

MINUTES of the ASPENDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 25th JULY 2023 at 7.00pm in WESTMILL VILLAGE HALL.

Present Cllr Richard Blackburn (Chairman) Cllr Stuart Chambers
 Cllr Tracy Devonshire Cllr Andrew Huggins
 No members of the public

Officer attending Denise Anderson (Clerk)

APOLOGIES

23.50 Apologies were received from Cllr Tom Poulton who was away.
It was resolved to approve Cllr Poulton's absence

Apologies were received from PCSO Paul Dearman but he sent a report.
Apologies were received from the District Councillors; Cllr Vicky Burt, Cllr Sue Nicholls and Cllr David Woolcombe due to their attendance at a EHDC meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23.51 None

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 2023-2024

23.52 The Chairman recommended that this Agenda item be deferred to the next meeting when it was expected to have the full complement of Councillors.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

23.53 No public present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

23.54 The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 having been circulated previously, were before the meeting and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

23.55 **Aspenden Parish Council Chairman's Report (July 2023)**

District Councillors

Aspenden Parish Council looks forward to welcoming the recently elected District Councillors, Cllr Sue Nicholls, Cllr Vicky Burt & Cllr David Woolcombe to the Parish Council meetings.

Village Green

Our thanks to Cllr Poulton and Cllr Chambers for re-stocking the planters and organising a team of residents to strim and tidy up the perimeter of the village green and playground area.

Fallen Tree

On 3rd July 2023 a tree fell down blocking Aspenden Road. The police were called and arranged for a tree surgeon to attend and clear the road. We have instructed a local tree surgeon to inspect the remaining trees on and around the Village Green.

Highways

The Parish Council and a number of local residents have continued to raise the issue of the poor condition of Aspenden Road and to date we have had little feedback from either East Herts or County Highways – we will continue to push for long term repairs.

Dandara Phase 2

A number of residents along with the Parish Council have reported to East Herts Planning Enforcement and our new District Councillors, the occupation of a number of the new Phase 2 houses, which is in clear breach of the conditions attached to the planning consent, namely that no houses are to be occupied until the highway works have been completed.

East Herts Planning Enforcement have recently responded to Cllr Nicholls as follows:

"Dandara are in consultation with HCC Highways to confirm road works specification and to put the necessary permissions in place for the works to proceed, such as Section 278 agreement. As it stands, I believe best case scenario is that works will be complete Oct 2023."

"Because the developer has engaged constructively in pursuit of a remedy to get the works done and because there is a reasonable timescale for completion there is no benefit in taking formal action at this stage against the developer and to the detriment of occupants. The case continues to be monitored to ensure delivery of the required works."

Planning

We have been made aware of Countryside Homes/Vistry Homes new public 'consultation' exercise in respect of Buntingford West (ie on land east of the bypass), which is likely to be a precursor to submitting a second planning application after their previous one was refused last year. We will continue to monitor.

A507 Weight Limit

A decision has been reached by Herts CC to implement a permanent weight restriction of 7.5T on the A507 between Clothall Road (Wallington Road roundabout) Baldock & Baldock Road Buntingford (junction with the A10) – a consultation period is currently running and ends on 10th August 2023 and subject to the outcome of the consultation exercise, Herts CC anticipate the scheme will be implemented in Autumn 2023.

Buntingford Recycling Centre

We have been aware of a planning application submitted by Hertfordshire Spatial Planning Unit to convert the Recycling Centre on the Watermill Industrial Estate into a vehicle charging and parking facility for the HertsLynx Bus Service – to date the Parish Council have not been formally notified as a Statutory Consultee. We are concerned that this will simply generate further traffic and use of Aspenden Road by large vehicles – we will continue to monitor.

Pat & Roger Murray

We were concerned to hear of the recent traffic accident involving Pat & Roger Murray – I am pleased to say Pat is now out of hospital and both she and Roger are recuperating at home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

PARISH COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION

23.56 None for this meeting

FINANCE

23.57 Finance report and payments authorised

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

23.58 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022-2023

The Clerk confirmed that all the necessary requirements had been carried out for the AGAR process and the Council was fully compliant.

23.59 Parish Council Bank Account

The Clerk reported she had investigated opening a new bank account for the Parish Council and confirmed this all had to be done online and certain information was required which she would collect from Councillors.

