



ASHFIELD-CUM-THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022 at the Community Hall

Attendance	Robert Grimsey (Chair) (RG)	Chris Sharpe (CS)	Ruth Hart (RH)
	Simon Garrett (SG)	Myles Hansen (Vice-Chair) (MHa)	Sarah Clare (Clerk)
	Kathie Guthrie (District Councillor) (KG)		

Public present at the meeting: 0

ACTPC-22-06-01 Apologies for Absence

Matthew Hicks (County Councillor) (MHi) had sent his apologies due to a clash of commitments.

ACTPC 22-06-02 Public Forum

None

ACTPC 22-06-03 Declaration of Interests

None

ACTPC 22-06-04 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 22-06-05 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.

KG brought attention to the following:

KG is working to support local residents in Kenton who are being adversely affected by the gun range, the site is currently being investigated by planning enforcement to try and address the issues.

Currently there is a shortfall predicted in housing revenue, this is in part due to the cost of refurbishment of social housing having cost more than anticipated due to the rising costs of raw materials. Part of the refurbishment works that have been undertaken at rented properties across Mid Suffolk has been in relation to damp and mould. This was an ongoing project prior to the tragic mould related issues that had been reported in the National Press.

Whilst on the subject of housing, KG was pleased to report that a new totally eco-friendly development has been approved in Elmswell, the site will be wholly owned by the District Council, not run through a third party housing association.

The District Council is running various children's activities over the Christmas period for disadvantaged children in the area, details have been circulated.

There is still no definitive answer to how those who heat their homes with oil will receive the promised £200 help from Government. KG has repeatedly been in contact with the MP for the area, Dr Dan Poulter, requesting details.

ACTPC 22-06-06 Minutes of previous meetings

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by SG, seconded by RH all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

Signed  (Clerk) Signed  (Chair) 12

ACTPC 22-06-07 Matters Arising and Action Points from the September Minutes

1. Source details of volunteer run community transport schemes and forward to parishioner. DISCHARGED
2. Send a letter to Ipswich Buses on behalf of the village asking them to reconsider the timetabling of their buses. To be discussed later in meeting.
3. Forward emails to KG about the request for dog-fouling stickers. DISCHARGED
4. Submit responses to Planning Department at District Council as agreed. DISCHARGED
5. Arrange for renewal of Parish Council insurance. DISCHARGED
6. Publish Risk Assessment & Health & Safety Policy on the village website. DISCHARGED
7. Offer help where appropriate to help parishioners with cutting back hedges that are overhanging roads. ONGOING
8. Write to District Council about vehicle being parked dangerously close to Grove Lane junction. Also write to company listed on vehicle asking for their assistance in enforcing safe parking. DISCHARGED and to be discussed later in meeting.
9. Chase MHi about land ownership issues at Grove Farm end of Grove Lane. DISCHARGED – it has been confirmed that Suffolk Highways are responsible for the lane until where the bridleway starts. RG will now report that the surface needs to be reinstated on the Online Reporting Tool.
10. Chase up Rights of Way department at SCC about the dangerous bridge on FP32. DISCHARGED – new bridge has been installed.
11. To arrange virements at agreed at the September 2022 Parish Council meeting. DISCHARGED
12. All Councillors to provide certified copies of ID documents to the Clerk for bank verification purposes. DISCHARGED – Clerk to see if the certified copies of ID documents will be returned.
13. Publish Internal Financial Control Statement on the village website. DISCHARGED
14. To distribute payments as approved at the September meeting. DISCHARGED
15. Send brief bullet point summary of Parish Council actions out to the village. DISCHARGED
16. Send email out to the village notifying that the defibrillator is once again available for use. DISCHARGED

ACTPC 22-06-08 Planning

a) To consider planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting:

- i) DC/22/05663 – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) – Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q – Conversion of agricultural building to form 1 no. Dwelling. Quintons Farm, Grove Lane.

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided that the Parish Council supports in principle development of the site, but would like to see prior approval, as currently there are objections raised due to concerns about potential flooding, as the site is poorly drained and any addition to hardstanding will adversely affect not only the site itself, but neighbouring properties. The Council cannot support such a development until this issue is addressed.

SG proposed, MH seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

Signed ..  (Clerk)

Signed ..  (Chair)

13

- b) To consider any planning applications that have been submitted since agenda was published:
 i) DC/22/06023 - Full Planning Application - Installation of ground mounted solar panels, 1 Hillside, The Street, IP14 6NA

Councillors had all studied the application in advance of the meeting. After discussion it was decided to **SUPPORT** the application based on the following points:

- No impact on neighbouring properties.

