

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Warburton - Chairman
Councillor John Atherden - Vice Chairman
Councillor Richard Jackson
Councillor Amy Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: Henry Brooks, Tatton Estate
Daniel Osborne, Tatton Estate
Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: Councillors C Frankland, J Sherratt, L Gianferrari
Councillor J Erlam was unable to connect via Zoom

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 7th October 2020. Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Unwin. **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

Councillors reported that there had been a car crash on Ashley Road which tragically resulted in a fatality and there were also three shunts in five weeks at the crossroads near the Greyhound

5 TATTON ESTATE

Henry Brooks and Daniel Osborne of Tatton Estate were present and provided the following information:

- **Ashley Hall**

Traffic was going too fast down Ashley Hall driveway and the Estate was working on making the existing signs more specific relating to speeding and speed limits.

Councillor Unwin stressed that vehicles do not observe the 5mph limit making it hazardous for pedestrians. She suggested that it would be help if there was a separate footpath at the side of the drive

- **Filming at Ashley Hall**

Sky television as currently filming at Ashley Hall using AbbottVision, a local independent production company based in Hale.

- **Ashley School**

There has been interest from an independent school considering leasing the schoolhouse. There is nothing definite at present although negotiations are ongoing

- **Wild Bushcraft**

It was accepted that the popularity of Wild Bushcraft has resulted in some very inconsiderate parking on Ashley Mill Lane and also an increase in litter in the area

Whereas it was not Tatton Estate's responsibility per se, the Estate was anxious to assist in the solving of the issues such as identifying a suitable place for car parking and placing a bin somewhere near Herbie Hope's driveway.

It had been noted that Adam Taylor who runs Wild Bushcraft had made many attempts to control parking and had also removed the seating to discourage people from lingering for too long

Councillor Warburton enquired if there were any toilet facilities?

Daniel responded by explaining that this was something Adam might look into

6 PLANNING MATTERS

6.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

None

6.2 Station Yard

Nothing new to report - there had been no communication from Cheshire East Planning Enforcement

6.3 Business on the Manchester Bound Side of the Railway

Network Rail had been in contact and explained that they are still looking into the matter and will contact the Council with any updates

7 M56 SMART MOTORWAY

Councillor Richard Jackson provided the following report:

- Communications with Highways England (HE) was much improved in comparison with the appalling lack of information experienced last year although there was still room for improvement
- Councillor Jackson wrote a strong letter to HE when the Council was informed of some intended tree removals at 4.30pm the day before the removal was to take place
- Councillor Jackson, along with Councillor Sherratt, had been researching the technical aspects of low noise tarmac and both consider that there will be a good outcome from using low noise tarmac in the Ashley area
- Some trees will be removed to accommodate a motorway speed camera
- Approximately 75% of trees have been removed near Ashley Hall bridge
- HE has managed to get funding for including evergreen planting areas
- HE is also intending to undertake ragwort removal during February and March
- Some of the existing fencing requires attention, HE has stated that some improvements to fencing will be examined

8 HS2

It was not possible to present a report regarding the latest information relating to HS2 Phase 2B because the main members of the group were unable to attend this meeting.

However, the Clerk reported that the HS2 subgroup had a meeting with HS2 on 30th November at which HS2 gave a presentation on various new aspects of the railway through Ashley - in particular the IMB-R maintenance depot and the temporary railhead. The subgroup made a number of points to HS2 personnel which would be answered at a later date.

The HS2 subgroup was intending to meet at some stage in the near future and a report would be provided at the next Council meeting

9 VILLAGE MATTERS**9.1 Village Competition**

The Council offered huge thanks to Councillor Lucy Gianferrari for organising the Ashley Village Christmas competition with prizes for the best decorated village house, window and find the Santa among other activities. All present agreed that the competition was a great success and should become an annual event. It was suggested that it would be better if the competition started later in December.

