

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor Ed Daniel
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Gemma Herbertson
Councillor Kevin Gregory Councillor Peter Jackson
Councillor Angela Norbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Sue McDonald
Councillor Audrey O'Donovan (Ringway PC)
Reverend Libby Lane
Norman and Margaret Lawson
Members of the Public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor David Norbury

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

2.1 Declarations of Interest None

2.2 Dispensations

Dispensation forms had been signed by Councillors, and approved by the Clerk, to allow discussions and votes on Financial and Planning Matters until the election in 2015.

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings held on 14th and 21st January were accepted as true records.

4 CHESHIRE PLOUGHING COMPETITION

Norman began by describing the background to the competition, now in its 91st year, which takes place at different venues throughout Cheshire. Typically, the competition comprises 100 tractors for ploughing, 25-35 hedge layers and 100-120 exhibitors of farm and agricultural machinery. It is always hoped to include horse ploughing matches but, sadly, Shire horse are dying out mainly due to cost. Typically 5,000 people in total attend the competition in 2,500- 2,700 cars.

In terms of Ashley Hall, Norman explained that the competition will take place on Wednesday, 25th September 2014 and it is expected that the following arrangements will be in place:

- **Setting up.** Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th of September are set aside for setting up the stands and moving in heavy machinery. Entrance to Ashley Hall will be via North Lodge
- **Entrance for cars.** It is hoped that cars will enter via South Lodge although there is concern about the strength of the motorway bridge. Highways have stated that the bridge is strong enough to take 4-5 cars at a time, although the organisers would prefer to have one car at a time.
- **Acreeage.** 70-100 acres for the ploughing matches, 12-14 acres for the showground and 25-30 acres for car parking

Norman also explained that, whilst children are welcome to attend the competition, numbers must be restricted to 50-60. It is also an unsuitable venue for children under the age of eight for safety reasons (due to the type and size of the equipment present).

Finally, Norman provided his contact details and thanked all present for giving him the opportunity to speak. The Chairman thanked Norman and his wife for attending

5 PCSO LINDSEY WHITEHEAD'S REPORT

PCSO Lindsey Whitehead was not in attendance but had provided the Clerk with the following details of crime in the area:

- **Ashley** Burglary at a temporarily unoccupied house in Cow Lane. An oak chest was stolen
- **Mere** Cannabis Farm discovered in Mereside Road, theft from Mere Golf Club, attempted car break in at Mere Golf Club
- **Millington** 2 car thefts from the Nags Head Pub, 2 other car thefts, theft of diesel from Chester Road
- **Tabley** Theft of Heating Oil from Chester Road, Car thefts from Moss Lane and Tabley Hill Lane.

6 HS2

6.1 Vote on Ashley Parish Council's Stance on the HS2

RESOLVED: Ashley Parish Council was unanimous in its opposition to the HS2 phase 2 route

6.2 Brief Report on Cluster Meeting

Councillor Gregory reported that the first meeting of the Cluster group was held on February 20th 2013 and comprised a number of Parish Councils in East Cheshire. All Parish Councils at the meeting agreed in their opposition to the HS2 route.

It was also agreed that the group would arrange a meeting with George Osborne in the near future at which he would be asked a series of questions which will have been developed prior to the meeting.

6.3 Residents' Time (15 Minutes)

Note: Prior to the meeting Councillor Gregory had placed a large scale map of the proposed HS2 route on the wall for the benefit of all attendees

The many questions and points raised by residents included:

- When will the consultation begin?
- Are there any material considerations upon which objections can be raised?
- Compulsory purchase notices - some people in Ashley had received them. Will they be the only properties affected?
- Exceptional Hardship Compensation Scheme. Aimed at house owners but does not cater for long-term, secured tenancies

Fact finding and the acquisition of general information was still at an early stage for everyone, but the Council promised to answer residents' questions and up to date as more information emerges.

6.4 Next Steps

The Council will arrange a drop-in session for the village at which the latest information will be available and the large maps will be prominent for all to see. Libby offered to host the session at the Church.

6.5 Ringway Parish Council

Ringway Parish Council is in Manchester and cannot join the Cheshire East cluster group. The Council RESOLVED to support Ringway Parish Council in its fight against the HS2.

7 MATTERS ARISING

7.1 Cricket Club

The Clerk had written a letter from the Council in support of the Cricket Club's application for funding to Sports England to assist with the cost of upgrading drainage on the outfield.

