

MINUTES of the Aspenden Parish Council meeting held REMOTELY VIA ZOOM on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present	Cllr Richard Blackburn (Chairman) Cllr Stuart Chambers Cllr Steve Kennedy County Councillor Jeff Jones 2 members of the public	Cllr Thomas Poulton (Vice Chairman) Cllr Andrew Huggins
Officer attending	Denise Anderson (Clerk)	

APOLOGIES

- 21.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Devonshire who had work commitments
It was resolved to approve Cllr Devonshire's absence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 21.2 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

21.3 The Chairman stated that he would move Agenda item 10.1 **Aspenden Bridleway 3** up the Agenda to allow a resident to speak on the matter. The Chairman explained he had received information from an Aspenden resident and landowner who had been contacted in relation to a proposal to re-designate Aspenden Bridleway 3 to a restricted byway on the back of historical mapping evidence. This had been referred to the Parish Council by the landowner to seek the views of residents. The Chairman had circulated this information to Councillors

The resident explained that he had been contacted 'out of the blue' by an individual who had researched this and had identified evidence showing that Aspenden Bridleway 3 is in fact an old road, and so should be recorded as a restricted byway and before the cut off day for applying to record public rights which is in five years' time. The resident explained that although such a change would have little impact on him, he thought there could be concerns about the redesignation to a restricted byway as this would mean having to allow use by horse and cart thus the present partly gated bridleway would have to be 'opened up' allowing access at all times and would create a direct route from the A507 through to the village.

County Councillor Jeff Jones suggested the Parish Council had a conversation with the Rights of Way Officer. The resident said as the matter was with the Parish Council and the community to decide if they would support this change he would 'hold off' making a decision but would write to the individual who had contacted him explaining the situation. Cllr Blackburn said he would contact the Rights of Way Officer and thanked the resident for consulting with the Parish Council on the matter.

Another member of the public asked whether the Parish Council had acknowledged the work done by an Aspenden resident in clearing the footpath along the Village Green and other areas in and around Aspenden. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had sent a letter of thanks. Cllr Jones confirmed that a letter had also been sent from Buntingford Town Council.

A further question asked if there was any update on the activities at Buttermilk Hall Farm. Cllr Huggins said he had no update.

Cllr Blackburn asked about the A10 Pedestrian Crossing sign. Cllr Jones stated that Highways had claimed no knowledge of the original email but Cllr Jones had resent it. He advised this would be a low priority and it could take a year to resolve.

The Chairman asked Cllr Jones to give his report whilst members of the public were still in attendance.

Winter Gritting Service

Cllr Blackburn had asked why The Street in Aspenden wasn't gritted where it appeared that roads in Westmill village were.

Cllr Jones explained that in total the County Council had 5,000kms of roads that need attention and for gritting that they have two routes; a Red Route and a Blue Route. The Red Route addressed all major routes; those used by emergency vehicles, access to hospitals, schools, doctors, bus routes etc. With regard to villages, HCC will grit one road in and out of the village, when assessed as worse weather and they have the capacity they will follow a Blue Route which would mean The Street would be gritted. Cllr Jones added that the HCC website provides details and maps of the gritting service.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/roadworks-and-road-closures/severe-weather/gritting-the-road/gritting-routes.aspx#priorities>

Village Sign

Cllr Jones stated that he had spoken to Highways and the design sent to Network Management needs to go through a design check. The Contractor WSP will charge for that service and they will quote for the whole job including the design check.

Cllr Jones added that problems have arisen as it is not 'like for like' and it wasn't the same as all the other signage around Buntingford although the Buntingford Civic Society had approved it. He stated the main problem was with the 30mph roundel which has to meet certain criteria and added if Aspenden aspired to have 20mph speed limit in the village a new sign would be required. Cllr Blackburn challenged this stating the Parish Council were led to believe a 20mph limit would be impossible. Cllr Jones said this would require a traffic check. Cllr Jones concluded saying that payment for the new signage would be a 'bit of a system' but it was hoped it would be installed by April 2021.

Aspenden Road Flooding

Cllr Jones reported a CCTV survey had been carried out. A member of the public raised the issue of flooding on the Aspenden Road from the Watermill Industrial Estate through to alongside the Village Green since 2015. Cllr Jones urged reporting through the Fault Reporting System.

Aspenden Road Footpath

A member of the public raised the issues on this footpath; overgrown vegetation and broken fencing. Cllr Jones stated that there was a S106 legal agreement with Dandara to address those issues on the path from Aspenden to Buntingford.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jones for his report to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

21.4 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020, having been circulated previously, were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

21.5 Aspenden Parish Council Chairman's Report (February 2021)

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to everyone. It is disappointing we find that lockdown restrictions are still in place but they are necessary and are effective as can be seen by the latest statistics – hopefully by the time of the next Parish Council meeting in May, we can meet in person.

I would like to publicly thank Chris Newman for his sterling efforts in tidying and clearing the village footpaths and road – we have written to him personally thanking him on behalf of the Parish Council.

East Herts have not circulated their refuse collection information for 2021 and dates are only published on their website for February – for residents' information:

- Friday 12th February – household waste (black bins);
- Friday 19th February – recycling (brown and blue lid bins);
- Friday 26th February – household waste (black bins);

The planning application for Phase 2 of the Dandara development (3/20/1950/FUL) remains undetermined. Following a recommendation for refusal by the HCC (highways), the applicants submitted a technical note from i-Transport which we feel does not address the numerous issues raised by local residents, the Parish Council, Buntingford Town Council and the highways authority. We will continue to monitor.

