

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Ashingdon Parish Office, The Cricket Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. D. Catchpole Vice Chairman: Cllr D Constable

Councillors: Cllr. P Hennessy Cllr. S. Osborne
Cllr. S Chittenden Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cllr G. Dryhurst

Officers: Locum Clerk

District Councillors: None

Members of press and public: No members of the public present

23/195 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr.N.Corless and Cllr.D.Reed

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.

23/196 Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Dryhurst and Seconded by Councillor Chittenden that the minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th December 2023 are approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

23/197 Progress Report from Clerk

Progress report attached to the minutes noted

23/198 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

No declaration of interest received

23/199 Public Participation

No members of the public present

23/200 **To receive a report from District / County Councillor and to note any communication relevant to the Parish:**

District Councillor R. Constable sent apologies but forwarded a written report to update members, members expressed thanks for the update.

23/201 **Planning**

Members considered the planning applications detailed below:

[20 Golden Cross Road, Rochford, Essex, SS4 3DG](#)

Proposed single storey extension with roof lantern

Application reference: **23/01050/FUL** received on **19/12/2023**

No objection to this planning application

[5 Mapleleaf Close, Hockley, Essex, SS5 5DZ](#)

Construct garden outbuilding, to serve as an annex to the main dwelling.

Application reference: **23/01008/FUL** received on **01/12/2023**

No objection to this planning application

23/202

Finance

a/ Payments listing for December 2023 with a total of £58,602.35 was ratified by members

b/ Proposal : to approve the January payments list totalling £3,496.50 as detailed below
Proposed: Councillor D Constable
Seconded: Councillor G Dryhurst
Vote: Carried

List for approval 9th January 2024					
Date	Supplier Name		Total Amount	Details	Ref
10/01/2024	Weave - a - web	IBJAN01	168.00	Website	
10/01/2024	James Todd	IBJAN02	34.32	Payroll for November	
10/01/2024	CAM Facilities	IBJAN03	825.60	Security Playground	
10/01/2024	J and P Prior	IBJAN04	1,016.57	Cleaning General	
10/01/2024	Safestore	IBJAN05	327.01	Storage	
10/01/2024	Clerk 360	IBJAN06	1,125.00	Locum Clerk	

Members were advised that the Caretaker Salary will be paid in line with the employees contract so does not require prior approval.

c/ Finance Committee Working Party has completed the application form and following this meeting a deposit will be made of £1,000. At this time there is no update regarding an additional deposit account.

e/ Post Box and redirection

Proposal: to agree in principle for a Post Box and redirection to be arranged when the new employee is in post. Council to include £330 within the 2024 /2025 budget

Proposed: Councillor D Constable

Seconded: Councillor S Chittenden

Vote: Carried

23/203

Council Tax Base

Members noted that the Council Tax Base 2024 / 2025 has been confirmed as 1207.8 In order to maintain a precept of £117,291 a Band D Council Tax charge would need to be set at £97.11. This would be an increase of £0.37. If the precept were to remain the same then the precept received would be £116,842.57.

Members noted that whilst a precept demand was made for £117,291 the budget approved by Ashingdon Parish Council was £134,291 with the shortfall being funded from reserves.

23/204

Council Tax Referendum

Members advised that NALC has stated that for the 2024 / 2025 Parish and Town Councils will not be capped

23/205

Budget and Precept 2024 / 2025

a. Members reviewed the Earmarked Reserves as circulated with the agenda and the following amendments were agreed by all members

Debit	Credit	Notes
MUGA		£10,000 to be moved back to Parish Room to allow for any unforeseen repairs that may be required
	Parish Room	
Health and Wellbeing		£5,000 moved to MUGA project
	MUGA	

b. Members considered the draft budget for 2024 / 2025 as circulated with the agenda and the following changes were made:

4205 Verge Maintenance increased from £3,685 to £6,000

4309 MUGA increased from £0 to £3000

Proposal: to approve a budget for the 2024 / 2025 financial year of £149,405

Proposed: Councillor G Dryhurst

Seconded: Councillor D McCarthy

Vote: Carried

- c. Members were advised that for the financial year 2023 / 2024 a budget of £134,291 was agreed although a precept of £117,291 was requested as the shortfall was funded from reserves. Members spoke in depth about the sustainability of providing the Council services and that the shortfall could no longer be funded from reserves.

Proposal: to submit a precept demand to Rochford District Council for £149,405

Proposed: Councillor D McCarthy

Seconded: Councillor G Dryhurst

Vote: Carried

Breakdown: to note that the current proportion of the Parish Council precept on a band D property is £96.74, with the amendments above the amount will increase to £123.40 per year, approximately a rise of 50p per week.

Working Party Creation

Members created the following working parties during the budget discussion and Clerk Report

Street Furniture: Councillor G Dryhurst, S Chittenden, D McCarthy

MUGA: Councillor P Hennessy, G Dryhurst, D Catchpole

23/206

All Saints Church, South Fambridge

Members considered the correspondence from the Diocese in conjunction with the recent building report which identifies maintenance works which would be costly ongoing for the Parish Council. Members agree not to proceed any further with the offer of developing the site.

23/207

Mural

Members request that the Bar 'n' Bus are contacted to provide a cost of carrying out this work as part of their summer activities with the youth. Parish Clerk to obtain quotation for February meeting.

23/208

Highways / PROW / Environment / Transport / Street Lighting

Councillor Dryhurst reported that since the Covid pandemic there is a lack of drivers in the area

23/209

Crime and Anti – Social behaviour

A written report was circulated from PC Lamb detailing items within the Parish. Members expressed concern regarding the on-going issues with quad bikes and horses gaining access to the playing field and other open spaces and causing damage.

23/210

To receive a report from representatives from the following outside committees / working group

a/ Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall – successful dance event held prior to new year which raised funds for the memorial hall. There are currently problems with 2 gas heaters but a quotation has been provided and repairs are anticipated to be carried out in the near future.

b/ Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils – meeting to be held on Thursday 18th January

c/ RSPC Local Liaison Group – Cllr Dryhurst reports that new hides are being installed along the walk and that a future project is a visitors centre and public toilet

d/ River Crouch Coastal Community Team – Signage supporting the Englands Coastal Path has been installed

23/211

Training and Events

No requests for training at this stage.

23/212

Items for next Agenda

Open Space Tender

23/213

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30pm,

The meeting was closed at: 20.53pm

Chairman's Signature

Dated
5th February 2024