

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Warburton - Chairman
Councillor John Atherden - Vice Chairman
Councillor John Erwin
Councillor Chris Frankland
Councillor Lucy Gianferrari
Councillor John Sherratt
Councillor Richard Jackson

IN ATTENDANCE: Daniel Osborne, Tatton Estate
Adam Taylor, Into The Wild Bushcraft
Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor A Unwin

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS: None

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Approval of the minutes for 15th March and 19th May was deferred to the next meeting.

4 POLICE REPORT

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

5 HALE 10K RACE

Mark Durston, the organiser of the race, explained that he had 12 years in organising similar events in a number of areas including a 10k race in Abersoch. Mark has lived in Hale for 5 years and had been hoping to create a 10k race in the Hale area. After much research he believed he had devised a route which would cause minimum inconvenience to nearby residents.

- Mark has done a lot of running in the area to identify the best route which allows for a good event and minimises the traffic closures
- He hopes that there will not be too much inconvenience and that it will bring benefits to the area as a community event.
- The finish line will be at Ashley Hall which is also the site for all parking connected with the event.
- All entrants have to go to Ashley Hall to park their car and get registered, thus minimising 'rogue' parking
- Competitors will walk from Ashley Hall to the start line which is in South Downs road. The walk will also serve as a warm up for the race.
- The race which takes place on Sunday 20th February 2022, goes from South Downs Road, along Marlborough Road, turns right at the traffic lights on to Ashley Road and follows it until turning left on to Castle Mill Lane in Ashley. the route then follows Castle Mill Lane and turns right on to Back Lane. It then loops round Back Lane to rejoin Castle Mill Lane via Tanyard Lane. At the end of Castle Mill Lane it turns sharp left on to Ashley Road and Cow Lane towards the Greyhound. Turning right at the Greyhound the race will continue along Ashley Road, through the Ashley Hall gate to Ashley Hall and the finish line.

Councillor Warburton pointed out that some of the areas had very bad bends and lack of signage resulting in hazardous conditions for entrants

Mark responded by explaining that there would be road closures

- The road closures applied for are from 9.45 to 12.30. This is the maximum time that would ever be required. The race does not start 10.15 so this will allow for certain people to come through the closure. A race car will follow the racers and the roads will remain closed until the last person has gone, at which point the roads will be gradually opened. So some roads will be opened comparatively quickly.

Councillor Warburton stated that this could mean that it would not be possible to travel from Hale to Ashley nor on to the airport, Mobberley or Tatton Park for 2 hours

Mark agreed. although pointed out that it was likely that the roads would not be closed for so long. He added that they were employing a professional company to create signage for diversions etc. In addition leaflets will be delivered to every household and business along the route, plus there warning signs will be put up approximately 10 days before the event.

Councillors expressed concern that Ashley residents would not be able to travel during the times the closures were in effect.

Mark agreed but stated that it was mid-morning on a Sunday so there was likely to be very little inconvenience to residents and they would work to reduce this as much as possible.

Numbers of people travel from Hale and Hale Barns to come to St Elizabeth's church on Sundays for the service at 11.00. Have the organisers contacted the church and it would be advisable to have direct contact with Mike Whiting who will be best placed to provide advice.

Mark stated that they had delivered a letter to everyone on the route but had had no direct contact with the church. He will ensure that Mike is contacted.

- It is hoped that there will be 500 entrants in the first year building to 1,000 over time and there will be marshals along the route.
- There will be a litter pick immediately after the race and everything will be returned to its pre-race state
- A direct phone line will be available to deal with any issues that might arise

The questions posed by residents at the last meeting have been covered in the above description.

The Chairman thanked Mark on behalf of the Council for his attendance, after which Mark left the meeting.

6 TATTON ESTATE

6.1 General Report

Daniel Osborne of Tatton Estate provided the following information:

- **HS2**

Mr Brooks is aware that there has been little information forthcoming from HS2 recently and is anxious to arrange a meeting between himself and Annette McDonald and HS2. Daniel stated that, due to non-disclosure agreements, the Estate was limited in what it can disclose to the Council but would provide as much information as is possible.

- **Tree Planting**

Daniel understood that Annette had provided the Council with a leaflet showing the intended tree planting and wanted to know if there were any questions or comments

The Clerk stated that the leaflet provided at the last meeting was different from the one that Annette sent to the Council - the latter had more areas included

Councillor Erlam pointed out that some of the land intended for planting has been earmarked for HS2 purposes

- **North Range**

North Range is now vacant

- **Filming**

The BBC is filming in a number of locations on site such as in the Barley Barn and the Potato Barn

- **Stock Farm**

Stock Farm is again operational for weddings and events and there are strict guidelines in place, especially stringent sound monitoring. The numbers of weddings being booked is encouraging. Daniel is anxious to make sure that the rules (such as closing the doors at 9.00pm) is adhered to and welcomes feedback from the Council. A new PA system will be installed in the near future. The system will monitor sound levels and actually cut the sound off if it goes above the agreed decibel limit

It should also be noted that the agreement for using stock farm has a complete section on antisocial behaviour, noise nuisance, environmental damage at al. There could be financial consequences for agreement breakers although the Estate does not want to profit from such consequences..

- **Casual Employment**

The Estate welcomes applicants who may wish to work at Stock Farm or on events at Ashley Hall.

- **Rail Compound**

The Network Rail licence term is until September but there is a possibility that this will be extended until the end of October. The work is to prevent flooding further up on the railway just south of the bridge. There is a condition that Network Rail clear up after the work has finished

Councillor Warburton requested that the clear up included getting rid of the mass of thistles and ragwort on the site .It needs to be done as soon as possible. If it goes to seed it will spread everywhere.

- **Review of Speeding**

Daniel stated that the review had been completed but was still awaiting sign-off

- **South Drive**

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- **Ashley School**

There are no further updates regarding the school.

Councillor Gianferrari asked Daniel if the Estate would be willing to contribute a prize or a gift to the Rose Queen in September

Daniel stated that he could not speak for the Estate on this matter but would certainly ask the question of Mr Brooks

6.2 Tatton Services

Daniel stated there was nothing new to report although there is to be a meeting on Wednesday which will provide much more information. (Note: Councillor Frankland is to attend the meeting)

The Chairman thanked Daniel for his report, Daniel then left the meeting.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

7.1 Planning Applications for Consideration

None

7.2 Planning Applications Already Considered

7.2.1 21/2965M Barley Well Cottage, Castle Mill Lane

Extensions and alterations to dwelling

To record that the Council had no objections or comments

7.3 Planning Enforcement

The Clerk had contacted Planning Enforcement about the Higher Thorns Green planning violation and also to request some updates on outstanding complaints. Unfortunately the Enforcement Officer concerned is not in the office at present.

7.4 Other Planning Matters

None

8 M56 SMART MOTORWAY

Councillor Jackson explained that there was not much to report but interestingly there was a challenge to the creation of the M62 smart motorway due to environmental considerations. The challenge was that Highways England should be required to carry out an environmental impact assessment before it can convert the standard motorway to a smart motorway. Councillor Jackson was of the opinion that the assessment should apply to all smart motorways both those already existing and those being proposed.

Councillor Jackson was still concerned about the amount of vegetation clearing which was taking place.

Councillor Warburton stated that It appears that there is to be an access path or something similar by the Cow Lane motorway bridge on the north side and it would appear to be for permanent access.

Councillor Atherden added that overnight work from 9.00pm will be starting tonight (19th July) until 2nd August which is for resurfacing the north side of the motorway.

Councillor Sherratt had been advised the Highways England were removing 6 trees but the reality was significantly greater than this small number.

All Councillors were genuinely concerned that Highways England were being less than frank about their intentions and were not providing candid answers to the Council's questions

9 HS2

9.1 General Report

Councillor Erlam gave the following report:

There were engagement meetings this week. One was on Utilities and the other was on the Hybrid Bill.

The utilities meeting detailed how the utilities were the first things that would be installed - these are in the pink areas in the map book.

Councillor Erlam asked where the compounds would be and if they would be sited in the orange areas. He was told that the vast orange areas were for HS2 people only. Councillor Erlam asked three more times about the placement of the compounds but did not get a satisfactory answer other than somewhere in the pink area.

If one looks at the maps, the high voltage lines are shown in black and red. Those coloured red appear to be going under the line. which does not bode well for the Council's argument about putting the railway in a cutting.

Although there is a lot of gloom there is also a large body of MPs who are sympathetic towards the plight of areas such as Ashley and are writing to the HS2 Minister. Ashley cannot get involved at this stage because it would be wrong to pre-empt the actions of these MPs.

Esther McVey is overtly against HS2 and believes that the savings made by not building the railway could be used to connect everyone in the country to hi-speed broadband and still have money over.

9.2 HS2BillDeposit

The HS2BillDeposit sets out in great detail the proposals for HS2 Phase 2B which includes Ashley. In total there are 17,800 documents relating to this although Ashley will only need a selection which comprise the most relevant documents and maps

Two full copies of the 'Ashley' documents will be sent to us - 1 for the Community Centre and 1 for me (it will be kept in the garage)

In addition to this there will be additional copies of the MA06 (Ashley) Maps for the Community Centre and HS2 LTD will be providing either a laptop/USB or a different device preloaded with HS2 information. Neither will need the Internet

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS**10.1 Authorisation of Payments**

Proposed by Councillor Atherden, seconded by Councillor Frankland

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| £ 50.00 | Chalc | Neighbourhood Plan Training |
| £228.00 | Andy Blackburn | Mowing at Playground |

10.2 Petty Cash Statement

To record that the petty cash fund remains at £100.00

The Clerk stated that this would be removed from the Agenda in future as it adds nothing to the meeting

10.3 Other Financial Matters

Councillor Erlam stated that the Clerk should get a pay rise from £1,800 to c. £2,500 to reflect the amount of work she will be doing on HS2 during the coming year. she is a key component of the HS2 team. It was unanimously carried. Proposed by Councillor Erlam, seconded by Councillor Warburton

11 VILLAGE MATTERS**11.1 Noxious Smoke**

There is noxious smoke coming from bonfires on the land at the rear of the station.

