

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held in The Sports Pavilion, Ashover
Tuesday 19 DECEMBER 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

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PRESENT

Councillors E Willmot (Chairman), R Fidler (Vice-Chairman), J Cook, J Daykin, S Dronfield,
E Hayward, C Miller, M Thomas
Derbyshire County Councillor B Lewis
District Councillor Mrs H Wetherall
S. Atkinson (Parish Clerk)
Members of the Public – 15

159/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs R Early and Mrs L Hunter-Bott.

160/23 Variation of Order of Business

There was no change in the order of business.

161/23 Declaration of Members Interests and Requests for Dispensation

A declaration of interest was received from Cllr E Willmot for Planning Application

[23/00922/FL](#)

162/23 Recording and Filming of Council and Committee Meetings

Members of the Public and Councillors were reminded that:-

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council, committees and subcommittees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings. Meetings or parts of meetings from which the press and public are excluded may not be filmed or recorded. Members of the public are permitted to film or record meetings to which they are permitted access, in a non-disruptive manner.

163/23 Public Speaking

County Councillor B Lewis continued to campaign for average speed cameras along the A632 in Ashover Parish. However, the cost of this provision could not be met by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and an evidence based bid would be required to Central Government. The data collection following provision of the speed indicator devices at Kelstedge would assist in this bid. Cllr Lewis had written to Derbyshire Constabulary requesting a visible Police presence along the route and that enforcement is pursued. Cllr Lewis confirmed that he would attend a proposed Public Meeting in the spring to be organised by the Parish Council; the MP, Chief Constable, Police & Crime Commissioner and DCC Highway Officers would also be invited.

Cllr Lewis outlined safety measures already undertaken and proposed by DCC including photovoltaic warning signs, reduced speed limits, road markings, rumble strips, cats eyes, new signage at Span Carr and installation of hard verges to increase visibility splays.

District Councillor Mrs H Wetherall spoke on behalf of members of the public present on the safety of the A632 and ongoing concerns relating to speed and accidents including fatalities. Cllr Wetherall presented a 'Significant Events Timeline' including a 'speed report' undertaken by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) in April 2023 at three locations along the A632 i.e. Amber Lane, Span Carr, Kelstedge village. Councillor Wetherall made the point that fatality statistics are likely to be understated as they do not take into account accident victims taken to hospital who later die of their injuries. Councillor Lewis acknowledged the point and will seek clarification.

Cllr Wetherall requested that more and quicker action is taken by DCC for safety measures along the A632, including the installation of average speed cameras, to help prevent further fatalities.

Members of the public expressed fears of further fatalities along the A632 unless action is undertaken quickly to enforce speed limits. A resident offered his property as a suitable location for a Police enforcement vehicle.

Cllr Lewis acknowledged that the A632 through Ashover Parish was one of the most dangerous roads in the County. Cllr Lewis would ascertain why the speed limit through Kelstedge had not been reduced to 30mph during the A632 Speed Limit Order 2021.

Members raised questions with Cllr Lewis relating to drainage issues along Milken Lane and the significant number of potholes. DCC would be receiving additional grant funding to repair potholes and this work was underway.

A Member raised questions with Cllr Mrs Wetherall relating to party affiliation.

Crime figures for October were noted.

164/23 Exclusion of Public

No items were taken in exclusion.

165/23 Minutes

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held 21 November 2023 are approved as a correct record.

Resolution: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held 21 November 2023 are approved as a correct record.

166/23 Planning

Application Number: [23/00978/FLH](#)

Proposal: Installation of a submerged packaged sewage treatment system within the front lawn

Address: Belland Lane House Belland Lane Stonedge Ashover

Applicant: Dr Richard Meredith

Case Officer: Curtis Rouse

No Comments

Application Number: [23/01010/FLH](#)

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension

Address: Beehive Cottage Alton Hill Alton Chesterfield

Applicant: Mr Derrick Priestley

Case Officer: Curtis Rouse

No Comments

Application Number: [23/00923/FL](#)

Proposal: Replacement agricultural building to house livestock, store fodder and implements and provision of workshop space

Address: Wine Tavern Farm Coldharbour Lane Ashover Chesterfield

Applicant: Dr Tim Parkin

Case Officer Alice Lockett

No Comments

Application Number: [23/01027/OL](#)

Proposal: Outline application (means of access submitted) for the erection of four dwellings on land to the south, revised scheme of 20/00222/OL

Address: The Grange Ashover Road Kelstedge Ashover

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Smith

Case Officer: Steven Wigglesworth

Comments: Ashover Parish Council objects to the proposal as the site is outside the Settlement Development Limit, is not allowed under Local Plan policy SS9 and does not comply with Ashover Neighbourhood Plan Policy AP2 i.e. Development Proposals outside the Limits to Development: This proposal does not respect the character of existing settlements and their setting and would impact on the surrounding countryside.

