

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor Sarah Atkinson  
Councillor John Atherden Councillor Emma Capp  
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Richard Jackson  
Councillor David Norbury

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

*Prior to starting the meeting, the Chairman announced that the public should only make comments to the Council during Public Participation time (Item 16) unless invited to speak*

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Angela Norbury

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:** None

**3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To approve as correct records the minutes of the meetings held on 21st March 2016 and 23rd May 2016. 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 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillors Atkinson and Jackson signed and returned the Acceptance of Office forms (deferred from the previous meeting),

**6 TATTON ESTATE**

**6.1 General Report**

No representative was available to attend the meeting but a written report was received by the Clerk

• **The Happy Festival, Saturday 16th July – Ashley Hall Showground**

The event was Haras fenced with a strict ticket only policy

Changes were made to the layout of the event in order to reduce any noise turning the whole event around towards the M56 Lymm roundabout direction.

The Police attended the site following a single noise complaint but were completely satisfied with both the event and the volume of the music. No changes to the volume was required

The event managers were on site for the entirety of the event with security was on site all evening and until mid Sunday after the de-rig had taken place.

• **Future Events**

1. 16th -18th August: Corporate Daytime event with a 'family' feel. Not confirmed
2. 12th August (Conference Event), 13th August ( Family Fun Day). Daytime events - not confirmed
3. 27th September The Cheshire Hedge Laying & Ploughing Match (building/de-rig two days either side)
4. 15th -16th October Rough Runner (the RR team are on site from the 3rd - 21st October)

Previous communications had referred to an event called the Festive Project scheduled to take place from 8th - 31st December 2016. Tatton Estate had stated that they were exercising the 28 day 'no planning required' rule, and Councillors were concerned that the announced events exceeded 28 days. The Clerk would contact Tatton Estate for clarification on this matter

• **Ashley Hall Gates:**

Electric gate systems and CCTV are being installed to both the North and South Lodge gates over the coming weeks

In addition with the advice, support and recommendation of CEC Public Rights of Way Dept two large "Oxford" kissing gates at each gate which will enable pedestrians on foot with pushchairs to access the path easily as well as room for manual wheelchairs and smaller motorised wheelchairs. The gates and security systems are being locally sourced

- **Cheshire Gateway**

TEM Property held a Parish Council update meeting on this in September and appreciated Ashley Parish Council representatives taking the time to attend. A minute of this meeting has been issued to the Parish Council.

Carol Clarke had provided the Council with the latest report issued by Cheshire East Council to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the future of the Cheshire Gateway land. This report now places all the Estate's Cheshire Gateway land back in the Green Belt - previously the Council had accepted part would be suitable for future science development and research. Whilst TEM is obviously disappointed, the papers issued by CEC are being reviewed and it is intended to progress representations with the Inspector at the Examination in Public.

Councillor Jackson would like clarification on the implications of land having had its 'safeguarded for future development' status removed. The Clerk would contact TEM.

A meeting has been arranged between TEM and local Parish Councils on 1st October 2016. Attending from Ashley PC will be Councillors Jeff Warburton, David Norbury and John Atherden

## 6.2 Ashley Hall Driveway

Ashley Hall driveway is designated, by Cheshire East, as a public footpath and cycling is prohibited. Tatton Estate has no powers to permit exceptions to this rule

Councillor Atkinson wondered if it would be possible to designate part of the footpath as a cycle way, The Clerk would make enquiries

Councillors were concerned about the safety of pedestrians due to vehicles using the driveway for access and wished to know whether cars or pedestrians had priority. The Clerk would investigate

## 6.3 Noise from Event

In spite of assurances from Tatton Estate that other events contributed to the noise from the 50th birthday party event at Ashley Hall, Councillors were of the opinion that the majority of the nuisance emanated from Ashley Hall. However, the layout changes made for the event on 16th July appeared to be successful because no noise was experienced in the village nor were any resident complaints received

