



COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 14th September 2021

Present:

Cllrs Verner, McArdle, Hanks, Fenner, & Marsh
Clerk L Randall

In Attendance:

Resident from the Ridge and District Cllr Simpson

Public Participation

There was no Public Participation

218694 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Bailey, Le-Cornu, Clark, Adams & Silsby

218695 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hanks declared an interest in item 218700 planning application 21/02112/FUL

218696 Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th August 2021 were approved. They were duly signed by **Cllr Fenner**.

218697 Matters Arising

- **Clerk** advised she had received an email regarding the funds for the Platinum Picnic 2022. It was agreed further discussion would take place at future meetings.
- **Clerk** advised she had received a further complaint from a resident regarding noise issues on the Recreation Ground, WBC were now investigating and the Senior Community Coordinator was looking into matters.

218698 Report from District Councillors

The District Councillors' report had been circulated before the meeting. Items covered were:- Faraday Road Fires, Lawrence's Lane Thatcham, Local Plan, Covid Recovery, Education, Adult Social Care, Housing and Leisure. **District Councillor Simpson's** report included: Ashmore Green Farm, School pick up on The Ridge, Slanting Hill Planning Application and Disturbance on the Recreation Ground. A copy of the report can be obtained from the **Clerk**. Further discussion took place regarding the speeding issues on The Ridge, Members agreed to involve this in the NDP open day to gauge residents interest to take this forward. District Cllr Simpson would work with schools and residents to bring this matter to the forefront.

218699 Clerk's Report

- **Clerk** advised she had received a further email regarding the new field recently opened in the WAG. It was agreed that the issues raised would be investigated and a response would be sent.
- **Clerk** advised that **Cllr McArdle** had requested to attend some training via NALC regarding Bio- diversity.
- **Clerk** advised she had received a request to install a memorial bench on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed to investigate the benches available and also the positions on the Recreation Ground. **Clerk** would investigate further and advise resident.
- **Clerk** advised she had already booked holiday for 2022. Impact on meetings would be discussed nearer the time.
- The Acland Hall rental would be reverting to original costs; **Clerk** asked if the Parish Council meetings should continue in the main hall or revert back to the committee room. It was agreed for the time being to remain in the main hall

218700 Planning Matters

If members of the Public would like to comment on an application, they should check the advice on our website:

<https://coldashpc.org.uk/the-council/planning/>

a) Planning Applications

21/02079/CERTE Studio Hazelbury Stoney Lane Ashmore Green –
*Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use: Use of building as self-contained dwelling. **Objection – Unanimous***

- **Insufficient information to comment as to whether this is lawful, in the Parish Councils view a full application should be submitted.**

21/02096/HOUSE Adjacent to Parish 39 Northway Thatcham –
*Proposed single storey rear extension and associated alterations. **No Comment***

Cllr Hanks had declared an interest in the following application.

21/02112/FUL Adjacent to Parish Land at Lawrences Lane Thatcham –
*Change of use to 7 no. Gypsy/Traveller pitches comprising 7 no: static caravans, 7 no: day rooms, 7 no: touring caravans, and associated works **Objection – Unanimous***

- While this site is not within our Parish its location is immediately adjacent and our parishioners will be affected by the proposed usage.
- We have not been able to locate the orange notice advertising the application on this site
- We note that the application has answered ‘no’ with regards to the question whether work has already started. As we all know this is incorrect.
- This previously rural site is close to the AONB and is outside the settlement boundary.
- This is a quiet and narrow rural lane that is enjoyed by our parishioners for walking. This has recently been recognised by the proposal to close this lane to through traffic by certifying it as an “Active Travel” route.

The proposed application and the corresponding traffic will put at risk the quiet and rural nature of this lane.

