. * **18/06/2019 – Ridgeway Summer Newsletter-** No further action * **28/06/2019 – Horse Chestnut Tree-** Cllr C Davies explained that a Horse Chestnut Tree has been planted on the triangle opposite The Manor a solution has been found the tree will be moved and a more suitable tree to be put in its place. | **ALL**  **LE** |
| **34** | **To take questions and comments from members of the public**  Resident asked whether to help generate funding, whether memorial trees would be considered, Cllr A Alvarez Nishio explained to the resident that the suggestion was a great idea and the Village Green Committee is working on this. |  |
| **35** | **Any other Business**  Cllr P Cowx asked Cllr C Davies if advertising on the website is allowed, Cllr C Davies suggested that this is to be taken up with the website owners. | **PC** |

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Laura Evans

Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council

Next meeting will be held on Monday 9th September at 7:30pm in Ashbury Village Hall

Appendix 1

**District Councillors Report to Parish Councils**

**Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward**

**July 2019**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

**Climate Emergency** - Following the agreement to a Climate Emergency in February the administration intend to create a new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. The proposal will be submitted to full Council on 17 July.

**Local Plan Part 2 –** The Planning Inspector has declared that the LPP2 is sound and is subject to local democratic approval. The administration has indicated that it wants to make sure that they fully understand the implications of adopting the plan or otherwise.

**Anti-Idling Campaign – “Turn it off”** – is a promotional campaign and teams from Environmental Services will visit specific areas over the coming months. There is no enforcement proposed and part of the promotion is to use posters and stickers to remind drivers. If the Parish Council requires any strickers and/or posters please let Elaine or Simon know.

**Vale Networking Business Breakfast -** This event took place on Wednesday 26 June at Wrag Barn Golf Club.The agenda included a welcome from the Leader of the Vale and Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration as well as what support is available from both the Vale and Swindon Borough Council. The event was a success and will be followed by other events in the coming months.

**Pop Up Business School -** Arrangements are in hand to hold a Pop Up Business School in Shrivenham between 7 and 11 October. This event follows the success of others held in the Vale and South Oxfordshire. The intensive course provides guidance on topics such as starting a business with no money, building a website for free, taxes and marketing. More details to be confirmed over the next couple of months.

**The OVC Energy Women’s Cycle Race –** This race travelled through the Vale from Wantage to Faringdon on Wednesday 12 June. Although there was a problem in Didcot when a number of entrants crashed fortunately no one was seriously injured. The event went well and will be held in Oxfordshire again in 2020 and 2021.

**Planning**

Construction on all four sites in Shrivenham continues. L & G are holding a public consultation on Phase B on Friday 12 July from 2pm until 8pm. Residents are encouraged to attend. There has been a further delay in the use of the A420 access road but it is hoped that this will be available for use shortly.

**Appeals in Shrivenham -** A new Appeal has been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. This relates to the refusal by the Vale to allow tarmac to the green highway verge at the front of the property and drop the kerb to improve vehicular access at 43 Highworth Road.

The Old Surgery Appeal has been allowed by the Planning Inspectorate.

**Chowle Farm -** The Outline Planning Application is still under consideration at the Vale

**Land South of Steeds Farm -**The independent Financial Viability Assessment commissioned by the Vale is awaited.

**Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan –** The Referendum for the Ashbury NP was held on Thursday 4 July. The result was a resounding acceptance of the Plan.

**Longcot –** 15 low carbon homes have been built in Kings Lane Longcot. This unique development was featured in the May edition of The Housing Magazine.

Although we don’t hold surgeries we are always available to deal with any issues

Simon Howell – 01793 784491 – [simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Elaine Ware - 01793 783026 – [elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

Appendix 2



**Report to the Parish Council Meeting**

**to be held on 8th July 2019**

**PLAN PROGRESS:**

As has already been report by Email, the ANP referendum was held on Thursday 4th inst, the result of which was an overwhelming majority in favour of the Plan.

The electorate of the Parish comprises 448 registered voters, and a visit to the VWH|DC website confirms the official referendum result to be:

* **Votes in favour of adopting the neighbourhood plan [Yes vote] 195 - [94.7%]**
* **Votes against adopting the neighbourhood plan [no vote] 11 - [5.3%]**
* **Turn-out 46.2%**

The entry then continues:

**Section 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 gives neighbourhood plans full legal effect once they have passed their local referendum. Cabinet will consider on the 12 July whether the plan should be made, so that it can continue to be part of the development plan. A Council meeting is scheduled for the 17 July to consider the recommendation from Cabinet.**

The Steering Group would like to formally thank all those that participated in the referendum, even those that voted against as if nothing else their votes serve to validate the process. Particular thanks to those residents, local businesses and the Church Magazine that publicised the referendum and/or encouraged others to vote, all of which contributed to such a decisive result in support of the Plan.