## 7 LANDSCAPE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

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

- Jo showed the Council a map of Ashley depicting the Parish Boundary which she and a resident, Peter Wright, had been referring to as well as conducting walks in the village. It was intended that this map and others covering 200 years of Ashley would depict Ashley both old and new. In viewing the maps from different periods, Jo noted that the structure and shape of Ashley had generally remained the same

It was important that the input provided by Peter be enhanced by the views and input from other residents

Jo saw the maps being used in an interactive way enabling residents to add photographs and write pertinent comments on the map

Councillors thought it would be beneficial to have a copy of the map shown to the Council. Jo explained that she could provide maps in any size with the cost varying according to size. Councillors agreed that the large map was most appropriate which would cost approximately £60

- Green Belt

The green belt is becoming a national hot topic and it is possible that the future of the green belt is in question

- Next steps

Jo stated it was imperative that residents are included in the process and suggested that the best way would be to organise residents to sit down round a map and express their questions, views and memories

Questions that might be asked of residents include:

- If the HS2 goes ahead what would you want in terms of mitigation of noise and changes to the landscape
- Where do you and where would you like to walk
- Have you concerns about land infill
- What are your concerns about the future of Ashley

Jo felt that it would be beneficial to organise a residents' meeting prior to the next Council meeting on 12th September 2016. The Rev. Keith Addenbrooke suggested that it could be held in the Church on the same day as the next Book Sale which is normally the 1st Saturday in September

Councillor Erlam volunteered to liaise with Jo and be her main contact for the Council

In conclusion Jo stated that any results from her work would provide valuable input into the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Ashley

**8 PLANNING MATTERS****8.1 Planning Applications for Consideration**

None

**8.2 15/3096M Land at Castle Mill Lane Ashley - Appeal**

The Clerk had submitted a late response to the Planning Inspectorate (PI) refuting the claims made in a response from Mr Frankland's agents which implied that the Council no longer had strong objection to the operation.

Mr Frankland's agents sent another response to the PI which, in effect, accused the Council of bias and of being influenced by one resident. The Council was unanimous in stating that these assertions were factually and provably wrong, not least because there were a number of objections on the Planning website.

The Council decided that there was little benefit in conducting a war of words and would, therefore, take no further action on the matter

The Chairman invited a resident, who had objections to the operation, to say a few words. In summary, the resident expressed thanks to the Council for the professional approach it had taken regarding the appeal and to stress that he had no personal animosity towards the applicant

**8.3 16/2364M Station Yard, Ashley Road, Ashley, Cheshire, WA15 0QP**

Councillors had conducted a site visit and had concluded that there could be problems regarding loss of privacy for neighbours

The Council had been advised that a laurel hedge, backing on to the neighbouring properties, had become overgrown and was damaging fencing. The Clerk was asked to contact the applicant.

The agreed response submitted to Planning was as follows:

*Ashley Parish Council has concerns about the potential for the invasion of the privacy of neighbours from the proposed roof lights and would want any decision to allow them to be conditional upon:*

1. Installation of grade 5 obscure glazing
2. Non-opening windows
3. Use of the new space to be restricted to leisure activities only

*Comments:*

*Whilst not part of the application per se, the Council wishes to point out that there is a laurel hedge between the property and the neighbouring houses which has become overgrown and is damaging neighbouring fences. The applicant was happy for the neighbours to trim back the hedge but its location is such that it is not possible for successful cut back to take place*

**8.4 Other Planning Matters**

None

**9 FINANCIAL MATTERS****9.1 Payments for Authorisation**

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor D Norbury, unanimously carried

£ 90.00	HMRC	PAYE Q1
£200.00	Police	Operation Shield (DNA Kits)
£334.87	Zurich	Annual Insurance

**9.2 Other Financial Matters****9.2.1 Stop Cheque**

The Council was asked to sign a letter to the bank to stop a cheque, issued on 9/3/2015, which had not been presented

**9.2.2 Funding for Village Projects**

Councillor Atkinson was of the opinion that the Council should be funding items that would enhance the village and a 'wish list' of things wanted by the village should be drawn up. The Clerk pointed out that the Council's precept was very small and left little money available for anything other than essentials. Councillor Atkinson believed the Council should seek outside funding for such matters.

