

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor John Atherden  
Councillor Emma Capp Councillor John Erlam  
Councillor Chris Frankland Councillor Richard Jackson  
Councillor Amy Unwin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk Sue McDonald  
Henry Brooks - Tatton Estate  
Jacques Carboni - Tatton Estate  
Members of the public

**1 APOLOGIES:** Councillor Sarah Atkinson

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

**3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To approve as a correct records the minutes of the meetings held on 15th January 2018. Proposed by Councillor Capp, seconded by Councillor Jackson. RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a correct record

**4 POLICE REPORT**

No representative from the Police was available to attend and no report was received

**5 COUNCILLOR MACRAE'S REPORT**

Councillor Macrae was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following information:

The traffic monitoring at the crossroads and Ashley road are being finally arranged, and police liaison were at the highways meeting on the 15th March. Councillor Macrae will provide updates when received

Castle Mill Lane. The intention is to look at restrictions to access by HGVs. A 7.5 ton weight limit is impossible to enforce so a physical narrow bridge access is favoured. Councillor Macrae will updates as advised.

Councillor Frankland was very concerned about this proposal, suggesting that it could mark the end of small enterprises in Ashley

**6 TATTON ESTATE**

Mr Henry Brooks provided the following report:

- The Tatton Group office in Knutsford was being relocated to Ashley. The move will include approximately 35 staff.
- Filming will take place in Summer 2018 and it may be possible for children to attend at times
- Superfast broad band is being installed at a number of Tatton Estate properties. It is possible to offer this facility to residents. However, for a single residence, business prices would apply. However, if a cluster of residents, who all suffer slow speeds, club together, it may be possible to offer the new service at a much more attractive rate
- The problems concerning the Highways England (HE)/Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald (BBMM) flooding on Cow Lane has been caused by the main drain under the railway line. The roots of the trees near the M56 actually penetrated the drain. It was not possible for the investigation to be completed because access to the private land had not been sought. No further request for access had been received
- A separate meeting with Tatton Estate and the Council will be arranged to discuss the submitted sites document, recently received by the Council

**7 ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH**

The Reverend Keith Addenbrooke was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

- Attendances  
Sundays have shown signs of picking up  
Ashley Community Service at the start of March led by Jim Clark well received.  
The Family Communion Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month is aimed at families and children have attended
- Weddings  
Thanks are expressed to Henry Brooks and the team at Stock Farm for the 'push' given to couples thinking of getting married in Church to use St Elizabeth's before a reception at the Stock Farm Venue.  
There is a legal requirement that couples need to be able to demonstrate a "Qualifying Connection" with a Parish in order to be eligible to get married in the Church there.

A couple can establish a connection by attending Services monthly for a six-month period, and some couples are able to do this, but others have dropped out.

The restriction does not apply to venues other than churches and Keith is to follow this up

- Book Fair  
The book fairs are held on the first Saturday of each month continue and are open from 2pm to 4pm.  
A good number of books for sale - any surplus is passed on for distribution at partners St Paul's Salford
- Rose Queen  
Catherine Jones chaired a meeting on Monday 12th March at which it was discussed how best to ensure the Fair runs well this year. The Rose Queen will take place on May 12th 2018  
A number of offers of help have been forthcoming.
- Parish Office at St Peter's with Support for St Elizabeth's  
A new team, comprising Claire, Maxine and Katherine are now up and running. The team has experience in communications and can help with publicity when needed.
- Parish Magazine  
Thanks are due to Kathryn Wright who edits and arranges production for the magazine each month.  
There are a couple of spaces for advertisers so please pass the word around.

## 8 HS2

Councillor Erlam reported that the meeting on 21st February was very productive and that the need of Ashley were paramount

Ashley stressed that there would be significantly less impact on Ashley if the HS2 were in a cutting rather than an embankment. However, according to HS2 Ltd, Network Rail had point blank refused to allow any tunnelling under the existing railway

Cheshire East had not been consulted nor had input to any road changes that were being proposed. The new road, replacing Lamb Lane, is no longer being considered as an option

Other potential complications included Transport for the North's Liverpool to Leeds line, which would also call at the Airport (presumably at the HS2 station?). Currently the published plans for this proposal are at a very high level and do not provide sufficient detail to undertake any meaningful analysis. It is possible that this could result in another link through Ashley although it is equally possible that Ashley would be bypassed

The land for the proposed link from the Airport to the Mid-Cheshire rail line has been safeguarded.

There are too many factors that are 'up in the air' to make considered decisions (apart from those of principle and minimising blight on Ashley village) that Ashley Pc has undertaken to give this matter the highest priority.

Another meeting will be arranged with HS2 although they were discussing the possibility of it taking place as part of a public engagement event

The Clerk was asked to write to Esther McVey regarding the refusal of Networks Rail to allow tunnelling under the existing railway in Ashley

## 9 M56 SMART MOTORWAY JUNCTIONS 6 - 8

Councillor Jackson reported that Highways England (HE) and the Smart Motorway subgroup met on 12th February 2018 and it had been very useful. The motorway between junctions 6 and 8 is being upgraded to Smart Motorway. It is at a preliminary stage and HE will shortly be appointing the design and build contractor. Once appointed the next stage will be design and public information events.

