ASHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Jubilee Hall on Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors R Fisken (Chairman), A Dick, C Butler, R Butler and G Light

In attendance: Paul Thompson (Clerk)

1. **Apologies**: Councillor Anthony Keeley

2. **Declaration of Interests**: None

3. **Minutes:**
The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 16 May 2022, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising Not Covered in the Agenda:** There were none.

5. **District Councillor's Report**: None received.

6. **Police Matters:**
Councillor Alex Dick advised that there were concerns regarding theft of keyless cars. It was suggested that key devices should be kept in a metal box to prevent signal being accessed by thieves nearby.

7. **Footpaths and Byways:**
Councillor Colin Butler confirmed that he had nothing to report.
Ashampstead Common notice board: Councillors recorded their thanks to Mr Mike Lawson for his excellent repair of the notice board. They agreed that a donation should be made to The Trussell Trust, nominated by Mr Lawson, in recognition of his efforts.

8. **Roads:**
Maintenance review: The Clerk was asked to write to West Berkshire Council regarding the poor road surface and other issues on Palmers Hill, Holly Lane and Noakes Hill.

9. **Open Spaces:**
Maintenance Review: Councillor Graham Light confirmed that ART had met the cost of removing two trees on the recreation ground. No further work was expected to be required at the present time.

10. District Parish Conference:

The Chairman advised that he had attended the event and that the principal matters discussed were as follows:

West Berkshire Council is moving forward with an environmental agenda and is giving it high priority. WBC declared a climate emergency in 2019 and aims for its operations to be 'carbon-zero' by 2030. They plan to commit £22m from their capital budget to environmental expenditure.

WBC aim to offer grants to about 120-130 households as part of a 'sustainable warmth' programme. This would involve funding for better insulation and more efficient boilers, amongst other things.

The environmental policies of large landowners such as Yattendon Estates will play an important part in determining what happens in individual parishes so it is important that Parish and Town Councils are in touch with their local landowners about this.

In future, all planning applications will be closely scrutinised for details of the energy consumption and energy efficiency of the proposed development. They plan to ask the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for guidance on how they (WBC) can include greater efficiency and carbon reduction in their local plan.

WBC intends to discuss with Parish and Town councils the possibility of developing alternative energy sources to be used by small communities, for example heat pumps that could serve several properties.

11. Planning:

Applications

22/01287 - Walnut Tree Cottage, Ashampstead Common: Construction of new garage. The Councillors unanimously agreed that an objection should be submitted due to the height of the building and the windows in the roof which were deemed unnecessary for the stated use. If granted, a condition ought to be applied such that the garage could not be occupied other than for purposes ancillary/incidental to the residential use of the cottage.

22/01437 - The Grain Store, Wyld Court Farm: Change of use to B8 storage. The Councillors unanimously agreed that an objection should be submitted due to its impact on highways. It is suggested that the reported traffic movements for existing use were exaggerated, having regard to the number of harvests and total contents of the store. In addition much of the existing traffic would be very localised and some on farm. The proposed use would have a much greater impact on other local roads which in some cases are partially single track, as with roads through Ashampstead. Whilst signage advises that such roads are unsuitable for HGVs, it will not stop their use when drivers are relying on satnavs to travel to/from Reading or east on the M4. The Clerk was asked to submit the observations to WBC.

*Update*s

22/00265/CERTE - Walnut Tree Cottage, Ashampstead Common: Use of land as domestic curtilage incidental to the property. Granted by WBC.

22/00480 - Redwood, Burnt Hill: Erection of 3 bay frontage carport. Refused by WBC.

12. Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve:

Update: The Clerk confirmed that £7,151.05 is currently held but that this must be spent by October 2024.

Councillor Graham Light advised that ART were obtaining quotations for a new fence and possibly a new climbing frame. The Clerk suggested that the saving on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations could be allocated to such improvements together with part of the maintenance reserve, although this would restrict any other expenditure on Flowers Piece.

13. Defibrillator Training:

The Clerk was asked to obtain potential dates for a second training course.

The Chairman will register the defibrillator on the national database so that its whereabouts can be advised in the event of a local emergency call.

14. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

Councillor Graham Light confirmed that the event had been well supported despite the disappointing weather.

15. Finance:

The Clerk presented his report for the year to date and explained that he had moved the savings on the Platinum Jubilee to the Flowers Piece maintenance budget for now, pending a decision on playground improvements.

Payments were authorised for the following:

Clerk's net salary	£234.40
Clerk's expenses	£ 86.57
Grass cutting	£619.60
PAYE on Clerk's salary	£ 87.80

Payments had been authorised prior to the meeting for the following:

Jubilee celebrations	£1,133.99
Materials for notice board repair	£ 135.66

It was agreed that donations under Section 137 should also be made of £50 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance, £25 to Macmillan Cancer Support, £25 to Marie Curie South Region and £50 to The Trussell Trust.

16. Any Other Business:

Councillor Rita Butler advised that she was currently preparing instructions for the management of the new website.

17. Date of the Next Meeting:

The next Ordinary Meeting would convene at 7.00pm on 5th September 2022.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.13pm

18. Parishioners' Questions: There were none