

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ashby St Mary Annual Parish Meeting
on Thursday 18th April 2019 at 19:30
at Thurton and Ashby Village Hall

Present: Robert Todd [RT](chairman) Edgar Hoddy, Sarah Kings, Terry Kitt [TK] (vice-chairman), Carol Powell [CP], Mark Rolph [MR], Jayne Casey [JC](clerk) and David and Betty Catchpole (parishioners)

1. Apologies; no contact received from the district or county councillors.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2018.
The minutes were approved and signed by RT.
3. Chairman's Report

This year we are reaching the 25th anniversary of the parish councils first official meeting in 1994; however parish meetings had been happening long before a formal parish council was set up. RT thanked the attending members of the public for their presence and the fellow councillors for their support and work assisting the council in the last year. Thanks was given to MR who is in charge of communications, oil and security for all he does; all the hard work that MR puts into this is recognised across the village. Thanks went to TK, our historian and highwayman for his enthusiasm, energy and for taking on many aspects including the emergency report. Thanks to JC for being clerk of the parish council for the last year.

It has been a relatively quiet year; we have had a few new dwellings, which are somewhat rare for Ashby. Our local views on the handful of planning applications we have received this year have been recognised by the South Norfolk District Council planning council. We are currently in talks regarding one application.

Super fast broadband has arrived in some areas of the village, this was a surprise, and we would like to see it rolled out to more of the village.

A grit bin has been moved thanks to members of the community.

The incredibly short time period that the Playground Project finished their project needs to be recognised. Congratulations to the whole team for a wonderful new play area for the whole village to enjoy. Also to the Ashby Tappers for the bike ride that raised funds for the project.

For church improvements and facilities the fundraising is continuing, the website promotes these and we will continue to do this as we move forward.

These are exciting times in Ashby.

District and county councillor arrangements are disappointing, as we haven't seen either for the last year. As a parish council we are extremely disappointed for the complete disconnect from both.

4. Financial Report

The financial report was read by JC. Due to no access to the bank account for five months last year it has been slightly tricky to write the financial end of year statement. The opening balance for April 2018 was £4,357.90 our receipts totalled £5,847.50 with our payments standing at £3,388.02. This makes our closing balance £3,388.02 however the bank balance shows it as £3,415.02 and therefore £27 in credit.

5. Parish Council Website

RT stated that having spoken to members of the public he can report that other parishes use the Ashby site for information so thanks to MR for keeping it up to date.

After a discussion with a parishioner to TK it is understood that fibre broadband is potentially available to all houses if requested by parishioners individually.

Report by MR submitted.

6. Neighbourhood Security and Ashby Update Service

Report by MR attached.

7. Ashby Oil Syndicate

Report by MR submitted.

8. County Councillor's Report

No report.

9. District Councillor's Report

No report.

In response to the absent of both our county and district councillors the council agreed that it used to be that we could approach the county or district councillor for help, however all we have now is an email that quite often isn't responded to. The speeding issue in the village is an example of this, in December of last year this was sent via email to our county councillor and then followed up with a reminder but we have, as of yet, received nothing. The South Lodge draining issues we have asked to be dealt with and yet again nothing has been responded to. His last report has stated he will try harder, so we wait in hope. No support from South Norfolk or the County Council.

10. Ashby & Thurton Playing Field Committee Report

Report by CP submitted.

11. Village Organisation Reports

Church report by TK.

The church is applying for a faculty for main drainage works for the proposed extension as unfortunately they were unsuccessful with the lottery fund. There

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are currently not enough funds therefore the PCC are still looking at how this can be overcome and how to save money on the construction to reduce the cost. This could potentially be done through working parties, for example the footpath. The faculty application involves a lot of questions that need answering. A brief from the archaeological visit is valid for a year and on the notice board.

Attendances are unmoved, there is a parish team that run services together and the church continues to pay their parish share of £750 to the diocese through fundraising and giving. Fundraisers this year have included a Pie and beer event at Margaret Oliver's, a Harvest supper in the village hall, which raised £1000 and a quiz in April which was very well run by David Catchpole and raised £446.

There was also a £200 donation from an anonymous donor.

This year's church fundraisers are as follows:

Cider and Sausage in July at Ashby hall

Flower festival in August

Harvest supper October

Ashby St Mary and Thurton Preschool

Report by Sandra Rennie submitted.

Little Fish

Report by JC submitted.

WI report read by Betty Catchpole

Report by Julie Powell submitted.

12. Any Other business

We currently have a vacancy for a parish council member which is publicised on the website.

CP received a phone call from a parishioner asking if we could open the hall for the use of toilets when on the park, however after considerations, as there would be no one around to look after the hall and due to insurance implications the hall cannot comply.

The Parish Emergency advice is short of one contact for Mill Common; TK asked if anyone knew of someone who may be willing. There is potentially a policeman who is living on that road who may be willing to help.

Meeting closed at 20:39