

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 4 March 2013

Councillors: Andy England (Chairman), Marion Turner (Vice Chairman), Eliza Lewis, Barbara Rayner, Steve Treadwell, Yvonne Constance (District Councillor)

Clerk James Greenham

Apologies Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor (County Councillor), Bill Spence

Circulation: As above plus minute book and village website

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 January were read, approved and signed.

Matters arising

First Aid training

Further canvassing will take place to establish if any parishioners would be willing to attend (and part fund) a First Aid Training Course. *Outstanding since January meeting* MT

Grass cutting

The maintenance of Drews Hill will be undertaken by a local contractor who will be paid by the parish council, at an agreed rate of £225.00

Planning issues

Permitted

There have been no permitted planning applications since the last parish meeting in January.

Pending

Land to the west of Idstone Road Ashbury Manor, Ashbury	<i>17 new homes and village green Construction of open log store Recladding of chancel, nave and south transept roofs</i>
Church Lane, Ashbury	

There were no other planning applications outstanding.

Update on Walnut Trees Hill development

The parish council is finalising the broad legal agreement for the provision of a community shop (inc heads of terms to the main lease) with the landowner.

The District Council is finalising the wording of the s106 agreements with the landowner, which includes the provision of approx £33,000 for the upkeep of the public play area by the parish council for the first tens years.

A Village Shop Committee has been formed to develop ideas as to how a shop can be established and will report back at subsequent parish meetings. ST/BR

Update on Idstone Road development

It was confirmed the parish council has formally objected to this application. A final decision by the District Council Planning Team is expected by mid April. The District Councillor has requested that the application be brought before the Planning Committee and further details of timings will be made available in due course.

New Local Plan.

A 10 week public consultation exercise is now underway by VWHDC as part of the drafting process for the new Local Plan 2029. The parish council can reply formally before 9 May 2013.

Swindon's Eastern Expansion Plan

The parish council has already responded to the draft 2026 Local Plan for Swindon, which includes details of the Eastern Expansion Plan.

Serious concerns have been expressed about its viability, given the limited infrastructure surrounding the area and the fear it may lead to 'rat-running' by commuter traffic through the local villages.

Financial update for the parish council

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 4 March 2013. The estimated annual surplus is £961.16.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

Village school update

There is now a full complement of staff and governors within the school.

The Natural History Museum Oxford visited the school on 4 March, for a hands on workshop for years 3-6 on rocks and minerals.

Highways matters

It was confirmed that the surface water drains have been replaced on the stretch of the B4000 opposite the school.

Village Hall Update

The new kitchen is now in place and has been well received.

Fund raising events planned in the near future include a film afternoon (20 April) and a talk on the Craven family and Ashdown House (22 June).

Any other business

Andy England agreed to investigate the options for installation of a defibrillator unit within the village and how this can be logistically achieved. *Outstanding since January meeting* AE

It was suggested the parish could adopt better methods of communication with local residents (inc email updates etc). ST agreed to circulate some ideas. ST

It was noted that Barbara Rayner will be unavailable to attend council meetings in May and July due to a sabbatical commitment.

The clerk will contact the local Fire Brigade to establish locations of known/unknown fire hydrants within the parish. JRG

MT will confirm the date of this year's Litter Blitz. MT

Comments from the public

There were no comments from members of the public.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 13 May 2013.