The Clerk will add this to the Agenda for the next meeting.

**10 HIGHWAYS MATTERS****10.1 Blocked Gullies**

There had been a flood on Cow Lane resulting in the ingress of water to properties. Cheshire East had responded and cleared the gullies along the length of Cow Lane

The 6 inch main along Cow Lane runs into another 6 inch main which runs parallel to the motorway and is the responsibility of Highways England. This main is in a bad condition and has evidence of tree root incursion. There needs to be a planned maintenance program on this drain

#### 10.2 Dog Fouling

Councillor East had responded to the complaints and had installed a bin on Castlemill Lane.

#### 10.3 Overgrown Pavements

In spite of repeated requests to Cheshire East, the pavements in a number of places in Ashley remain overgrown to the extent that it is impossible to push a buggy along the pavement, and, in some places, so overgrown that the pavement is no longer visible.

The Clerk will contact Councillor Macrae who had previously promised to look into the matter

#### 10.4 Bridge Over the River Bollin

The bridge over the River Bollin has now been repaired

#### 10.5 Other Highways Matters

##### SpeedWatch

Councillor Capp had volunteered to head this project. However, it had been very difficult to arrange training for the volunteers for a number of reasons such as change of training personnel.

Immediately before this meeting the Clerk had been contacted by PCSO Lyndsey Whitehead who requested that Councillor Capp contact her direct so that training could be discussed

### 11 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

No updates or reports had been received

### 12 VILLAGE MATTERS

#### 12.1 Main Notice Board

The main notice board was in bad repair and either needed refurbishment or replacement. Former Councillor Kevin Gregory had said he would look at repairing the notice board.

The Chairman stated that this further discussion of this item would be deferred until the next meeting

#### 12.2 Operation Shield

PCSO Lyndsey Whitehead had contacted the Clerk to explain that she would take over organising the order and delivery of the DNA kits now that PCSO Sophie Emerson had been deployed elsewhere

#### 12.3 Ashley Station

The problem about parking at the station had been reported to Northern (Trains) but no updates had been received

#### 12.4 Other Village Matters

##### 12.4.1 Replacement Seat

Councillor Warburton had received a quote of £150 for a metal seat to replace the existing broken seat at the school. No decision was made on acquiring the seat

##### 12.4.2 Gas Kiosk

It was reported that Northern Gas had replaced the gas kiosk at the Church. It was slightly larger than the previous one but this was necessary on safety grounds

##### 12.4.3 Film

An enquiry had been made about the possibility of using the church for a small filming project

### 13 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chairman stated that this item would be deferred until the next meeting

### 14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was agreed that the Council should look into creating a neighbourhood plan. Councillors Atkinson volunteered to head the project and Councillor Capp offered her support

### 15 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Councillors discussed whether or not to separate the Annual Parish Meeting from the Annual Parish Council Meeting. There were a mixture of opinions but no decision was reached

### 16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)

Residents raised the following:

- Cars on Ashley Hall Driveway - do cars on Ashley Hall driveway have precedence over walkers?  
*The Council could not answer this question immediately and asked the Clerk to research this matter*

- The Laurel hedging at the back of Station Yard is now touching the telephone lines  
*The Council noted the comment*

**17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**17.1 Parkside Garage**

The cars parked on the verge at Parkside Garage are causing a hazard for traffic exiting Ashley Road. The Clerk was asked to contact Tatton Estate.

**17.2 Dog Fouling on the Green**

Some dog owners are allowing their dogs to foul the Green making it unpleasant and unsafe for young children. Could consideration be given to installing a sign? The Clerk will add this matter to the Agenda for the next meeting

**18 CORRESPONDENCE**

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

- Tatton Estate           Events at Ashley Hall
- Commercial           Mail shots

**19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

~~Monday 12th September 2016~~ Monday 26th September 2016 at 8.00 pm in St Elizabeth's Church.

*The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.30 pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 26th September 2016