

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor Emma Capp  
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Kevin Gregory  
Councillor Angela Norbury Councillor David Norbury

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jo Phillips, Manchester University  
Clerk Sue McDonald  
Members of the public

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Herbertson

*Councillor Gregory presented a letter to the Council in which he announced that he would be retiring from Council duties effective as of the end of this meeting. Councillor Herbertson had also just informed the Chairman that it was her intention to resign from the Council effective immediately*

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS** None

**3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2015 Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor D Norbury. RESOLVED: the minutes of the meetings were unanimously approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising had either been dealt with or added to the Agenda

**5 POLICE REPORT**

No crimes had been reported in the Ashley area although there had been some incidents in Mobberley including damage to a fence allowing cattle to get loose and attempted theft from a car.

The Council was very concerned about the parking of cars at Parkside Garage on Mereheath Lane. The cars were parked so far out on the verge that it was becoming dangerous to exit from Ashley Road. The Clerk was asked to report the matter to the Police

**6 COUNCILLOR JAMIE MACRAE'S REPORT**

Councillor Macrae was unable to attend the meeting but had provided some updates which were raised at appropriate items in the Agenda

**7 HS2**

Nothing new to report except that the bill for HS1 has still not been passed. Councillors recalled that George Osborne had stated he would go through the route of the HS2 mile by mile

**8 TATTON ESTATE**

No representative was able to attend the meeting

**9 LANDSCAPE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Jo Phillips, from Manchester University, provided the following update:

- A recap on the purpose of the research which includes:
  - The research is about how to find local knowledge which will benefit the future of the landscape especially from those who live and work in the area
  - Landscape in the context of this research means the whole of a place from its road, hedges and fields to trees, birds, houses, aeroplanes and the people who are a part of it all
  - Ashley was chosen because of its location in relation to the city, airport, motorway, existing and proposed railway lines
- Ashley and the HS2
  - If the HS2 goes ahead there is an opportunity for Ashley to explore what benefits it can gain from the HS2 budget, currently £50 billion (2011 prices). For example planting trees may not be sufficient for noise mitigation and may need additional consideration/greater investment
  - Jo is in contact with the four landscape architects who are on the HS2 design panel
- Recent Work
  - Researching what impact there is for a rural area to be on the edge of a city
  - Studying old maps of Ashley to determine what has/hasn't changed
  - Inviting people on walks to gather local knowledge, sadly without a great success
  - Learning about the consultation regarding the Airport's 2nd runway in 1993 (*Item 9 continues*)

Following the update Jo explained that she had considered devising a questionnaire and possibly holding a workshop. Councillors also suggested having a stall at the Rose Queen fête and attending the village litter pick in February

## 10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Herbertson had been heading up the Neighbourhood Plan project. However, given her resignation, it was decided to defer the matter until the Council vacancies had been filled

## 11 CHANGES TO ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

### 11.1 General Update

- The main works have all been signed off
- A fire risk assessment had been carried out and the fire extinguisher had been serviced
- A request to the airport community fund for a contribution to the additional lighting was being considered
- The wooden ramp for disabled access is heavy and unwieldy and the purchase of an aluminium folding ramp was being considered

### 11.2 Relocation of Council Meetings to the Church

The Council decided to move its meetings to the church as of May 2016. Proposed by Councillor D Norbury, seconded by Councillor Gregory. The decision was unanimously agreed

## 12 SUNNYSIDE NURSERY

### 12.1 Rotten Gate Stumps

The gate stumps at the (rarely used) gates are rotten. The Council discussed whether to replace the stumps or fence the gate off. It was agreed that the gate should remain and replacement stumps acquired

### 12.2 Notice of Intention to Move Council Meetings to the Church

The Clerk was asked to send a formal notice to Sunnyside Nursery of the intention to move Council meetings and to thank them for looking after the Council so well for so long

### 12.3 Removal of Council Documents from Sunnyside

It was agreed that the filing cabinet should be removed from Sunnyside. The Clerk offered to take charge of the documents if she had room, otherwise alternative archive locations would be sought, although Cheshire East does not appear to offer this service

## 13 PLANNING MATTERS

### 13.1 Planning Applications to be Considered

16/0040M	Stock Farm, Ashley Road, Ashley WA14 3QF <i>Prior notification for the change of use of an Agricultural Building to a flexible commercial use</i>	03/02/2016
----------	--	------------

The Council was concerned about the access point since Lamb Lane was a single track road and unsuitable for frequent traffic movements. The Clerk was asked to contact Tatton Estate

### 13.2 Other Planning Matters

Councillor Macrae informed the Clerk that the Cheshire East Local Plan documents and Strategic sites are due for a formal six week consultation end February. Parish Councils receive a CEC briefing

Mobberley PC and residents are objecting to revised planning application for 290 houses on the Ilford / Harman site. This now includes an employment site exit on to Smith lane. The consequences for Ashley would be additional traffic and HGV movements

## 14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 14.1 Payments for Authorisation

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Gregory, unanimously carried  
£ 90.00            HMRC            PAYE Q3

### 14.2 Precept 2016-2017

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Gregory, unanimously carried  
The precept for 2016-2017 will be £3,000, the same as last year