We have not forgotten the Village Survey and as soon as the current lockdown restrictions permit, we will be back in touch with residents to obtain their views on village matters.

A timely issue has been recently raised with East Herts as to why the whole of Aspenden Road/The Street is not gritted – we await a response.

Finally, I would like to thank Buntingford Medical Centre on behalf of all those residents who have so far received their COVID-19 vaccinations at The Drill Hall in Ware – the organisation and set up was excellent.

PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION

21.6 None for this meeting.

FINANCE

21.7 Finance report and payments authorised

To receive the finance report. The report is an appendix to the minutes.

Cllr Huggins suggested some additional explanatory wording on the Finance report would be helpful. The Clerk and Cllr Huggins will discuss this.

PLANNING

21.8 Planning Report

To receive the updated Planning Report. The report is an appendix to these minutes.

3/20/2229/HH 3/20/2230/LBC	Bourne Cottage The Street Aspenden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PF	Refused
-------------------------------	--	---------

21.9 Planning Applications since the Parish Council Meeting 16th November 2020

3/21/0065/HH	Foxglade The Street Aspenden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PG	There was no objection to this Planning Application by the Parish Council
--------------	--	---

21.10 Planning Applications

None

21.11 Dandara Phase 2

This agenda item was covered in the Chairman's Report.

HIGHWAYS

21.12 Village Sign

This agenda item was covered within Cllr Jones's report at the beginning of the meeting.

21.13 Aspenden Road Flooding

This agenda item was covered within Cllr Jones's report at the beginning of the meeting.

21.14 Aspenden Road Potholes

Cllr Blackburn said that he had reported this problem and had received notification that the problem had been assessed and the repair works have been identified with an aim to complete the works by 8th March.

PARISH MATTERS

21.15 Aspenden Bridleway 5

Cllr Huggins reported he had spoken to Rights of Way about this and the Wakely Lane sign but has no further update.

21.16 A10 Pedestrian Crossing Sign

This agenda item was covered within Cllr Jones's report at the beginning of the meeting.

21.17 Children's Playground

Cllr Blackburn reported that the Clerk had created a template document in preparation to source quotes from Playground contractors in readiness for the S106 contributions; 50% due prior to 5th occupation with the remainder before 15th occupation of the Dandara development. The Clerk confirmed that the roundabout safety surface had been repaired as had the broken slate on the bench.

21.18 Fly tipping at Buttermilk Hall Farm

This agenda item was covered within Public Participation at the beginning of the meeting.

21.19 Greening Campaign (Sustainability Team at HCC initiative)

Cllr Blackburn explained that this was an HCC initiative to work with communities to encourage a greener way of living. Cllr Chambers volunteered to investigate this and report back to the next meeting.

21.20 HCC Waste Local Plan Consultation

Cllr Jones encouraged the Parish Council to respond to this consultation and to cite the issue of the closed Household Waste Recycling Centre in Aspenden Road. He stated HCC are in favour of 'super sites' but this was not necessary for the Buntingford catchment area but a new, fit for purpose, Household Waste Recycling Centre possibly on the Buntingford Business Park was needed.

Cllr Jones added that EHDC had voted in favour of charging for the Brown Bin collection. Concerns were raised that this could increase fly tipping. Cllr Jones said that EHDC were not introducing any kerb side food waste collection but there were new regulations coming in and EHDC were waiting for those to be implemented. Cllr Blackburn raised the issue of no updated information about bin collections. Cllr Jones said a schedule hadn't been published due to the green waste being removed but every household would get a leaflet explaining the new green waste system.

21.21 Tree Survey

Cllr Blackburn reported that JW Salmon could not provide a tiered assessment of tree works in their survey and all works were required to be carried out.

An assessment of the trees along Aspenden Bridleway 5 that sit on the village green side of the fence would benefit from some pruning back but there were no health and safety issues.

Resolved to instruct J.W. Salmon to go ahead with the required tree works identified on their Tree Survey of November 2020.

21.22 Village Green and Pavilion Committee

No further update.

21.23 General Village Matters

I. Noticeboard and Litter Bins

Cllr Blackburn said the new noticeboard and two new bins were in his possession and the Parish Council were awaiting the lifting of lockdown instructions to install these. Cllr Poulton had offered his services and equipment.

II. Village Clean Up Day

Cllr Blackburn said this could potentially be March/April. Cllr Poulton suggested they target a new site. The graffiti under the bridge would also be tackled.

Councillors reported a white van loitering in the area. The Clerk will report this to the local PCSO and ask for an update Police report.

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE

21.24 Clerks Report

The Clerk recommended the HAPTC New Councillor Training sessions with dates in March & May. Councillors should book through the Clerk and the Parish Council will fund the training.

The Clerk asked Councillors to ensure their dedicated email addresses were set up and working.

Correspondence

Email - Electoral Review of East Hertfordshire District Council - Meeting with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on Wednesday 24th March at 7.00pm via zoom. The Clerk and Cllr Blackburn will attend this session.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Parish Council will await Government Guidance as to the nature of these meetings.

Information will be put on the Parish Council website www.aspendenpc.org.uk and the village noticeboard.

Date	Meeting
Monday 10th May 2021	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (Annual Parish Meeting TBA re. COVID-19 restrictions)
Monday 21st June 2021	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
Monday 13th September 2021	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
Monday 15th November 2021	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm
Monday 7th February 2022	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed _____

Date _____