Vehicles are continuously parked on the adjacent highway, causing issues to moving traffic, including public transport. Vehicles parking along this lane may overspill into the slip road to Kelstedge from the A632 causing a highway hazard.

Application Number: [23/01032/FL](#)

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension to existing cottage holiday let (revised scheme of previously refused 23/00802/FL)

Address: Clover View Clover House Farm Screetham Lane Ashover

Applicant: Mr J Pembery

Case Officer: Steven Wigglesworth

No Comments

Application Number: [23/01062/FL](#)

Proposal: Change of Use of the building from agricultural barn to a Class B2 woodchip production facility, and associated external storage of unprocessed timber, together with the regularisation of the changes to the external elevations/materials and associated works.

Address: Amber House Vernon Lane Kelstedge Ashover

Applicant: Mr Steve Watson

Case Officer: Steven Wigglesworth

Comments: Ashover Parish Council Members questioned aspects of the application including:- Previous Environmental Health noise comments not included, the statement that

the wood would be locally sourced and used on site and adjacent residents not being made aware of the application.

Members objected to the application under Ashover Neighbourhood Plan policies:-

AP2 – Development Proposals outside the Limits to Development: This proposal does not respect the character of existing settlements and their setting and would impact on the surrounding countryside.

AP7 – New Small Scale Employment: This activity generates unacceptable noise, is not compatible with local character, would be harmful to the living conditions of neighbouring residents (increased traffic Vernon Lane) and uses would cause serious harm in terms of road safety or free flow of traffic (A632 Amber Lane).

Serious concerns have been expressed on numerous occasions regarding the safety of the A632 and several accidents have occurred along this route and at the point of access to the house. Access raises very serious highway issues regarding HGV's and their manoeuvring ability at this point on a busy main 'A' road with a history of accidents, sometimes fatal.

The Highways Authority and Police must be fully consulted on this proposal.

The River Amber is already under investigation for pollution and as it runs close to this proposal, contamination possibility must be considered.

Due to the above serious concerns, Ashover Parish Council requests that this application is considered by Planning Committee.

Application Number: [23/00922/FL](#)

Proposal: Retrospective application for livestock handling area cover and rough yards concreting (Amended Plans)

Address: Hill Top Farm Hilltop Road Ashover Chesterfield

Applicant: Mr Paul Willmot

Case Office: Alice Lockett

No Comments

Application Number: [23/01064/FL](#)

Proposal: Conversion of a barn into an annexe for the use of dependent relatives and for future use as a holiday let (private drainage system)

Address: Brockhurst Farm Oaks Lane Brockhurst Ashover

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Chris and Hayley Camm

Case Officer: Steven Wigglesworth

No Comments

167/23 Parish Maintenance

A common land audit had been undertaken and the results presented to Members.

Resolution:

- (i) That no action is taken regarding tipped materials on a private access to Roach Quarry (APC2)
- (ii) That the current possible use of common land at Allen Lane (APC12) remains unchanged.
- (iii) That the common land at Eastwood Lane (APC9) is left undisturbed.
- (iv) That The Pinfold at Milltown may be a potential site for clearance by volunteers.
- (v) That the continuing 'Agreements' on the following sites and renewed in 2018/2019 are noted:-
 - APC5 – Dark Lane/Haytop Road
 - APC14 – Spitewinter West Side
 - APC15 – Spitewinter East Side
- (vi) That the following sites are surveyed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) with a view to future projects for the Climate Change Working Group:-
 - APC1 – Oaks Lane Quarry, Brockhurst
 - APC4 – Coldhabour/Berridge Lane
 - APC10 – Hill Top Quarry

168/23 Health & Safety

Highway safety issues on Hill Road/Hillside were raised following a recent accident.

Resolution: That Derbyshire County Council is asked to replace the Streetlamp and signage as soon as possible to ensure the junction is well lit.

169/23 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) A632 at Kelstedge

The SIDs had been added into the Assets Register at a cost of £5,632 ex VAT for the 2no. units. Derbyshire County Council had now installed both poles and the SIDs would be put in place as soon as possible and this would require traffic management at approximately £600.00.

