



ASHFIELD-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors are reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct Regulations.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2021 at the Community Hall

Attendance Robert Grimsey (Chair) (RG) Myles Hansen (Vice-Chair) (MHa) Ruth Hart (RH)
Sarah Clare (Clerk)

Public present at the meeting: 1

ACTPC 22-01-01 Apologies for Absence

Chris Sharpe (CS) had sent apologies due to family commitments. The Council accepted.
Simon Garrett (SG) had sent apologies due work commitments. The Council accepted.

Matthew Hicks (County Councillor) and Kathie Guthrie (District Councillor) had both sent apologies for health reasons.

ACTPC 22-01-02 Public Forum

None

ACTPC 22-01-03 Declaration of Interests

None

ACTPC 22-01-04 Update from County Councillor

The County Councillor's Report had previously been circulated to the Council and has also been posted on the village website www.ashfield.onesuffolk.net.

ACTPC 22-01-05 Update from District Councillor

The District Councillor's Report had previously been circulated to the Council and has also been posted on the village website www.ashfield.onesuffolk.net.

ACTPC 22-01-06 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by MHa, seconded by RG all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

ACTPC 22-01-07 Matters Arising and Action Points from the December Minutes

1. Contact Suffolk Police to ask for Speed Safety Cameras to be deployed in the village. DISCHARGED Awaiting response.
2. Compile message to go out on Ashfield Talk about the cost implications of the Parish Council purchasing its own Speed Indicator Sign and the fact that volunteers would need to come forward to manage such a sign. ONGOING
3. Contact MHi to see if there are any alternative speed mitigations that could be employed as the requested speed limit does not look like it is going to be approved. DISCHARGED
MHi had confirmed to RG that the application for a 40 mph speed limit to the north of the village had been unsuccessful as the survey had demonstrated that the average traffic speed was below national standards to qualify for the limiting to be applied. RG would be meeting with MHi and the residents who are most affected by this decision to look at what else could be done, including reducing hedge heights to improve visibility in the area. RG will advise the former councillor who had done a lot of work on this matter about the outcome and let the wider village know via Ashfield Talk

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4. Set up a Council specific email address using the suggested actpc.initials@gmail.com format and advise the Clerk. DISCHARGED
5. Source an email communication policy, with a view to adoption at the March meeting. To be discussed later in the meeting.
6. Compile response to the HGV route consultation and circulate to councillors for comment, before submission by the Clerk. DISCHARGED
7. Compile response to the Bus Back Better consultation and report back to Suffolk County Council. DISCHARGED
8. Publish budget, as approved at the meeting, on the village website. DISCHARGED
9. Submit precept request for 2022-2023. DISCHARGED
10. Move funds from current account to reserves as per virements agreed. DISCHARGED
11. To distribute payments as approved at the December meeting. DISCHARGED

ACTPC 22-01-08 Planning

- a) To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting: None
- b) To consider any planning applications that have been submitted since agenda was published: None
- c) Updates and outcomes on previous planning applications:
 - i) DC/21/01791 & 01792 – Householder Planning Application & associated Listed Building Consent – Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation. Ashfield Lodge, The Street, IP14 6ND – Application Withdrawn

ACTPC 22-01-09 Parish Council Activities

- a) To consider co-option to Council - RG asked whether anyone present wished to be considered for co-option to the Council. Nobody came forward. The Clerk confirmed that there are now two vacancies on the Council and these are listed on the village website.
- b) Highways & Footpaths: Report on activity since the last meeting – RG reported that was part way through conducting the annual audit of the parish paths. The good news is that at present there are few problems to report, although there is a slight issue with footpath 13 as it is currently diverted with temporary fencing. It is important that the official routes are not obstructed as this may affect future public access claims. If landowners need to divert paths they should apply for official licences.

RG had also been out monitoring the local roads and reporting any problems as necessary. One particular issue is the water flowing across and down the road on the A1120. RG has been in contact with MHi, who has confirmed that the work and road closure was approved last June, but to date the work has not been carried out.

A parishioner had been in contact concerned about the state of Grove Lane. The large number of potholes on this lane had been reported some 18 months ago via Suffolk Highways Online Reporting Tool, but there is an issue with approximately 50m of lane which is currently being treated as a 'no mans land' with Suffolk Highways refusing to accept responsibility, despite the fact that it is outside of the boundary of Grove Farm. RG will make contact directly with those who have raised the concern and liaise with MHi to get a resolution.

- c) Update on situation regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the village – RG reported that there had been another incident at a known property within the village during January. The Housing Team at the District Council have been involved in dealing with the situation as residents have been severely affected psychologically. The Housing Team have been in contact with the police who had logged it as a minor domestic incident, despite it involving neighbouring properties. The neighbouring properties have not been contacted by the Housing Team to date. RG will take the matter up with the District Councillor if necessary. Since the flare up in January there have been no further issues to date apart from some inconsiderate parking by a commercial vehicle. RG had reported the problem to the company concerned.

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The property is tenanted and commercial vehicles cannot be parked on the drive, which is why they are being parked on the road.

- d) Consideration for adoption: Email Communication Policy – The Clerk had circulated a policy for consideration. RH proposed adoption, RG seconded all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**.

The Clerk will arrange for the policy to be published on the village website.

- e) To consider whether to join the Focus Group on Water Quality in the Deben After discussion it was decided to decline the offer to join the focus group, as the river is on the outskirts of the village and it was not clear what could actually be done to control the issues raised about nitrate levels.
- f) To review and re-adopt Standing Orders – Upon review the Council agreed that there are no amendments to be made. MHa proposed adoption for the coming year, RG seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will publish the agreed Standing Orders on the village website.
- g) Diary Dates for 2022-2023 – Annual Parish Meeting and AGM of the council Wednesday 4th May 2022. RG will remind CS to ask the police to attend. It was agreed that parishioners should be asked to submit any questions a couple of weeks before the meeting, so that the police representative can come prepared to respond, rather than being put on the spot unfairly.

Other Parish Council meetings to be held Wednesday 13th July 2022, Wednesday 14th September 2022, Wednesday 14th December 2022 and Wednesday 8th March 2023. The Clerk will publish the dates on the website and check the Community Hall booking with SG.

ACTPC 22-01-10 Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement for the quarter – The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement. There were no queries. RH proposed acceptance, RG seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.
- b) To review and re-adopt Financial Regulations - Upon review the Council agreed that there are no amendments to be made. RH proposed adoption for the coming year, RG seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will publish the adopted regulations on the village website.
- c) To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule
RG proposed authorisation, RH seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will issue cheques accordingly.

ACTPC – 22-01-11 Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council


- a) RG advised the Council that the Boundary Commission are reviewing the parliamentary constituencies in the area. A proposal has been put forward that Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Debenham and Framlingham are put into a constituency with Bungay and Thetford. RG is making representation at a hearing in Ipswich that this proposal would straddle counties inappropriately with no meaningful centre.

Items for the May Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 25th April 2022 at the latest, with any accompanying paperwork ready to be circulated with the agenda upon publication.

There being no further business requiring the attention of the Parish Council, the meeting was closed at 8.26 pm. The next meeting is set for **Wednesday 4th May 2022** at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall.

Sarah Clare
Parish Clerk

Robert Grimsey
Chair

Signed  (Clerk)

Signed  (Chair)