Annual Assembly Meeting of Ashbury Parish Council

Ashbury Village Hall

Monday 13th May at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present: Cllrs C Davies (Chairman), P DuBois, C Prentice, P Cowx, District Cllr E Ware

L Evans (Clerk)

5 Members of Public

Apologies: Yvonne Constance, Simon Howell, Anica Nishio

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| **ITEM** |  |  |
| **1** | **Acceptance of minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting**  Approved. |  |
| **2** | **Chairman’s Report-**  There have been a number of changes in the council’s structure over the last 12-months, including the position of chair when Kate left for the birth of her new family-member, and clerk, resulting in Laura Evans stepping very competently into the previous incumbent’s shoes.  We have made significant progress on a number of parish issues and on a number of levels:  Administratively continuing to improve the council procedures and delivery largely due to the stalwart efforts of the council members responsible, and:  On a level more relevant to the community as a whole, on topics such as improvements to the Village Green where Liz Derrington’s group have created an attractive looking plan and received commitments for over 70% of the required funding thus far; Pauline Smith’s ‘A’ team defining the Parish’s assets for the first time, and identifying what action is required to maintain same; Anica Nishio’s group putting together the Parish’s emergency plan – arguably the only ’success’ that we hope not to need, and lastly: the deliver of the Parish ‘Neighbourhood Plan’ that, once we have the go-ahead from the Vale, can quickly be be finalised in readiness for referendum.  I consider that the parish owe those that have contributed to each a huge vote of thanks. But there is always more to do, and would ask anyone that wishes to make their own contribution get in touch with a member of the council.  There has inevitably been some ‘downsides’ of course, most notably the failure thus far to resolve the issues surrounding the intended access to the Village Green, although Land Registry have at least accepted their failures on this, and indicated that a measure of compensation could be available to put toward rectifying the situation. While there is a solution that would not rely on any relaxation from the owners of the adjacent properties, it remains to be seen whether the potential compensation from Land |Registry would go sufficiently far enough to enable this to be realised.  And finally, I regret to confirm that:  Phil DuBois stepped down from the council with effect from the 2019 AGM. In the short time that Phil has been a member of the council, he has made a significant contribution both on organising the Parishes finances in his role as Finance Officer, and on a number of Parish issues such as safety inspections for the children’s playground equipment, and sourcing a contractor with adequate equipment to fulfil the Parish’s maintenance needs.  Similarly, Bill Spence did not submit his nomination papers for re-election in 2019 and hence he too ceased to be a council member as of the AGM Bill has been a council member for many years and acted as Highways Officer for much of that time. More relevant to the Parish perhaps, Bill has also represented the farming community, and as agriculture has such an influence on our landscape, his input over the years has been invaluable.  Our thanks to Phil & Bill.  Cllr C Davies proposed an extended thanks to Cllr A Alvarez Nishio, P Smith and E Derrington for all their hardwork- unanimously agreed. |  |
| **3** | **County & District Councillor reports-** Refer to Minutes on 13th May 2019 |  |
| **4** | **Elections for Chair, Vice Chair and all other posts for the coming [2019/20] year**   * **To Elect Chair for the coming year-** Cllr C Davies re elected Proposer: Cllr C Prentice. Seconder: Cllr P Cowx * **To elect Vice Chair for the coming year-**  Cllr A Alvarez Nishio Proposer: Cllr C Prentice Seconder: Cllr C Davies   ***Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Alvarez Nishio advised that due to business commitments she would have to decline the post.***  Once councillor vacancies are filled, all other posts will be discussed. |  |
| **5** | **Accounts of financial year 2018/19**   * **Approval of insurance cover for 2019/20-** Cllr C Davies and P DuBois to check the quotation meets our requirements. Action CD/PD - APC minutes refer * **Audit review for 2018/19 [inc governance statements]** – P DuBois explained out internal auditor James Greenham has been away and are arranging a date [probably 16th inst.] for the Internal Audit to take place. Action PD – APC minutes refer |  |
| **6** | **Dates of council meetings for the coming [2019/20] year confirmed as:**  2019 13th May  8th July  9th September  11th November  2020 13th January  9th March  11th May  These can also be found on the notice boards and website. |  |
| **7** | **Meeting Closed** |  |
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Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Laura Evans

Clerk to Ashbury Parish Council