

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashby cum Fenby Parish Council held at Ashby cum Fenby Church Hall on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs. John Shaw (Chairman), Thomson and Shaw (Minutes).

Apologies: Cllrs. Pettigrew and Hornby

In attendance: 3 members of the public initially, joined by another during the meeting making 4.

01:09/23 **Declarations of Interest:**

- a) To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.
None
- b) To note dispensations given to any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below.
None

02:09/23 **Apologies for Absence:**

To receive any apologies from Members not able to attend the meeting.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Pettigrew and Hornby. Clerk absent due to illness.

03:09/23 **Open Forum:**

Two local residents commented about the serious drainage and flooding issues that the village has suffered on numerous occasions. They said they have had little response from letters and emails sent to NELC. They were attending the meeting to ask the Parish Council to support them in their endeavours to urge representatives of NELC to act upon these serious issues. When Chapel Lane flooded many times years ago, local residents paid a total of £50,000 which was match funded by NELC when Roy Oxby was in charge in 2000. Since then, Chapel Lane's flooding problem no longer exists. The resident further reported that during the previous week, after heavy rain, it was impossible to walk from the top of Post Office Lane to Hall Farm due to flooding. In January 2023, there was water across the road and again in February/March, flooding occurred again – Cllr. Philip Jackson was copied into emails from the resident but no action was taken. The resident went on to say that at 7am one Saturday, he met with Cllrs. Jackson and Pettigrew to show them blocked drains at the top of Post Office Lane to show them the extent of the problem. In July 2023, a sludge gulper had been sent by NELC through the village but the resident reported that he checked afterwards and 11 gullies had not been inspected or cleared. Near Ashby Acres down Chapel Lane, one drain had been missed completely – after the resident contacted Lisa Logan from NELC,

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they sent a vehicle to clear just one drain – the resident wondered how this action can be cost effective? Another missed drain was the one which sits proud of the road opposite the Church Hall together with 2 others nearby (one near Ash Trees). The drain sitting proud had been marked by NELC but ignored. The resident had again contacted Lisa Logan to ask how often the Ashby drains were supposed to be cleared as there didn't seem to be a plan in place to ensure flooding is avoided. Out of the 11 drains, 3 still haven't been cleared. The resident wanted to know why Cllr. Jackson wasn't doing anything about it. Rural areas should be cleared twice a year apparently and Urban three times a year. Lisa Logan responded to queries saying that the drain issue was classed as low priority. The resident said one drain had grass and the other was blocked. Water was running down the grass of the Bell House on the corner of Post Office Lane – Anglian Water attended and agreed it was a serious issue and that it might be the water table as it was blocked solid. The resident reported that mud was bubbling out on that corner to Cllr. Jackson on 1st April but no action was taken.

Conversations moved onto the lack of objections on the planning portal by local residents to the additional 23 planned lodges at Willow Lakes. Cllr. Thomson commented that without residents actually lodging objections, NELC might assume that the village has no problem with the additional lodges. If they were to go ahead, drainage would be an even more serious issue in the village as the water/sewerage would flow down into the village – there is a glaciated valley between Ashby and Brigsley. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had objected every step of the way about the planned Lodges but the residents in attendance were urged to add their own objections which would add weight to the Parish Council's.

A suggestion was made by a resident to have a one-way system in the village around the two new houses opposite the top of Third Lane. He also commented on the stagnant pond near Hall Farm, suggesting that it is never cleaned out and that it could possibly be used to help to stop flooding. The resident also commented that it would be useful to know when the roads were scheduled to be swept in the village as it should be twice a year.

Another resident joined the meeting and commented that the main issue in the village was the water – which will worsen if the Lodges are built as a lot of the excess water is currently soaked up in the paddocks where the Lodges are planned to be built. It was discussed that in the past when there have been large scale plans that may affect the village, a public extraordinary meeting has been called for residents to be involved and to have a chance to ask questions and find out all the facts. The problem remains that NELC take more notice of individual residents' objections than the Parish Council. They add more weight. The resident asked about the house that is to be built near Fenby House – Cllr. J. Shaw replied that the Parish Council had objected to the original plans and that revised plans included underground garages. The resident commented that she would speak to the owner of the house personally to alleviate her concerns.

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The resident who had been commenting on the village flooding issues commented that the underground garage footings will cause further drainage problems for the surrounding fields and the village.

It was noted that the footpaths alongside the horse field hadn't been cut recently. It was also discussed that there are now 8 Air B & Bs in the village and that there has been an issue with occasional noise in the early hours. Apparently rules are due to change regarding Air B & Bs. It was also commented that people who rent in the village need to be respectful to their neighbours.

04:09/23 Minutes of the Previous

Meeting(s):

To approve the minutes of the meeting of 7th August 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as a true record.

05:09/23 Police Report:

No Police Report had been received in time for the meeting.

06:09/23 Finance & Governance:

a) To approve payment of accounts to 4th September 2023.

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved: -

Supplier	Description	Amount
T Kuzemczak	Wages Month 5 (August)	£XXX
HMRC re T Kuzemczak	Tax Month 5 (August)	£32.40
Southern Electric	Electricity Bill 4/7/23-1/8/23	£10.36

07:09/23 Planning:

None received.

08:09/23 Highways/Public Rights of Way:

The end of Post Office Lane is to become a Bridleway. Technically vehicles should not be down there. The horse excrement that was tipped next to that path made a resident's dog seriously ill. A base has been built in the horse field without planning permission and vehicles have churned up the land in that area. The owner, who has responsibility to ensure that area is managed properly, was invited to a Parish Council meeting but didn't attend.

09:09/23 Parish Assets & Projects:

a) Village Sign – the sign has been put right but is still relatively unsafe. There are two new poles but NELC want to charge excessive sums (£750 for the day) to close the

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road during their replacement. It was mooted as to whether or not the sign's location could be moved to avoid any road closure. The painting of the Church on the sign is well worn – there could be an open forum in the village to discuss whether the signs are needed and if so, where they could be placed. It was mentioned that village signs are much smaller elsewhere. Cllr. Hornby is exploring other options regarding the signs as this will impact the whole village.

A resident in attendance suggested the village should contract a grass cutter directly to make the village more presentable.

- b) Cllr. C. Shaw negotiated a free replacement battery for the Defibrillator.
- c) Nick Ramsden, due to move into 'Park View' shortly, has agreed to reinstate the village green sooner rather than later.

10:09/23 Village Newsletter:

The newsletter is ready and will be distributed at the end of September/early October. It was discussed that invoices need issuing for all advertising to ensure income is received to offset newsletter printing costs.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr. Hornby to ensure that all advertisers are invoiced for adverts already placed in this newsletter and previous editions.

11:09/23 Future Dates:

- a) Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023 at 7pm (a week later than normal as Clerk will have returned) – Ashby cum Fenby Church Hall.

The date was noted.

12:09/23 Personnel:

- a) To approve Clerk's wages and expenses payments.

RESOLVED: **That the wages and expenses be approved.**

Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider passing a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that public and press be excluded from the meeting for the matters set out below on the grounds that it could involve legal privilege and the likely disclosure of private and confidential information.

Date:

Signed: