

Ashleworth Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of 10 September 2013

Councillors Present	In attendance
Phil Cheeseman (PC)	10 members of the public
Adeline Raine (AR)	
Caroline Saunders (CS)	

Minute No.	Item
230/0913	The Chair welcomed people to the meeting. The road sign at Stone Bow was damaged and missing one pointer and the flood sign was missing. Action: Cllr Phil Awford agreed to raise these with the County Highways people. Other issues about planning were dealt with as substantive agenda items
231/0913	Apologies for absence were received from MF and Councillor David Peckham had tendered his resignation and stepped down. There were no declarations of interest.
232/0913	The Minutes of the meetings of 16 July were approved and signed by the Chair.
233/0913	Representatives reports Councillor Phil Awford (PA) reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) had received a £1m windfall in connection with the financial crash in Icelandic Banks ii. The potential for Gloucestershire to become a unitary authority, abolishing City and Borough Councils, was now being discussed iii. Although having considerable reservations, PA had voted to support the draft JCS which TBC had approved. The JCS outlined the need for c900 housing units to be developed between 2014 and 2031 and to be shared across 15 Rural Villages, of which Ashleworth was one. The criteria for the allocation of these 900 units was not yet clear but was stated as being "proportionate" to the existing villages Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Grant Elliot, GE, made a brief report but there had been little activity over the summer months. A newsletter had been distributed.
234/0913	The Clerk provided an update on grants available from TBC and GCC for maintenance of their grounds. Information had been requested from GreenFinch about the areas of land maintained within the parish but had not yet been received.
235/0913	Planning: Applications received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 13/00843/TCA, The Firs – no objections. ii. 13/00857/FUL, Bilston House, Longridge Lane – no objections iii. 13/00916/LBC, Foscombe House – application only received on 9 September – Clerk to clarify. Decisions required:

Chair:

Clerk:

	<p>i. As above</p> <p>TBC decisions since last meeting:</p> <p>i. 13/00251/FUL, The Queens Arms, change of use permitted</p> <p>There were two planning issues outstanding from the last meeting concerning enforcement in Longridge Lane and permission for developments around the Tithe Barn. It was agreed that the Clerk should chase TBC for responses on these issues.</p>
236/0913	<p>JCS</p> <p>AR summarised the issues as reported by PA earlier. It was expected that Gloucester City Council would approve the draft JCS and that formal public consultation would begin on October 15th. AR and CS would be attending a seminar on 16 October.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <p>i. The Council would respond to the JCS consultation and that it would arrange necessary meetings accordingly</p> <p>ii. The JCS consultation would be publicised in the APC article in the West of Severn News (WoSN).</p>
237/0913	<p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>The Clerk had submitted the approved Code of Conduct to TBC and had forwarded the Councillors' Register of Interests that had been received.</p>
238/0913	<p>Jubilee Tree</p> <p>MF had sent email correspondence to the Council about the type of tree under consideration and the associated costs.</p> <p>The Council approved the purchase and planting of the Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) and the associated costs and looked forward to seeing the tree and plaque in situ.</p>
239/0913	<p>Play Area</p> <p>Christine Morris had provided an update which confirmed that a working party had been formed and that CS would be the Council representative. It was agreed that the Council would note any play area discussions within the overall context of discussions about the re-development of the Woodpeckers Sports and Social Club.</p>
240/0913	<p>Finance</p> <p>i. The National Joint Council salary increase for the Clerk was approved.</p> <p>ii. The budget report for the year to date was approved and the proposed improvements to the bus shelter were approved in principle subject to obtaining two competitive quotations and no disproportionate increase in costs. It was noted that the Council would still have approximately £1500 of discretionary spend available and it was agreed to include this in the WoSN article. The Council approved the annual trimming of conifers around the electrical sub-station on the village green at a cost of £50.00, provided that the contractor advise the Council in advance and afforded the opportunity of postponing the trimming if necessary.</p> <p>iii. The bank reconciliation was noted.</p> <p>iv. The accounts for payment were approved and signed.</p>
241/0913	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>The letter advising of the resignation and replacement of the Village Agent was noted, as was a letter supporting the application from the Queen's Arms.</p> <p>The TBC sandbag policy was discussed.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>Clerk to clarify the position with TBC as to what needed to be done.</p>
242/0913	<p>In addition to the regular items, agenda items for the November meeting were agreed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play area and Woodpeckers update • JCS update • Further budget suggestions.
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.50pm.</p>

Chair:

Clerk: