

2017 ASHBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – ASHBY WEBSITE REPORT

The Parish website is at www.ashbystmary.org.uk and I believe it celebrates its 10th birthday this year.

On behalf of your parish council, I continue to update the site as soon as possible after new information for Ashby's parishioners becomes available. It aims to provide parishioners with Ashby Parish Council's news and business reports particularly its meeting minutes, financial spending and budgets, and planning matters.

I need to apologise at the outset for the lack of access which parishioners have had to the website on and off for the past month or so. I carried out a major organizational overhaul of the website in the system areas of its contents which the viewing public do not see. For the future administration of the website the idea was good and well-intentioned – but the result was disappointing and not good, as it initially resulted in a failure to operate as expected due, I believe, to an unexpected change in the system operated by the website hosts.

When in traditional operation, the Ashby parish website has changed little in visual appearance. It continues to have 6 pages. To enable readers to see a simple resume of the updated subjects, the Home page continues to bullet points these under the title Latest News. The Management page has all the usual meeting agendas and minutes, planning information and decisions added. It is the History page (parish event reports, Ashby Past, and Ashby church and churchyard sections), where the most changes take place, as descriptions and photographs of village events during the year are constantly added, plus of course the parish's rain statistics (thank you Ashby Rainman).

In the last year, 8 website updates have taken place which, excluding the aforementioned overhaul, have involved 78 changes or additions. I have given the usual email notice of all the updates to residents who have asked to receive them via the parish council's free established Ashby Update Service which includes any Neighbourhood Security / Police Alert news. The Update Service also includes the free-to-join Ashby Heating Oil Syndicate for domestic heating oil users. Your parish council is proud to offer these services and hopes parishioners will continue to spread the word to neighbours at every opportunity. Your council remains satisfied the website provides a genuine benefit to our community and offers good value for money.

I should add that for some councils which operate their own website a grant has been offered to procure equipment and software to assist in their production and Ashby is hopefully in line to benefit from such a grant. Ultimately it could reduce costs as producing certain documents such as the APM flyer could be printed 'in-house'.

If you're bored with Brexit or facing another election, viewing the Ashby website might just restore your faith in community spirit and put a smile back on your face.

That concludes my 2017 report on the Ashby St Mary website.

Mark Rolph - Parish Councillor