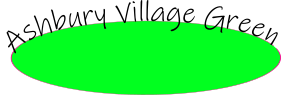
**PLAN FUNDING:**

We have yet to be invoiced for work done by our consultants to effect the changes proposed by the examiner, which means we continue to show a [very] modest surplus remaining from our funding. If it transpires that the anticipated fee is being waived by the consultant or met by VWHDC, such surplus will be repaid to the Parish Council.

**Cliff Davies**

7th July 2019

Appendix 3

**The story so far -**

In 2015 the village was given a piece of land next to Wixes Piece with promises that it would be landscaped beautifully.  Sadly this did not happen. Despite some works, the land soon became water-logged, uneven, an informal dog toilet and in many places over-grown with weeds.

**October 2018** – A group of volunteers got together at the request of the Parish Council to make a plan for the land. They did surveys and held discussions with members of the village, the Church and the School to get as many views as possible.

**December 2018** – The group named the land the Village Green and came up with plans for (1) a Playing Field to make the Green useful, especially to the School, and (2) a Heritage Tree Trail to make the Green more interesting and attractive.

**January 2019** – The group asked the village for comments on the plan and was delighted by the strong support.

**February to June 2019** – The group got quotes for making the Playing Field and applied to local and national organisations for funding.

**Making it happen**

Work on the Playing Field is due to start in August and we aim to start planting the Heritage Tree Trail in winter 2019.

The cost of the Playing Field will be £25,660 and so far we have raised £21,500. We have been thrilled to get support from:

The Vale of White Horse Council (£7,500)

Oxfordshire County Council (£2,500)

The National Lottery (£7,000)

The Sir William Cash Fund (£2,000)

Ashbury Parish Council (£2,500)

**We just need another£4160!**

We're busy applying to other funding organisations but we know that the community will want to help too.

We're also working on final plans for the Heritage Tree Trail. We'll publish them soon and ask for comments.

The Playing Field and Tree Trail will be great new assets for the community. Please support them by -

* 1. A cash donation (no matter how small or large, every little bit will help make this happen) or
  2. Sponsoring a tree or plaque – perhaps in memory of someone dear to you or to celebrate a happy event.

There will be a collection box in Ashbury Tea Room and Shop and a funding thermometer to chart our progress,For more information on how to donate please contact Liz Derrington ([elizabethderrington45@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethderrington45@gmail.com) or 710813).

Appendix 4

**Update report to: Ashbury Parish Council for meeting on 8th July 2019**

**From: Ashbury Parish A Team/Planters Group**

**Date: July 2019**

**Action required:** *To note, to action, and to inform decision making and next steps forward for APC owned or responsible Assets maintenance*

The Ashbury Parish A Team/Planters Group met again in June 2019 and agreed the following actions

1. **David Pain and Jonathon Loose to coordinate an approach in support of building on and engaging more of the community in a collective parish/village *‘lets together keep it looking in good order’***

This is a different approach to generating a more formal volunteer input

We hope the approach will combine the importance of any personal property looking and feel good factor with a similar one for a positive village appearance

This way of thinking and behaving is already the case for the very valuable, consistent and continuing maintenance to the village assets provided already – such as the grass cutting and care of the War Memorial Green, the Green outside the Pub, some clearing of Drew’s Hill and all those that mow the grass outside of their front gardens on the verges.

1. **Repair quotes** are being sought for the following identified as priority areas for Parish Council Assets from the assets review this March:
   * The bus shelter
   * Tree trunk pruning work

1. **Suggestions to reduce the Grass cutting bill**
   1. Jonathon Loose is in discussion with the CPC re the plan to make the ‘old churchyard’ into a more wild life friendly area. If agreed grass cutting will only be required to a ‘path area’ and the whole old church yard cut reduced to twice per year
2. **Update information on public waste bin emptying**
   1. Following a situation re the ‘bin’ on War Memorial Green, Pauline S has spoken to the Waste Team at VWH and the following applies
      1. Public waste bins are emptied by the Waste Team crew members under the following circumstances – VWH identified ‘relevant’ land, any adopted Highway

In Ashbury this includes the bin on War Memorial Green (Very historic action) and the 3 bins in the Wixes Piece Play Area

* The bins are emptied via a weekly review, blue bin bags are used and a *round bin* is required to be in place. The Waste Team do not supply bins where they were not the original installer

This Waste Team action is NOT funded via our Council Tax. As the waste team have to pay for the waste to be disposed of, they are reviewing their criteria for bin emptying.

Those bins more recently added to their workload may be stopped – in Ashbury this may mean the play area bins

Kate at the Waste Team 01235 422138 will keep us informed if there are to be changes to the public bin emptying in Ashbury

1. **Request to meet with our MP, Councillors to raise impact for APC on Public Liability Insurance re Highways delegated work to all Town and Parish Councils**

We recommend a meeting is organised between the above and APC and ourselves to raise unrecognised and unstated by anyone so far, issues as a result of Highways moving to delegate more tasks to local Town and Parish Councils.

(see survey sent recently by Highways and which I completed on behalf of APC)

**The Ashbury Parish A Team/Planters Group next meeting in July 17th 2019**

Pauline Smith

July 2019

Appendix 5

**Finances to Note**

