

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Warburton - Chairman
Councillor John Atherden - Vice Chairman
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Chris Frankland
Councillor Richard Jackson Councillor John Sherratt
Councillor Amy Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Charlotte Leach, CEC
Daniel Osborne, Tatton Estate
Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS: None

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 29th July 2020. Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Sherratt. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting was accepted as a true record

4 POLICE REPORT

No representative from the Police was able to attend. However, PCSO Emma Darroch sent the following report by email:

- No burglaries
- No thefts from motor vehicles
- No thefts of motor vehicles

Emma had noticed and reported some fly tipping in the lay-by on Castle Mill Lane.

Emma stated that she welcomed being informed about any issues relating to policing

5 NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman welcomed Lucy to the Council and hoped she would enjoy working with everyone. Lucy signed the Acceptance of Office form and returned it to the Clerk

6 TATTON ESTATE

Daniel Osborne provided the following report:

- **Ashley Road Compound**
 - Top soil has been laid on top of the hardcore to improve the look of the site
 - The permitted development notice for the agricultural building has been removed although it may be submitted at a later date
- Councillors posed questions and comments about the compound to Daniel:*
- Has Tatton Estate retained a record of historical communications with Ashley Parish Council in which promises, such as the removal of the hard standing from the site once it was no longer needed?
 - It is understood that permitted development allows for an extension to existing buildings and/or hard standing - neither of which currently exist
 - Access to the site is dangerous
 - The compound is ugly and visibly prominent on entry to the village
 - Councillor Leach posed the question of whether or not the hard standing in Ashley was the same issue as that currently being investigated at Broadoak Lane in that both are in the greenbelt. It should be looked into at planning level
 - Although not directly related to the compound, it was pointed out that hard standing at Ashley Hall was approved for use by agricultural vehicles. It has never been used for this purpose, rather it was used by filming personnel

Daniel responded by saying that, as he was a new representative for Ashley, there were some questions he could not immediately answer and comments he could not yet respond to, but he would look into the issues raised.

Tatton Estate report continues on the next page.

- **Ashley Hall**

- The premises licence for mixed use will be applied for in 5 days.
- Notices and information will be available to the Council as soon as possible in order that there can be further discussion
- Two production companies are currently using the Ashley Hall site
- The house is currently being repainted
- The permitted development notice for the agricultural building has been removed although it may be submitted at a later date

Councillors posed questions and comments about Ashley Hall and its surroundings to Daniel:

- The lighting at the Ashley Hall hard standing is intrusive - is it really necessary?
 - As mentioned at a previous meeting, the "To Let" signs are too large for where they have been placed
- Daniel responded by saying that he would investigate these matters

7 PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

7.1.1 20/4006M Top Field, Mill Lane

20/4006M	Top Field, Mill Lane, Ashley, Cheshire, WA15 0RD Proposed single storey front and rear extensions	14/10/2020
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Councillors had no comments or objections on this planning application

7.1.2 19/5763M Ashley House

20/4048M	Detached car port and wood store The Old Post Office, Ashley Road, Ashley, Cheshire, WA15 0QP	08/10/2020
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A Councillor observed that the car port seemed very close to the road, however Councillors agreed there were no objections to or comments on this planning application

8 M56 SMART MOTORWAY

Councillor Jackson provided the following report:

- Speed cameras have been installed
- There has been more tree removal and Richard has been trying to contact the operations director of HE
- It has been agreed that all 4 lanes will have low noise tarmac laid. Initially it will be the new lane and lane 1, followed by lanes 3 and 4
- A first treatment for ragwort treatment was scheduled for August but it appears that nothing has happened
- The date for next stakeholder forum is 21st October 2020; Questions for input to the forum need to have been received by 10th October 2020.
- It is possible that a new electricity supply will be required for the gantry due to Ashley's unreliable supply
- The timescale for completion is 2022
- Work will take place on the eastbound side of the motorway initially and it will be a day and night operation
- As above but for the westbound side
- Changes to the central reservation will be the final phase
- It should be noted that there will be times when both the eastbound and westbound lanes will be closed temporarily

9 HS2

- The HS2 subgroup received a significant amount of information from HS2 today (7th October 2020) regarding a new consultation which was taking place from today until 11th December 2020.
- The subgroup had not had sufficient time to read the contents of the various documents although, at first glance, the focus appears to be on the station at Manchester airport.
- Councillors thought a briefing pack of the changes would be advantageous. Similarly Councillors considered there would be benefits from reaching out personally to Andrew Stephenson, the Minister for Transport

HS2 continues on the next page.

- Councillor Leach offered to help in any way she could including facilitating a meeting with HS2 if required
- Councillor Unwin read out an ironic extract from the results of the 2019 consultation which all present thought should be added to any correspondence relating to HS2:

"The Minister of State is aware of the additional impacts on Ashley, particularly the additional land take and construction phase impacts brought closer to the village, and has asked HS2 Ltd to continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders so that further opportunities to avoid, reduce or mitigate impacts are included in ongoing design development."