Resolution:

- (i) That traffic management costs are approved for the installation of the 2no. SIDs at Kelstedge.**
- (ii) That inclusion of the 2no. SIDs on the Assets Register is noted.**

170/23 River Amber

The Environment Agency would investigate run off upstream and monitor any run-off from farms and septic tanks.

Noted.

171/23 Climate Change

Members considered a presentation stating the Parish Council's actions to date and possible projects to comply with the Environment Act 2021. Recommendations were put forward to further comply with the Environment Act 2021 and Improvement Plan 2023 to "restore nature and improve the environmental quality of the air, our waters and our land."

Resolution:

- (i) That the Parish Council collaborates with community buildings to explore scope for sharing of best practice in building efficiency and energy procurement.**
- (ii) That the Parish Council supports the work of its Climate Change Working Group in the following projects going forward:-**
 - Wildlife Corridor – to consider funding requirements.**
 - Engagement with school – to consider funding requirements.**
 - Common Land – to support potential funding need for a DWT survey.**
 - Living Roof bus shelters – to develop potential and funding ideas.**
 - Co-ordination with NEDDC & DWT – to collaborate as appropriate.**

172/23 Parish Events

The Christmas Lights Switch-on had taken place on Sunday 03/12/2023 and despite the snowy weather, had been successful. The risk assessment had been updated to reflect the weather conditions on the day and the Parish Council contractor had gritted the event area. The Parish Council presented the retired Town Crier with an engraved tankard and thanks go to all the volunteers and Santa for making the event a memorable occasion for all.

Resolution:

- (i) That storage possibilities for Santa's Grotto are explored.**
- (ii) That Chocolate Coins left over from the event are donated to the Parish Party.**

173/23 News Items

Future news items would include updates on the A632 safety campaign, defibrillator use and climate change action.

Noted.

(It was proposed and seconded that Ashover Parish Council Standing Order 3(x) be suspended [9.00pm] and the meeting continued.)

174/23 Future Projects

There were no updates on the provision of a chess table under a Government initiative. The anti-litter poster campaign had been progressed with the Primary School.

Noted.

175/23 Car Park Access

The Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd. Trustees had taken legal advice and would provide further information in due course.

Noted.

176/23 Employee Cover

Consideration was given to cover for an employee during absence.

Resolution: That North East Derbyshire District Council is requested to cover cleaning duties for the public toilets during employee absence.

177/23 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report, including Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) newsletters and correspondence received had been circulated to Members.

Noted.

178/23 Councillor Audit

The Councillor Audit had taken place on 12/12/2023 in accordance with Financial Regulation 2.2 and GDPR, with no matters arising.

Noted.

179/23 Monthly Financial Report

A budget appraisal and report/reconciliation from the computerised accounts detailing account balances, cheques/transactions issued/authorised and cheques received and any outstanding receipts considered. The report was put forward for signature by the Chairman. Details of any cheques signed or for signature by authorised Councillors and BACS invoices were confirmed.

Resolution: That the Financial Report for November 2023 is confirmed and signed by the Chairman and that any cheques/BACS authorised by designated signatories, are confirmed.

DATE	PAYEE	GOODS/SERVICE	TOTAL (£)
01/11/2023	Muktubs	Cemetery skip – green	156.00
01/11/2023	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Cemetery Maintenance	681.60
02/11/2023	NEST	Pension Contributions	99.67
07/11/2023	Water Plus	Allotments Water	20.29
08/11/2023	Glasdon UK Ltd.	Memorial Seat – Courts	1100.34
08/11/2023	Salisbury & Wood	6 tons Road Salt	712.80
08/11/2023	Screwfix	Chain/Lock for courts memorial seat	54.98
08/11/2023	S Atkinson	Chair Allowance Reception	105.88
08/11/2023	Water Plus	Public WCs Water	58.94
14/11/2023	Kids Kandy Company	Chocolate coins – Xmas Event	94.76
16/11/2023	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Village shrub beds tidy up	317.02
16/11/2023	Shed Grounds Maintenance	Removal of self-sets in Cemetery	1477.13
21/11/2023	Eon	Public WCs Electricity	94.12
29/11/2023	Employees	Salaries/Reimbursements/Mileage	2006.17
29/11/2023	Coeval	2no. SID units for Kelstedge	6758.40

180/23 Chairman's Reception Gifts

The Chairman thanked Members for their continuing support as volunteers. (Local Government Act 1972 ss15 (5) and 34 (5)).

The meeting closed at 09.10pm