

# ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 15th April 2021 at 7.30pm, held Online

**Present:** Cllrs D. Simpson (in the Chair), K. Ryan, A. Evans. No Ward Cllrs; no residents.

Clerk: J. Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – None.
2. **Public Open Forum** - None
3. **Declarations of Interest in any of the agenda items** – None.
4. **Approval of previous Minutes and any Matters Arising not covered below**
  - 4.1. **Minutes of the March Meeting** previously circulated, were unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Ryan; unanimous.
  - 4.2. **Matters Arising - None**
5. **Councillor J Spragg resignation** - Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr Spragg with regret. Clerk to send letter of thanks. Cllr Simpson to collect litter-picking kit. Cllr Ryan to collect railing parts. **DS/KR/CLK**
6. **Future of Remote Meetings** - Initial advice from Whitehall had indicated that the provision to hold remote meetings should not be renewed next month when the original legislation expires. However reaction across the country via the National Association of Local Councils and many local authorities had pointed out that returning to open public meetings whilst still in partial lockdown was not a sensible result - particularly with regard to venue safety for small councils and the ever-present danger of the new Covid variants. A formal government consultation had been established in the light of this reaction. Even though some councillors preferred to meet face-to-face it was decided, given the logistics for AHPC, that the next meeting, and Annual Meeting, should be held remotely, whilst the Parish Annual Meeting be postponed until a future date. Proposer Cllr Simpson, seconder Cllr Evans; unanimous.
7. **Communications**
  - 7.1. **New Website** - The Clerk had taken over liaison with the developer and after a slow start another updated version of the draft website had been received. In spite of initial suggestions to the contrary AHPC was assured that the 'search' facility would not operate properly until the site went 'live'. The Clerk to pursue requested changes by contacting the CEO. [*post-meeting note*: the updated draft was received the day after the meeting] **CLK**
  - 7.2. **Social Media** - It was noted that there were no serious estate concerns being shared amongst users.
8. **Environment**
  - 8.1. **Bins, new & sponsorship**
    - 8.1.1. No response had been received from the local pet service business to sponsor a new dog bin or the maintenance of a bin, for the right to publicise with a bin sticker. Clerk to re-send email one last time. **CLK**
    - 8.1.2. The Clerk had not ordered the new waste bin - to be installed near the seat between Clay Hill and Downlands - as he was unclear as to how to proceed with its installation. It was agreed that the new bin (free-standing) be weighted down with a heavy stone or brick-bat courtesy of the Chair. **CLK/DS**
  - 8.2. **Christmas Tree replacement** - The Clerk had at length found a contractor willing to pull the old tree down and remove it. A quotation had been circulated and approved. The Clerk had also established that AHPC could in fact plant a new tree anywhere on the green so the old tree did not have to be removed. The tree supplier had not replied to requests to reserve a tree. It was agreed that the initial decision held - to replace the old tree - and only plant the new tree somewhere else on the green if the old tree could not be satisfactorily removed. Tree supplier to be chased. **CLK**
  - 8.3. **TMA Play Parks** - [estate walk round postponed until better weather conditions] - Cllr Simpson had again liaised with the playgrounds officer Phil Snell. He had asked whether AHPC could appoint its own contractor for the works. That was said to be possible. [*post meeting note*: The day after the Parish Council meeting, Phil Snell visited the play park and offered to establish a quote for the painting work to be done by a contractor. He also offered assistance to remove some rotten post & rail fencing on the site as well as the removal of some shrubs and to return that area to grass (free of charge to the Parish Council). Councillors agreed to await further details on this proposal before taking further action. **CLK**

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**8.4. Cobbled tree pits by the shops** - The Clerk had submitted the new request for a quotation to SERCO but no reply had been received yet. [Quote included - Possibly diseased trees: to be left in situ pending further clarification; Pits needing repair: to be made good with replacement granite setts; Empty pits: to be either filled with a layer of granite setts or coated with a fixed gravel skin; Pits by the bus stop and Radcote Lodge: to be planted with small shrubs]

**8.5. Wildflower verge on the High St opposite Fairways** - these works had been satisfactorily completed.

**8.6. Fault/Project Log** - there were 8 projects and 7 faults ongoing.

## 9. Finance

**9.1. Payments for authorisation & Balances** - since the March meeting:

Clerk's salary (period 01) £719.64; Clerk's admin/expenses £16.00. These payments were approved unanimously. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Ryan.

Available funds 31 March 2021: £74,238 (plus reserves £38,444).

**9.2. Year End Balances 2020-21** - It was noted that the annual bin-emptying contract payment appeared twice for the year as the invoice for the previous year (2019-20) had not been submitted until this financial year. It was further noted that the two previous year's re-issued payments had been correctly deducted from this year's expenditure.

## 10. Planning Applications

### 10.1. Previous

*For information only:* 21/00418/CLUP 15 Langton Drive Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed single storey rear extension. *Permitted*

*For information only:* 21/00550/CLUP 22 Leafield Rise Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for single storey rear extension (3.1m) and loft conversion with rear dormer and rooflights on the front elevation.

Pending

### 10.2. New

21/00589/FUL 19 The Hythe Two Mile Ash, Proposed two storey rear extension. No objections - but consideration to be given to neighbours regarding loss of light and being overlooked. **CLK**

21/00659/TPO 63 Chardacre Two Mile Ash, Tree Preservation Order consent for 25% reduction (approx. 3-4ft) and dead branch removal to Oak tree. No objections

*For information only:* 21/00941/CLUP 70 Shorham Rise Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed garage conversion.

21/00821/FUL 20 Church Hill Two Mile Ash, Erection of single storey side extension, first floor rear extension and erection of front porch with canopy. No objections

21/00993/FUL 35 Shorham Rise Two Mile Ash, Detached single garage within curtilage of dwelling. No objections

21/00893/ADV Metaltex Uk Ltd Brunleys Kiln Farm, Erection of new signage to the building & site. No objections

## 11. Grants and Correspondence

**11.1.** Behaviour First Consultancy grant - Councillors remained undecided about grant support.

**11.2.** YIS grant - Young People's Mental Health - Clerk to contact the organisation to ask for clarifications - to be compiled by Cllr Ryan. **KR/CLK**

**11.3.** AgeUK Hotfood Service - Councillors agreed to donate £50 to the service on condition that AgeUK determine a worthy recipient within the parish. **CLK**

**11.4.** Correspondence (other than email) - Letter from Crimewave consultancy offering their services - the Clerk to enquire of Great Linford Parish Council. **CLK**

## 12. Other Meetings and New Matters

**12.1.** Parking Enforcement Officer (shared) - no further update.

**12.2.** Litter picking - AHPC still owns six litter-picking sticks and hoops.

**12.3.** Cllr Ryan reported that he had advised a potential new councillor to contact the clerk.

**12.4.** TMAEG to be invited to send a representative to the next meeting.

**13. Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 20th May 2021. To be held online at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

*Signed*

*date*