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Authorisation of Payments

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Unwin

£342.00	A & G Blackburn	Mowing at the playground
£ 90.00	HMRC	PAYE Q2

10.2 Other Financial Matters

None

11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

11.1 Overgrown Pavements, Gulleys, Drains and Potholes

The Clerk had contacted Lee Glover of Highways twice but has had no response. The emails concerned, in the main, gully cleaning and overgrown pavements.

- **All categories**

- A Parish walk with Lee Glover is urgently required to see, at first hand, the Highways issues in Ashley
- The system of online reporting and triaging issues via the Highways website simply does not work in any effective way

Councillor Leach reiterated that the most effective way to get some action was to bypass the online system and go directly to the appropriate Highways Officer. She volunteered to follow these issues up

- Councillors commented that there seemed to be little or no accountability for Cheshire East Highways poor decisions regarding Highways maintenance

- **Pavements**

The Council has been lobbying for over 7 years for some action on the overgrown pavements with only very minor, partial action

It is accepted that poor pavements is a county wide issue and there is a priority list. The Council fails to see how, after 7 years, Ashley's pavements have not reached the top of that list

- **Gulleys, Drains and Potholes**

A large number of the issues associated with gulleys, drains & potholes is due to poor maintenance.

- Gulleys are not being fully investigated but simply jet washed when more intensive repairs are required to resolve problems associated with the invasion of tree roots etc..
- Drain and Potholes appear to be patch repaired, leading to a repeat failure, often into within weeks

11.2 Graffiti on Motorway Bridge

The graffiti, whilst not obscene, is an eyesore and needs to be removed. The Clerk had contacted Cheshire East who state it would be assessed and removed within 20 days - it has not happened

11.3 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Councillor Atherden had contacted the Manchester Airport Community Fund (MACF) and was advised

- The airport will award a maximum of £3,000 towards an approved application
- At least 2 and ideally three quotes would be required
- The next meeting of the MACF is some time in January 2021

11.4 Other Highways Matters

- **Overgrown Hedge at the Corner of Swallows Barn/Hough Green Farm**

- The width and height of the hedge is a hazard to motorists and an accident waiting to happen. Ideally the hedge should be grubbed out to expose the Cheshire railings. Note: It is possible that the (currently hidden) Cheshire railings are in a poor state of repair and may need replacing
- Councillor Leach kindly offered to follow this up but has not yet received a reply from Cheshire

Other Highways Matters continues on the next page.

- **Speeding in Ashley**

- Councillor Sherratt was concerned about the speed of traffic in the village's 30mph area. He proposed that speed cushions or speed bumps could be installed to reduce speeds.
- Speeding, combined with blind bends is a recipe for disaster. 15 wing mirrors were retrieved from hedges in the vicinity

Councillor Leach had lobbied for funding for a scheme from the Knutsford Area Highway Group to look at alternative solutions to speed bumps. A member of the group visited Ashley and would come back to Councillor Leach by 22nd October. If funding is awarded, up to a maximum of £10,000, then the works would be carried out within 12 months

12 ASHLEY STATION

12.1 Manchester Bound Side Business

The Council has just received a report that the entrance to the station has been partially blocked off (it could be temporary) but the result is that it is not wide enough for a wheelchair user to gain access

The Clerk had contacted Network Rail about this and the status of the building at the back of the station but has not received a reply as yet

Councillors wondered if planning permission would be required and /or if business rates would apply. The Clerk will contact Planning Enforcement for advice

12.2 Station Yard

There is evidence of a sundeck on top of the carport at Station Yard. At present high foliage is sheltering the houses on Hough Green from being directly overlooked, but, should the foliage be cut back then the houses will suffer from a loss of privacy

The Clerk has very recently contacted Planning Enforcement but has not yet had a reply

13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME (10 MINUTES)

Nothing was raised

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Airport Parking in Ashley

Thorns Green Farm has been operating as an off-site airport parking business

Manchester Airport has a system of authorising legitimate off-site parking to companies who meet some fairly strict criteria. The Thorns Green Farm site has not met the criteria for being authorised

Councillor must maintain a watching brief on off-site car parking which grow almost by stealth. The village of Styal is overrun with these unofficial sites and is in danger of becoming a concrete jungle

14.2 Representation on the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee (MACC) and Tatton Park

Councillor Leach is our ward Councillor and should be a member of MACC and Tatton Park because as our ward Councillor, she should be able to represent our interests in both organisations. It is unconscionable that she does not sit on either committee:

- **MACC** - The HS2 will bisect Ashley on its route to the Airport and Ashley needs to be adequately represented
- **Tatton Park** - Currently the Council has a close relationship with Tatton Park, not least because the annual RHS flower Show uses Ashley Roads as entry and exit routes to Tatton Park

The Clerk wrote to Councillor Sam Corcoran, the leader of Cheshire East, for answers to this seeming inequity. The Clerk has not yet had a response

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

HS2	Update on HS2 Phase 2B (identical one sent by email)
Lloyds Bank	Details of changes to condition
Highways England	Notification of Drainage Repair Work
Commercial	Mail Shots

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date to be announced - Covid-19 restrictions permitting

17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 14/01/2021