The scheme has a central concrete wall, emergency refuges and new signage but will remain within the bounds of the existing footprint and construction should commence in Spring 2019. Any environmental impact will be part of thorough environmental assessments.

Potential adverse effects of the Smart Motorway were identified as:

- Drainage problems  
Current problems were described in some detail. There was concern that a larger road surface would create more run off which, in turn would further exacerbate the problems. Potential remedies were discussed
- Maintenance problems  
Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald (BBMM) are currently in charge of maintenance although, in March 2019, it will be taken in house to HE.

Part of the problem regarding ongoing maintenance is getting permission from Tatton Estate to clear an area on their land.

HE was given a map of drainage in Ashley

- **Dark village**  
Ashley is a dark village and there were concerns about additional signage/gantries. HE stated that there will not be general lighting of the motorway and any new installations would be as sympathetic to the surroundings as possible, but ultimately safety is paramount.
- **Foliage**  
It is HE's intention to leave existing foliage in place and plant more
- **Noise**  
Ashley PC was firmly in favour of noise mitigation such as acoustic barriers. HE explained that the ultimate decision would be made based on value for money
- **Quiet Tarmac**  
Currently only lanes 1 and 4 will have quiet tarmac - HE explained that this is purely because lanes 1 and 4 are 'new lanes'. When lanes 2 and 3 are due for resurfacing, they too will be laid with quiet tarmac
- **Ragwort**  
All present at the meeting were aware of the problems associated with ragwort and the dangers it presents. Ashley hoped that the new works would be used as an opportunity to sort this issue out

## 10 PLANNING MATTERS

### 10.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

APP/R0660/C/17/3183848	Castle Hill Farm, Castle Mill Lane, Ashley, WA15 0RB  Without planning permission, the material change of use of land from agricultural use to a mixed use comprising agriculture and the storage of caravans, boats, trailers and motor vehicles unconnected with the agricultural use of the land, the siting of a storage container and the formation of an area of hard standing.	Appeal Start 23/02/2018
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The Council agreed that it would not comment on this appeal since it had never seen a planning application

### 10.2 Other Planning Matters

17/6206M Station Yard has still not been decided

## 11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 11.1 Payments for Authorisation

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Jackson

£ 90.00	HMRC	PAYE Q4
£ 10.00	HRB Settlement	Rent for Car Park
£ 78.48	ChALC	Annual Subscription
£120.00	S McDonald	Annual Contribution to use of Office, electricity etc

### 11.2 Other Financial Matters

None

## 12 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Unwin reported a last minute meeting with Lucy Hughes of CCA had taken place to discuss how to progress the NP beyond its current, almost static, state. Lucy offered some valuable advice and gave some invaluable pointers on how the group could progress the plan. Lucy suggested some outline policy areas and suggestions for Ashley's vision statement.

The next step to progress the Neighbourhood Plan was to create a baseline of policies and Ashley's proposed vision statement which is necessary as evidence for applying for funding. Residents must be given the opportunity to comment prior to applying for funding

The Clerk will put the results of the questionnaires on the website

## 13 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### 13.1 Ashley Road Bridge Closure

The bridge at Ashley Road is due for closure for essential repairs from Tuesday 3rd April 2018 to Sunday 15th April 2018 between 9.30 and 3.00.

Jamie Macrae is attempting to get the diversion away from B roads and on to A roads. No further information is available at this time

### 13.2 Overgrown Pavements, Gulleys, Drains and Potholes

Highways now require that all jobs be logged through the online gateway before any email contact with an individual at Highways can be established

Flooding outside the Old Vicarage:

UU and CEC - deny responsibility for the blockage - both assert it is the responsibility of the landowner Fisher German assert that it is the householders' responsibility. Hugh Platt (who is now on leave for a week) states that the home owners will have signed an agreement that they are allowed to use drain through the field but any blockage is their responsibility. Phoned back for clarification. No contact since.

**13.3 Crashes at Cross Roads**

No updates

**13.4 Field Near Gallaghers**

Stirling Properties are 'in negotiations' with the tenant of the field. It is proving time consuming. They apologise and have asked for our patience. They are anxious to restore things back to normal as soon as possible

**13.5 Other Highways Matters**

None

**14 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**14.1 Speedwatch**

Members of the Speedwatch team went out but discovered the batteries in the speed gun were dead and thus aborted the exercise

**14.2 Hough Green Car Park**

The Clerk had drafted a 'gentle' letter requesting residents to park considerately but it had not been issued as yet

There are still a number of vehicles on the Hough Green car park which appear to belong to people other than residents

**14.3 Other Village Matters**

The gate between Hough Green and the station has been installed

**15 MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

No councillors were available to attend the PC/Airport meeting on 6th March

The airport reported that the road works near the tunnels is almost complete.

**16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)**

Residents commented as follows:

- The pub lights from the car park are still shining into neighbouring properties. They have been constantly turned on since New Year
- The problems of parking on Hough Green and the car park are caused by visiting ramblers

**17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**18 CORRESPONDENCE**

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post

HMRC Changes for 2018-2019 tax year

ChALC Invoice for annual Subscription

Fisher German HRB Settlement Invoice

**19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual Parish Meeting Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting Monday 14th May 2018 at 8.00pm

Both meetings in the Community Centre in St Elizabeth's Church.

**20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00 pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman 14th May 2018