Residents were advised to keep a diary of the times and frequency of the fires so that Environmental Health can take action. Without such evidence there is nothing that can be done. Similarly, if the bonfires are very occasional then, unfortunately, neighbours will have to live with it.

11.2 Post It Locker

The locker has been installed but neither the approach nor the lines denoting parking spaces have been repaired.

It is actually outside the station rather than on the platform as at first thought. It was unclear if the box was illuminated or not.

11.3 Playground Matters

Councillor Warburton obtained a quote for c. £1,000 from Playdale for replacement netting and a replacement rope ladder.

The Clerk looked for other companies to quote could not find any - all companies either wanted to sell the complete equipment or provide the rope and connectors as a 'do it yourself' kit type thing.

Should there be a playground inspection prior to spending this money?

The exact cost of an inspection is dependent upon a number of factors (such as how much equipment there is) so it wasn't possible to get a precise price. Inspections start at around £86 but it is probable that the actual cost for Ashley would be higher than this.

A discussion ensued about whether it would be better to get an inspection prior to doing some basic maintenance or have the inspection and hope that it does not find too many things wrong

It was concluded that the Council would carry out some basic maintenance prior to arranging an inspection

Councillor Warburton added that replacing the shoddy gates would give a better impression. Councillor Warburton would contact Richard Wainwright and the Clerk would obtain a couple of other quotes.

11.4 Village Planters

It was generally thought to be a good idea and Councillor Warburton would contact the person responsible for installing the planters in Hale.

Councillor Gianferrari thought an ideal place for the planter would be close to the bench.

Prior to making a decision on this it would be sensible to take stock of what expenditure would be needed (e.g. playground equipment) before making a final decision.

11.5 Other Village Matters

The light in the passage from Hough Green to the station is broken

12 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**12.1 Overgrown Pavements, Gulleys, Drains and Potholes**

The Clerk contacted Lee Glover to invite him to do a walk round Ashley with a couple of Councillors but he declined. Instead he was willing to accept a list of issues if the Council provided them. A number of issues were identified and it was mooted that each Councillor did a bit of Ashley.

The list was not sent to Lee because a) it was incomplete and b) the next item got in the way

12.2 Top Up Highways Maintenance Scheme

This is an amazingly strange scheme in that Ashley PC can apply for funding to get jobs done - such as the pavement outside the police house but it has to come out of an amount awarded to the Ward Councillor. So Charlotte has a fund which can be used for any part of her ward (Mobberley, Rostherne etc). Really good in theory? The problem is that Charlotte receives the princely sum of £4,200 to cover every parish in her ward!!

The above is what the Clerk had been told by a Ward Councillor in a different area. There is absolutely nothing on the CEC website describing this scheme.

Given the size of Mobberley ward it is an unviable scheme since there will be insufficient funds to do complete almost anything. There appears to be no logic behind the scheme

12.3 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Having been told that no SIDs were to be installed it has since emerged that SIDS can be installed but only under strict conditions:

1. The SID has to be movable and attached to 'wherever' with strong chains or by similar security measures
2. The SID cannot stay in the same place for more than 2 weeks, even though there are literally hundreds of permanently placed SIDS in the area.
3. The SID has to be approved by the Highways Road Safety team - quite reasonable methinks

Note: SIDs are exceptionally heavy and if the above rules are adhered to they will have to be battery powered making them even heavier. They are also easier targets for thieves

12.4 Other Highways Matters

In spite of complaining about the removal of gritting from Castle Mill Lane and Mill Lane due to the narrowness and many bends on these roads, it appears we were ignored.

13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Unwin and the Clerk went on a Neighbourhood Plan course as a refresher. It was an interesting course which served to confirm that they were both on the right track.

It is hoped that Councillor Unwin and the Clerk will meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss strategy

14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 MINUTES)

Nothing

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Erlam discussed with Daniel Osborne the problem of Ash die back and whether the Estate is going to inspect the trees. He did not have an instant answer.

16 CORRESPONDENCE

All email correspondence forwarded to Councillors

Post:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| HS2 | Details of the HS2BillDeposit |
| Highways England | Newsletter - also sent to residents |
| Commercial | Mail Shots |

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th September 2021

18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Chairman 16/09/2021