7.2 Gate at South Lodge

The Clerk had informed Meller Braggins that the gate at South Lodge is almost off its hinges

7.3 Smell of Gas

The Clerk had reported the smell of gas, on Ashley Road near South Lodge, to the authorities

7.4 Gallaghers

The Clerk had contacted Sterling Properties to the report thefts from the former garage.

7.5 Speedwatch

Tony Hall, the Police training co-ordinator for hand held speed guns had reported that no training can be given until Ashley has a device. He explained that a hand held speed gun could be purchased from c.£180 and he recommended a company called Bushnell. He advised against obtaining one from E-bay because had been a number of cases where payment had been made but no goods received.

Councillor Erlam reported that Mobberley PC were happy for Ashley to borrow their speed gun. The Clerk will contact Mobberley to arrange details.

8 COUNCILLOR MACRAE'S REPORT

No report was available because Councillor Macrae was unable to attend the meeting

9 PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning application was considered and the Council RESOLVED that it had neither objections nor comments to record:

13/0592M	Hillside, Mill Lane, Ashley	Closing Date: 13/03/2013
	Single Storey Extension	

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Payments Authorised at the Council Meeting on 14/01/2013

£ 75.00	Post Office	HMRC PAYE Quarter 3 due January 19th
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10.2 Precept for 2013-2014

RESOLVED: The precept for 2013-2014 was set at £3,000, the same as last year

10.3 Payments for Authorisation

£ 75.00	Post Office	HMRC PAYE Quarter 4 due April 19th
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£120.00	Sunnyside	Room Hire
£ 10.00	Meller Braggins	HRB Settlement
£120.00	S B McDonald	Annual Contribution to phone and broadband (£10 per month)
£ 22.63	K Gregory	Christmas Lights and repairs to notice board

11 CHANGES TO ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

Libby reported that there was good progress on the reordering of the Church. There were encouraging donations, in memory of John Hindle, ensuring that the Church will get toilet facilities. Additional funding is available for the heating system. The diocese agreed, in principle, that the organ could be removed since it was neither the original church organ nor of any significant historical value. Various funding streams were being considered including the Airport and associations funding disabled access for wheelchair access to the toilet. Libby hoped that the Church and Ashley PC could jointly approach funding organisations. In addition local fund raising events would be held.

In conclusion Libby said that it is important that people are aware it is a community enterprise which would benefit everyone once the work had been carried out, hopefully this year

12 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

12.1 Manchester Airport Outreach Program

The Airport had asked if Ashley would be interesting in holding an Outreach session in the village. The sessions are informal drop-ins where airport staff attend to provide information about the Airport's operation and plans for the present and future.

The Council unanimously agreed this would be of benefit. Libby offered to host the session at the Church Manchester Airport/Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact Manchester Airport

12.2 Manchester Airport/Parish Council Meeting

Councillors Gregory and Warburton will be attending the next meeting on 19th March 2013

13 TATTON PARK

13.1 Tatton Park/Parish Council Meeting

Councillor D Norbury will be attending the next meeting on 19th March 2013.

13.2 BeWilderwood

The Council had received information that Cheshire East is planning to make a loan of £5,000,000 to the developers of BeWilderwood to build the attraction. Councillors were unanimous in their objection to this 'in-house' expenditure of public money. The Clerk was asked to contact Jamie Macrae for elaboration of the financial arrangements attached to this project.

13.3 Gallaghers

The Clerk had contacted Sterling Properties to the report thefts from the former garage.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.4 Hedge at Swallow Barn

The hedge at Swallow Barn, on Mobberley Road, is so overgrown that it obscures the visibility splay round the bad bend. The Clerk was asked to contact the owner and request that the hedge be cut back to the Cheshire railing level.

14.5 HS2 Signs

Councillor Warburton suggested some signs could be erected in some prominent, near roadside locations to illustrate the enormity of the impact that the HS2 will have on the village. The signs would have to be placed on private land. Although precise details were not available, the Clerk was asked to contact Tatton Estate to seek permission in principle.

14.6 Website

The Clerk reported that development of the website was progressing well.

15 CORRESPONDENCE

A556 Pre-application update	BDO for Audit Commission - 2014 Audit Update
Tatton Park/Parish Council Meeting	Manchester Airport/Parish Council Meeting
BeWilderwood - CE load to developers	HS2 information

16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING 13th May 2013 at 8.00pm, Annual Meetings

Signed: _____ Chairman 13/05/2013