### 14.3 Bank Authorisation

No action - A form to authorise the Clerk to enquire about the Council's bank account was unavailable

### 14.4 Other Financial Matters

Councillors discussed potential acquisitions prior to year end although no decision was reached

## **15 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

### **15.1 Blocked Gullies**

Highways have recently emptied the gullies and 'red tagged' those requiring additional work. Councillors were agreed that the number of problems associated with the gullies was unacceptable and very little remedial work had been carried out. The Clerk will contact Cheshire East

### **15.2 Sink Hole - Ashley Road**

Councillor Macrae reported that Highways have carried out temporary repairs and reported the problem to Network Rail. Councillor Macrae will chase the matter up

It was reported that there were also two sink holes on either side of Mobberley Road bridge

### **15.3 Heavy Goods Vehicles - Back Lane**

There is a means of removing Back Lane from GPS systems although it doesn't work 100%. The databases for each operator have to be updated separately.

Councillor Macrae reported that there had been discussions last year to remove heavy goods vehicles from Back Lane (excluding those of local businesses) and he has added the issue to the Highways actions list

### **15.4 Extension of 30mph Zone**

Councillor Macrae reported that the extension of the 30mph towards Mobberley was cleared by Cheshire East but the Police have objected. Highways will arrange a site meeting with Ashley Council, the Police and Jamie. No reason was given for police objection although Councillor Macrae suspects it is one of enforcement.

The police may be influenced if there have been any accidents in the vicinity

### **15.5 SIDS**

Councillor Macrae reported that this is on the Cheshire East Area action list for funding

### **15.6 Overgrown Pavements**

Although this has been reported to highways on more than one occasion, nothing has been done

### **15.7 Other Highways Matters**

- Cheshire Railings  
The Clerk was asked to establish who maintains Cheshire Railings
- Ashley Hall Driveway  
The Clerk was asked to determine the status of the drive i.e. whether it is a bridleway, a footpath or other

## **16 MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

It has been reported that the airport is proposing to demolish Terminal 1 and extend terminal 2

Concert tickets for the Bridgwater Hall had been received and would be presented to a good cause

## **17 MAILING LIST**

The efforts to create a residents' mailing list had been completely unsuccessful - not one response had been received. It was suggested the response may be better if notices were placed at the Church, on the notice board and at Hough Green

## **18 VILLAGE MATTERS**

### **18.1 Notice Board for Hough Green**

A suitable notice board had been identified by Councillor Warburton and will be placed in Hough Green

It was noted that the notice board in the village was once again leaking. It will be looked at and, if necessary a replacement notice board will be acquired

### **18.2 Assets of Community Value**

It was agreed that Ashley's assets should be registered as assets of community value. Proposed by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Warburton - unanimously carried

The exact assets to be registered had not been finalised nor was it certain that all would qualify but initial thoughts were:

- Shop
- School and playground
- Church, church grounds and graveyard
- Hough Green
- Hough Green car park
- Pond down Back Lane
- Cricket Ground
- Grassed area behind the telephone box

The Clerk will find out the procedure for registering the assets

**18.3 Brereton Trust**

The Brereton Trust hamper was prepared by Councillor Capp and presented to Sheila Norbury

**18.4 Village Newsletter**

A resident had reported that he had not received copies of Ashley News since the shop closed. The Clerk will explore the possibility of uploading a copy to the website

**18.5 Other Village Matters**

- Christmas Meal  
To report that the Christmas meal took place at the Greyhound on 15th December 2015
- Operation Shield  
The Clerk had reported that take up had been quite slow and it had been suggested that details of the scheme should be given to parents at Sunnyside.  
PC Andy Miller offered the following advice:
  - Cannot include parents - some will live outside the area and would not qualify
  - As it would be difficult for Ashley to get sufficient take up to qualify for the discount, Andy will add Ashley's orders to a larger order from a different area
  - He has got funding for the exterior signs so Ashley could get three or four at not cost. This funding means the kit can now be acquired for £8.80

**19 ASHLEY PARISH COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY**

**19.1 List of Councillor Responsibilities**

A draft list of responsibilities had been drawn up but, due to the loss of two Councillors, it has been agreed that this matter would be deferred until new Councillors had been appointed

**19.2 Village Newsletter**

An idea had been put forward for Ashley to join forces with other villages to produce a joint magazine. There was a feeling that this had been suggested before but without success. The matter will be placed on hold for the time being

**19.3 Linking Facebook to the Website**

The website is looking very tired and out of date and is to be updated. The intention to possibly link the website with Facebook should wait until the website updates are complete

**20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- No one is able to attend the Cheshire Police meeting on 26th January 2016
- The village litter pick will take place on 28th February 2016.

**21 CORRESPONDENCE**

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Cheshire Community Action           | AGM details     |
| • Cheshire Playing Fields Association | AGM details     |
| • Manchester Airport                  | Concert tickets |
| • George Osborne                      | Poster portrait |
| • George Osborne                      | Christmas card  |

**22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

~~Monday 14th March 2016~~ Monday 21st March 2016 at 8.00pm in Sunnyside Nursery, Back Lane Ashley.

*The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.45pm*

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 21st March 2016**