Thanks are also due to Jill and Georgio Brugnoli for the use of their electricity for the Christmas tree lights

9.2 Brereton Trust

The Brereton Trust Hamper was presented to Pat Norbury who was delighted and who thanked everyone involved

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS**10.1 Authorisation of Payments**

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Unwin

£152.00	A & G Blackburn	Mowing at the playground
£ 90.00	HMRC	PAYE Q3
£ 50.00	Lucy Gianferrari	Prizes for the Village Christmas competition
£100.00	S McDonald	To be converted to cash for the petty cash start up fund (see 10.2)

10.2 Petty Cash Policy

The Council approved the draft Petty Cash Policy and associated documents and agreed that £100.00 for the petty cash fund could be paid at this meeting. Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Warburton

10.3 Other Financial Matters

It was agreed that the precept for 2021-2022 would be the same as The Council approved the draft Petty Cash Policy and associated documents and agreed that £100.00 for the petty cash fund could be paid at this meeting. Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Warburton

It was reiterated that the Budget for 2021-2022 have previously been agreed

11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

It is virtually impossible to get a response from Cheshire East Highways making any progress on solving highways issues exceptionally difficult

11.1 Overgrown Pavements, Gulleys, Drains and Potholes

- **All categories - repeated from the previous minutes**
 - A Parish walk through with Lee Glover is urgently required to enable him 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
- **Pavements**
Again repeated from the previous minutes:
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
- **Potholes**
The number of potholes is unacceptable but, as has already been stated, the repairs are just patches which fail within a very short space of time
- **Gulleys, Drains and Potholes**
Some action had been taken in the Castle Mill Lane area although the results are poor in that the repairs are patched and the tarmac is not always sealed.
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
 - The Gully at Lane End is in desperate need of a thorough repair

11.2 Graffiti on Motorway Bridge

New graffiti has appeared in addition to the original mess. The Clerk will again report the matter to Cheshire East

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 trustee meeting is in April but applications must be in before the end of February
- A lady called Helen McNabb is the Community Relations Advisor dealing with these matters

The Clerk will obtain quotes to pass on to Councillor Atherden

11.4 Other Highways Matters

11.4.1 Parking on Ashley Mill Lane

The sheer density of cars, plus inconsiderate parking, is creating a significant problem for farmers in the area who are finding it impossible to manoeuvre essential farm machinery

Adam Taylor of Into the Wild has been actively discouraging badly or excessively parked cars with a number of measures but none has been fully successful

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 St Elizabeth's Church

The Church is shut at present but will be reviewed in next week or so - although it is likely to remain closed for a while.

12.2 Litter Pick

The Ashley Village Socially Distanced Litter pick will take place on Sunday 21st February 2021 at 10.00am. Details will be posted on Social media, the website and on the notice boards.

Sadly, Kevin Gregory who has organised the event for many years is unable to do so this year.

The Clerk will ascertain what equipment Kevin currently holds and will also contact Cheshire East to arrange for litter picking equipment to be delivered in good time for the 21st February.

The organiser for this years is still to be decided

13 QUESTIONS POSED BY RESIDENTS

- **Pavement on Hough Green opposite the Police House**
The pavement is breaking up - *it will be added to the list of Highways issues*
- **Can the Council please discuss Wild Bushcraft (also see Item 5)**
Visitors to the Wild Bushcraft café shack are using Ashley Mill Lane to car park and it is causing traffic/parking problems.
Wild Bushcraft are putting someone on the car park at weekends and cars etc. will be turned away if there is no room. Wild Bushcraft are also putting some signs out.
A number of people are walking with take away coffee back towards their parked vehicle and leaving their litter behind.
- **Ashley Village Bench**
Visitors to Ashley are using the bench near the post box to rest etc, meaning that they can become within 2 metres of the post box. I have had to turn away from posting a letter because I was too concerned or worried about my health safety.
Could a notice or something be put up near this bench asking visitors to move away from the post box area when someone comes to use it and to be aware of keeping a distance from people using this post box which is a Royal Mail Priority Post Box.
The Council considers this matter to be too infrequent an occurrence to justify adding yet another sign in the village
- **Ashley House**
This house keeps on being broken into and groups of youths hanging are hanging about in the area, plus I have smelt some substance being smoked.
This house is unsecured and so encouraging groups of youths to use it as their meeting place.
Can something be done to make the owner make this building secure?
The Council has already contacted the owner to explain the situation

14 CORRESPONDENCE

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

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

Cheshire Police	Poster telling the community who our local PCSOs are
Scottish Power	Advisory leaflets regarding safety dealing with electricity cuts

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 15/03/2021