RG proposed, SG seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**

- c) Updates and outcomes on previous planning applications:
 i) DC/22/02755 – Planning Application – Stopping up existing vehicular access onto the A1120 and creation of access onto Cretingham Road. Ashfield Place Farm, Main Road, IP1 6LU - Granted

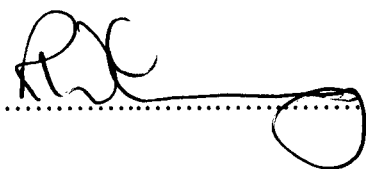
ACTPC 22-06-09 Parish Council Activities

- a) To consider co-option to Council – Nobody was present. The Clerk confirmed that there are two vacancies on the Council and these are listed on the village website. It was noted that there is an upcoming election for Parish Councils in May and it is hoped more people may come forward.
- b) Consideration of a response to the Rural Mobility Survey – CS talked the Council through his suggested responses to the survey. RG proposed CS complete the survey as agreed on behalf of the Council, RH seconded, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.**
- c) Update on communications regarding bus services to the village – CS reported that although Suffolk County Council provides support to routes 118 and 119 that service the village, the bus company is not willing to reinstate the services. The cut-backs were undertaken as the route was not proving financially viable even with the Council support. Councillors discussed about whether people are not using the bus because of the poor scheduling, or whether there are other reasons at play. CS felt that the way forward was to find out from parishioners their reasons for not using the bus by sending out a survey. There was little point in the Parish Council fighting for buses to run at a particular time, if the support for the buses was not present. Depending on the result of the survey, if there is a definite demand then the Council will look into what could be done as a next step.
- d) Highways & Footpaths: Report on activity since the last meeting
 i) Parking of vehicles close to Grove Lane junction – Following communication with the company who operates the vehicle, assurances had been given that the employee who drives the van will no longer park the vehicle in the unsuitable position. Unfortunately, after an initial improvement, the vehicle is again being parked in a dangerous location. RG agreed to make contact with the Housing Officer at the District Council to find out whether the resident could park the vehicle on the driveway of the property. RG will copy KG into the communication.
 ii) Missing footpaths signs – RH noted that some signposts were missing, RG advised that he had notice a sign had fallen and it was currently with him for repair, it would be replaced shortly. the fallen sign and was going to repair and replace them shortly.

ACTPC 22-06-10 Finance

- a) To review the Financial Statement as supplied by the Clerk – The Clerk had previously circulated the Financial Statement. There were no queries. RG proposed acceptance, SG seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.** The Chair signed the corresponding Bank Statements to confirm the figures.
- b) To accept NJC recommended pay settlement - RG proposed acceptance, RH seconded all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED.** The Clerk will advise SALC payroll
- c) To consider moving to online banking – The Clerk confirmed that the ID verification had been successful, but the next step was to remove a former Councillor from the mandate. The Clerk had a copy of the mandate, which was signed as specified and will return this to the bank for processing. Once this is completed the Clerk will again look into how to move the account to full online banking.

Signed  (Clerk)

Signed  (Chair)

- d) To finalise and adopt the 2023-2024 budget – The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for the Council to consider. RG proposed the adoption of the budget as circulated, MH seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will arrange for the approved Budget to be published on the website.
- e) To set precept for 2023-2024 – Following adoption of the budget the Precept was set for 2023-2024 with an overall increase on the precept of 5% RG proposed, MH seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will complete and return the form to the District Council.
- f) To agree payments as detailed on the Payment Schedule
RH proposed authorisation, CS seconded and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Clerk will issue cheques accordingly.

ACTPC – 22-06-11 Urgent Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council


- a) It was noted that a request for consultation on the revisions to the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Planning Local Validation List had been received. After discussion it was agreed that no action required.
- b) Boundary commission – RG reported that he had made representations as a private individual and he had received a report that confirmed that Ashfield-cum-Thorpe would remain within the Central Suffolk district and not be added to the Diss area as had been proposed.
- c) Items for next agenda:
 - Review & Re-adopt Standing Orders & Financial Regulations
 - Meeting dates for 2023-2024

Items for the March Agenda – please notify the Clerk of any further items for the agenda as soon as possible and by Monday 6th March 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 9.23 pm. The next meeting is set for **Monday 13th March 2023** at 7.30 pm in the Community Hall.

Sarah Clare
Parish Clerk

Robert Grimsey
Chair

Signed ...  (Clerk)

Signed ...  (Chair)