

Ashleworth Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of 16 July 2013

Councillors Present	In attendance
Phil Cheeseman (PC)	11 members of the public
Mike Fellows (MF)	
Adeline Raine (AR)	
David Peckham (DP)	
Caroline Saunders (CS)	

Minute No.	Item
217/0713	<p>The Chair welcomed people to the meeting. The flowers at Stone Bow village sign received compliments and the ladies who collected litter on a regular basis were thanked.</p> <p>Action: The Clerk was asked to send a letter to all concerned expressing the council's gratitude. Other issues were raised which would be discussed as substantive items on the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair introduced Mr. Guy Wakefield (GW) from Hunter Page Planning Consultants and representing Bloor Homes. GW explained that he was attending the meeting by way of introduction to Bloor Homes and to advise the Council that Bloor Homes had taken up an option on the field off Nup End Road and Lawn Road, opposite Sawyers Rise. This was a very early stage in exploring the potential for the development of between 30 and 50 units within half of the field in question, approximately 35% of which would be affordable housing. GW emphasised that Bloor Homes would like to work within the guidance to be laid out within the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) but if other applications were submitted which impacted upon the parish, then the Bloor Homes application could be accelerated.</p> <p>In response to a number of questions, GW stated that some financial contribution to the village infrastructure and facilities could be made available through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if the application succeeded and that, if needed, feasibility studies of sewerage and other utilities would be undertaken, as would all the necessary transport and access issues. GW also offered to provide contact details for other local councils where Bloor Homes had carried out similar developments in Gloucestershire.</p>
218/0713	<p>Apologies for absence were received from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator (NWC), who had submitted a report, and the Village Agent. There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>
219/0713	<p>The Minutes of the meetings of 14 May and 11 June were approved and signed by the Chair.</p>
220/0713	<p>Representatives reports</p> <p>The Clerk communicated the report from the NWC.</p> <p>Councillor Phil Awford (PA) reported that each Councillor had an allocation for</p>

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	<p>expenditure with their Parishes and that £2000.00 had been secured for Ashleworth which would be spent on pot-hole repairs and ditch maintenance. PA also advised of his new responsibilities within the County and Borough Councils, as well as outlining some of the organisational structure changes at TBC. PA also informed the Council that the JCS would be published in September – if agreement was reached between the three Councils - for further consultation and that he understood how these delays were creating a planning policy vacuum which was disadvantaging the Parish Council when dealing with potential applications such as those from Bloor Homes.</p>
221/0713	<p>Planning: No planning applications had been received since the last meeting. No decisions were required at this meeting. No decisions relevant to Ashleworth had been made by TBC since the last meeting.</p> <p>Further discussion was held concerning the potential application re Nup End Road. The Council had also been contacted by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) as they had been made aware of another potential development. This potential application concerned land adjacent to Bloxhams Orchard where the land owner was apparently in discussions with Severn Vale Housing about the development of affordable housing. Action: The Council agreed to meet informally with the GRCC representative to establish the facts around this potential application.</p> <p>There was also further discussion about application 12/00974/FUL concerning various amendments, the removal of low-grade farm sheds next to the Ashleworth Tithe Barn and the development of a new pavilion and the change of use to a wedding venue on behalf of Chamberlayne Farms. This application had been permitted by TBC but there appeared to be considerable concerns by local residents over noise and road safety aspects, as well as with the clarity of some of the processes. Local residents asked if the Parish Council could act in any way to ensure the adherence to the planning permissions associated with this planning permission. Members of the public also advised that the local ombudsman had been contacted about some of these issues. Action: The Council agreed that it would write to TBC seeking absolute clarity on the planning conditions and the means by which TBC would be monitoring adherence to these conditions. There was a specific question about the size (square metres) of the application. Clerk to draft letter and to clarify if the Parish Council could approach the local ombudsman.</p> <p>PC requested that the Council enquire into the status of the enforcement process re the Longridge Lane development and the Council agreed for the Clerk to do this.</p>
222/0713	<p>JCS AR tabled a letter received from Mark Harper MP which quoted from a communication from the Planning Policy Manager at TBC in which it was stated in relation to Ashleworth's categorisation "...I would not expect Winchcombe and Bishop's Cleeve to be in the same group as villages or parishes such as Ashleworth".</p>
223/0713	<p>Code of Conduct The Clerk had earlier circulated the latest response from the TBC solicitor. AR proposed that Councillors should sign the new Code of Conduct, as drafted by the Clerk some months ago. This proposal was supported by a majority of the Council; MF did not support this proposal and requested that his objection was noted in the Minutes. Action: The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the TBC solicitor and convey that the Parish Council had agreed to the new Code of Conduct and to await further instructions.</p>

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224/0713	Jubilee Tree MF agreed to take this forward with the chair of the former Jubilee Working Group with a view to purchasing an appropriate tree and arranging for the planting and plaque to be carried out.
225/0713	Open Spaces The Chair had identified the potential for reclaiming the costs of any maintenance carried out on behalf of the Parish Council on land owned by the Borough or/and County Councils. Action: The Clerk was to contact Green Finch to establish what land was maintained and the associated costs. He was also asked to clarify the means by which costs could be reclaimed and to proceed accordingly.
226/0713	Play Area Christine Morris (CM) spoke in the context of the recently carried out play area inspection and the proposal to replace one of the swings with one more suitable for toddlers. CM reported that an informal survey indicated that there was not widespread support for such a proposal and it would be better if a toddlers swing could be added to the two existing swings. CS had established that a new toddlers swing would cost approximately £1600.00 to supply and fit. CM said that she was happy to explore different sources of funding with her colleagues and to form a play area working group. It was agreed that the Council should be represented on the working group, once established. CM also said that, ideally, the play area would be relocated within the Woodpeckers complex away from the dark corner that it presently occupied. Resources were an obvious barrier to this change but it was agreed that this could be included together with other discussions that were needed with the Woodpeckers. Action: CM to form working group to explore funding sources. Clerk to facilitate membership to the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. DP/PC to investigate and repair wear and tear to existing swing. Clerk to follow-up with Woodpeckers about various issues.
227/0713	Finance The budget report for the year to date was approved . Action: AR asked for all Councillors to prepare proposals in advance of the next meeting for expenditure from the discretionary amount of funds (approximately £2000.00) within the current year's budget. The financial reconciliation was approved . The accounts for payment were approved and signed .
228/0713	Correspondence The letter from Kelly Matthews was discussed. Action: Clerk to reinforce the complaint from KM in a letter to Severn Vale asking them to look further into this issue; this should be copied to KM.
229/0713	In addition to the regular items, agenda items for the September meeting were agreed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific budget proposals to be agreed • Play area update • Affordable Housing survey update.
	The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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