- This narrow lane is barely wide enough for a car. As such the access is unsuitable for caravans and mobile homes/static caravans. It is also unsuitable for the refuse lorries that would need to access the site.
- This application will change the character of this area.
- The application gives no description of the materials which were proposed to be used and have presumably been used for the day room buildings.
- There have been previous applications to change the use of this site and all have been refused.
- CAPC has great concerns about highway safety should this application be granted. The narrow lane is used by pedestrians, which has greatly increased since the Covid lockdown. The narrow nature of the lane means that there are very few places for pedestrians to stand when large vehicles are approaching.
- Destroying the countryside
- Inappropriate development (i.e. gypsy/traveller's pitches without back up facilities)
- As is widely known, the work on this site was started before permission was obtained. When this application is refused we insist that the site be returned to its previous state.
- We have concerns that the concrete hard standings will lead to water runoff into the surrounding areas.

b) **WBC (West Berks Council) Planning Decisions** Members noted following decisions:

21/01854/CERTP Russets Stoney Lane - reworking of loft conversion with new rear box dormer **LAWFUL**

21/01739/HOUSE Heathfield Gladstone Lane-Proposed single-storey side extension. **APPROVED** *Previous Parish Council Comments No Objection – Unanimous*

21/01855/HOUSE Russets Stoney Lane Ashmore Green - Single storey rear extension. **APPROVED** *Previous Parish Council Comments No Objection – Unanimous*

c) **Appeals**
There were no appeals.

218701 Finance

1. **Items for payment.** Members agreed Items for Payment on Sheet No 6 2021/2022.

Summary of sheet:

Playground repairs and improvements - £3648.12

Litter pick £65.00

Electric Office £126.14

Telephone £ 461.74

Preschool Fence £ 1476.00

Website £10.80

2. **Bank reconciliation** – Members noted the Bank Reconciliation for August 2021

3. **Payments against Budget** – Members noted the Analysis of Payments

Against Budget to September 2021

218702 Members Bid

Cllr McArdle gave an overview on suggested projects for future grants and bids. These would be presented at the NDP open day in October to see what the public interest would be. Projects would then be ready to be considered for West Berkshire Councils CIL Grant which would not require match funding when available. The Parish Council approved the list of possible projects for the NDP open day.

*Standing Orders were suspended at 20.09 for District Cllr Simpson to speak.
Standing orders resumed at 20.10.*

218703 Policies

Both the Social Media Policy and the Crime and Disorder policies were reviewed and approved. The next review date would be August 2023.

218704 Libraries

The contribution to West Berkshire Council for the libraries was discussed and it was agreed that the amount of £2500 would be given. This had previously been approved in the budget at the beginning of 2021.

218705 Remembrance Parade 2021

Cllr Fenner advised the Parish Councillors that she had spoken with the Parade Marshall and he had proposed a shorter parade with less attendees due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation. He had contacted all parties involved to see if they were happy with suggested changes but was waiting for some responses from the Scouts and Guides. The Parish Council agreed that the normal Parade route was preferred but they were happy to wait for the Scouts and Guides recommendation. It was noted that all activities in the Church Ground or Church were the responsibility of the Church authorities. There would also be a Donor Event taking place on the same date in the Fisher room. The Cold Ash War Memorial Restoration & Preservation Action Group asked to be kept up to date with any arrangements and timings.

218706 Committee Reports

1st September - NDP Steering Group – **Cllr McArdle** advised that all members of the steering group were having a 1-2-1 with the planning Consultant. The design guide had been reviewed. Mr. B Woodhams will be involved in the flooding aspect. **Cllr McArdle** thanked the Clerk for her help with arrangements for the open day in October. He advised that Laura Farris MP was unable to attend. Timelines for the NDP would be reviewed at the next meeting. Parish Online now had the TPO and HELAAS information. **Clerk** advised she had received the quotes for the leaflets and advised that the recommendation was for the more expensive A4 leaflet. The Parish Council discussed and agreed A5 would be preferable. **Clerk** would advise the printers.

218707 Meetings with other bodies –

2nd September - NE Thatcham Development Coalition – **Cllr Fenner** gave a brief report as a summary had previously been sent to Councillors. The next meeting was yet to be advised but **Cllr McArdle** would attend.

31st August – Laura Farris MP Meeting – **Cllr McArdle** gave a brief report as a summary had been sent to all Councillors, Cllr McArdle was happy to engage further with this matter.

218708 Councillors' Questions

There were no questions

218709 Correspondence

A list of correspondence received and sent since the meeting held on 24th August 2021 had been circulated as Information Sheet no 6/September 2021 and was noted by Members.

218710 Part Two – Members of the Public are invited to leave the meeting

Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was Resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under Part 2, the public and press be asked to leave the meeting.

PART TWO

Councillor Duties and Attendance

Confidential Minute no. 54 refers

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed..... Date.....
Chairman