

GREAT ASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL (“the Council”)

Minutes of the meeting held:

At 7.30pm

On Tuesday 15 October 2024

At Great Ashfield Village Hall

Present:

Councillors:

Mr J Harding (Chair for the meeting), Mr S Miles, Mr N Jones Mr J Myers, Mrs D Stick, Mr M Livens

Clerk:

Mr D Ogden

District Councillor

Mr R Winch

Apologies for absence:

1. Record any Councillors’ apologies for absence

Mr B Barker (Councillor) and Mr A Mellen (County Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest

No such declarations were made

3. To consider the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (16 July 2024) were agreed to represent an accurate record of that meeting and were duly approved.

4. Review of the Outstanding Actions Log

i. Streetlights. After various enquiries re the proximity of lighting to key areas such as school bus pick-up points Cllr Miles confirmed his view that the top priority for renewal was the light known as Unit 2, Elmswell Road. Mr Ogden advised that he had received a revised quote of £1,800+VAT for the work. It was agreed that this work should be given the go-ahead. **ACTION MR OGDEN**

ii. Speed-check. It was confirmed that the individual monitoring speed-check data (alongside Cllr Stick) was willing to continue but that no volunteers to use the speed-gun equipment had been identified. **CLOSED**

iii. Village Newsletter. No volunteer has been identified to take on production of the magazine. Cllr Harding confirmed he was willing to produce the first edition of 2025 and that he would investigate a possible partnership with the Badwell Ash publication.

ACTION CLLR HARDING

iv. Welcome pack for new residents. It was agreed that relevant information is included in the magazine so no decision until a resolution has been identified to that issue (see above). **CLOSED**

v. District Council funding for streetlight renewal. Mr Winch confirmed that a £1500 grant was available. **ACTION MR OGDEN** to submit appropriate forms

vi. Listed buildings within the parish. A list has been circulated. **CLOSED**

vii. Mr. Ogden confirmed appropriate forms had been filed in respect of Mr Livens - co-option to the council. **CLOSED**

viii. Secure access to banking facilities and revise mandate. Remains outstanding

ix. make payment of invoices approved at previous meeting. **CLOSED**

5. Report from District Councillor Richard Winch

Mr Winch highlighted the following issues for information purposes

i. Refuse collection arrangements. Revised arrangements (at national level) will take effect from March 2026 including collection of food waste and the acceptance of glass as (specific) domestic recyclable material. It was noted that there was likely to be a negative effect on Church funding as a glass recycling bin was currently hosted on their land with the proceeds accruing to the Church.

ii. Reactive Public Realm. This initiative may be able to provide services such as footpath clearance as required rather than on the normal twice-annual schedule. Mr Winch asked that any requests for action be channelled via the Clerk.

Mr Harding asked for more information regarding 'Living Well in Winter Grants' and whether they may be available for fitness activities in the village hall, perhaps as 'taster' sessions or to fund an instructor. A number of other potential activities were discussed, possibly in conjunction with the Village Hall's management committee. Mr Winch confirmed that this may be appropriate and suggested that considering multiple activities would make for a stronger application. **ACTION MR HARDING.**

6. Reports from County Council

In the absence of Mr Mellen, the reports provided were reviewed; no issues arose.

7. Consideration of setting the precept for 2025-26

Mr Ogden noted that the deadline for submission was 31 January 2025; so there was no immediate necessity to reach conclusions. The figures presented, representing the major expenditure items were accepted. Mr Jones requested a summary of regular obligations be prepared. **ACTION MR. OGDEN.** It was noted that items of exceptional expenditure had often been funded by grants; Mr Winch confirmed that there was no reason why similar arrangements would not be available in 2025-26. The analysis of the appropriate uplift to the Clerk's remuneration was agreed in principle. Mr Myers asked for a summary of recent surpluses/deficits in discrete financial years. **ACTION MR. OGDEN**

8. Village Maintenance

- a. Required repairs to the bridge over the stream by the church
- b. Public footpath post, top of Green Lane

Mr Miles advised that minor repairs were required at both sites, this being the responsibility of Suffolk Highways. **ACTION MR. OGDEN** to contact appropriate department

9. Public Forum

One member of the public was in attendance. He expressed concern over the effect of the movement of heavy goods vehicles associated with Portable Space Ltd., but did acknowledge that the frequency had reduced. Mr Winch advised that the operator was bound by commitments but acknowledged that there was no realistic way of assessing whether requirements were being adhered to. It was suggested that the member of the public who raised concerns may wish to keep a record of movements and that if this indicated an issue that needed to be addressed further steps would be considered.

10. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall. The principal focus of that meeting to be the setting of the Council's precept. Cllr Myers to chair.

11. Any Other Business

Approval was sought and given for the payment of an invoice (£60) in respect of website hosting.

A planning application at 1 The Grange, Ashfield Grange raised no concerns.

An opportunity to purchase an extended warranty for the Speed-watch equipment at £199pa was declined.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Agreed to represent an accurate record of the meeting

Cllr Myles, Chair – meeting of 13 January 2025

David Ogden, Clerk to the Council