

2010 ASHBY PC ANNUAL WEBSITE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

May I first remind everyone that the title of our parish council website should be easy to remember – it's our village name, an organisation, in the UK. Hence it can be found at www.ashbystmary.org.uk
Our website address is shown on all the Council's parish notices that are advertised via our three village noticeboards.

The website was introduced in 2006 and the Council continues to ensure it is updated with latest parish council news, council minutes, parish plan reviews etc as speedily as possible. This usually continues to be carried out on a monthly basis but can be much more frequent. At the Council's request I have been asked to continue to undertake the maintenance of the site, which I am pleased to do and content to assist with.

Up to now our website has remained largely unaltered in style and content. It was deliberately not constructed with any gimmicks or flashing lights. This reflects the Council's desire to provide parishioners with a straightforward method for them to quickly and seamlessly navigate their way to the subject of interest. The aim remains to provide a simple method of delivering information about the council, its meetings and activities to its parishioners and offer as much relevant information as possible on each page. Where that is too large to display (such as meeting minutes), usually just one further step displays the appropriate document.

At last year's meeting I stated that I felt the website would benefit from an overhaul to freshen it up and improve its contents. I have completed this and it was uploaded two days ago. I hope you will take a look at the result. By all means send the Council any comments about it. Despite my best efforts it is possible a link or document may not be displayed as it should it which case please let myself or another councillor know.

CONTENT

This is a broad outline of the new website. It contains less pages than before – instead of 12 there are now just 7. There is a HOME page, plus others for MANAGEMENT, HANDBOOK, HISTORY, HOMEWATCH, CONTACTS and SITEMAP. At the top of each page are the names of all the pages in the website. In addition there is a column down one side with all the page names on together with a short description of what can be found in each page. Pages can be opened and accessed from these top or side links. As most documents accessed from the website need a particular piece of free software to open them, I am pleased that a direct link to enable obtaining the software now appears on each of the above pages. Also from any page you can now click on a link which opens a blank email enabling you to send a message direct to either or both the parish clerk or webmaster.

HOME PAGE

On the HOME page itself is now the an area where all the Latest News can be read on that page – no more linking to another page – it's right there

and probably the first thing you will notice. A small but specific area will show the date the site was last changed.

There is a Diary section (again no more linking to another page) with dates of not only forthcoming Parish Council meetings but also (when known) Ashby's annual village charity events such as the excellent 'Strawberries and Bubbly' and 'Cheese and Wine' gatherings. Any other local events the Council has been informed of will be advertised here so please keep us informed. Ashby's recent announced Cricket match dates have been included.

MANAGEMENT

Here you can now find all Council meeting minutes including those for Annual Parish meetings. All our financial reports, accounts, parish planning details, the original Parish Plan and its subsequent reviews are all accessible from here, plus other similar management information. Most information from as far back as 2005 is available. During the year, a Summer 2009 review of the Parish Council's Parish Plan was added to our website which referred to the progress made by the Council to its original Action List.

HANDBOOK

On this page can be found maps of Ashby, rainfall information and other details directly relevant to Ashby. The Council remains indebted to Ashby rainman for continuing to supply village rainfall amounts over the past year. I have also compiled and introduced an Ashby Walk which can be found on the Handbook page – it is aimed at walkers and visitors to the parish who can follow a suggested route along a mix of footpaths and roads – there is even a 'Spot These' en-route picture challenge for those who wish to try it. The route and pictures can be printed if desired.

HOMEWATCH

A link to the latest Homewatch messages provided by the Police remains available together with previous messages (by the year), general security advice, how to join Homewatch, security items which can be purchased etc.

HISTORY

This page now contains all the historical information about the village, which also appeared on the previous website, population details, plus genealogy, village, church and town links. I have discovered yet more sources of village information which has been included. The gallery of village pictures and events is now accessed from the History page. More pictures have been added. Your Councillors would be delighted to receive more pictures to add to those already available if parishioners have any worthy of publishing, particularly any showing the village, villagers or events from bygone days.

CONTACTS

The Councillors are shown on this page together with a long list of Community Contacts and another of Other Local Contacts which includes details of the Police, County and District Councillors, school, dentist and

doctors with telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and website links where available.

The SITEMAP page shows a complete list of the website's contents.

The Council's website is here to stay so it is hoped an ever-increasing audience will take the opportunity to look at it from time to time. Please spread the word about our website's availability to your village friends and neighbours. It now contains even more information that should be useful to persons living in and around our parish of Ashby.

I am confident the upgraded website will hold the Council in good stead for ensuring it keeps its parishioners informed and interested in village progress. The site remains inexpensive to retain and maintain, and still continues to offer good value for money. Finally a reminder that your village website can be found at this simple address - www.ashbystmary.org.uk.

That concludes my 2010 report on the Ashby St Mary website.

Mark Rolph
Parish Councillor