PLANNING

23.60 Planning Report

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

3/23/0796/FUL	Little Meadow Baldock Road Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9RH	Approved
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23.61 Planning Applications since the Parish Council meeting on 23rd May 2023

3/23/1083/HH	Home Farm The Street Aspenden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PB	There was no objection to this Planning Application by the Parish Council but they submitted comments
3/23/0966/HH	Lakeside The Street Aspenden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 9PG	There was no objection to this Planning Application by the Parish Council but they submitted comments

23.62 Planning Applications

None

23.63 Buntingford Recycling Centre – HertsLynx Charging Centre

Cllr Blackburn had raised this in his Chairman's Report and stated that he would contact HCC Spatial Planning to ask why Aspenden Parish Council had not received formal notification of this application.

23.64 Buntingford West – Countryside Homes/Vistry Homes

Cllr Huggins reported on an imminent Planning Application from Countryside/Vistry for 'Buntingford West' consisting of 350 houses and a community centre on Land East of A10, (land behind Luynes Drive and alongside the bypass). The proposal includes a new roundabout on the A10 which initially would be used for construction traffic and thereafter open for resident's access.

Cllr Huggins reported a further three potential Planning Applications:

1. The Medical Centre will submit a partnership application with Taylor Wimpey for a 200 home extension to the Hare Street development to include a Medical Centre.
2. The Nevitts site; an initial proposal for a residential development to include a new Medical Centre. The Medical Centre, however to Medical Centre turned this down on the basis of the area being too busy, lack of parking and the site being too small and their preference is the Taylor Wimpey site on Hare Street (see above). An alternative proposal will be for a larger residential development, to include apartments.
3. A 68 dwelling scheme between The Village and Owles Lane to the rear of London Road with access through 16 London Road.

Cllr Huggins also reported that the current Neighbourhood Plan is now out of date.

HIGHWAYS

23.65 Cllr Blackburn stated that with the completion of the London Road works it was hoped that repair works to the Aspenden Road could be undertaken along with the entrance to Watermill Industrial Estate and Poulton's yard as the whole area was in a very poor state of repair.

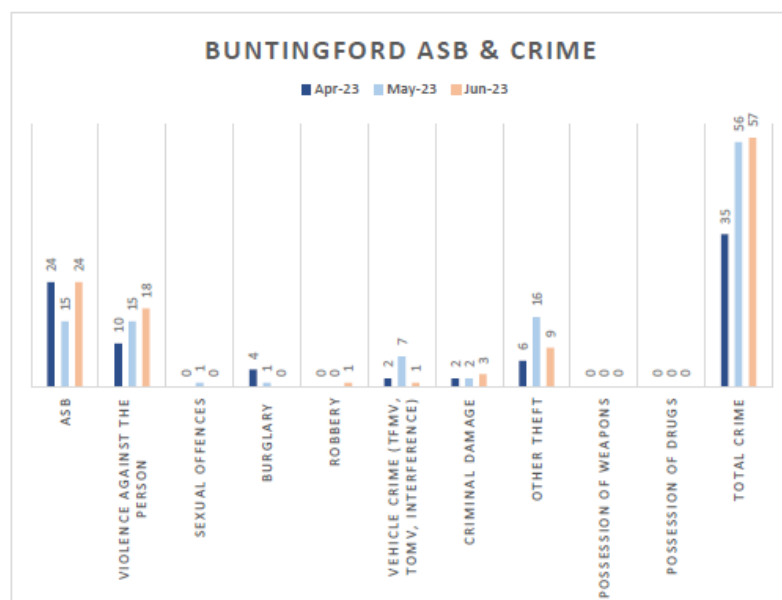
VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL

23.66 Cllr Blackburn was aware of an Aspenden resident who had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Blackburn will invite him along to the next Parish Council meeting.

PARISH MATTERS

23.67 Police Report

PCSO Dearman had provided a report for June 2023



Aspenden

No recorded crimes or ASB in June 2023

Buckland and Chipping

3 common assaults (Buckland) in June 2023

Wyddial

No recorded crimes in June 2023

OWL:

Local specific messages:

- Theft of Motor Vehicle - Skipps Meadow Buntingford
- Catalytic converter theft – Dixon Place Buntingford
- Advice to keep cars locked to deter opportunist thefts from unlocked vehicles.
- Number plate security event 30th June (Co-op car park)

23.68 Village Green and Pavilion Committee

Cllr Blackburn stated a meeting would be planned before the next Parish Council meeting.

23.69 Pavilion Project Working Project Group

Cllr Huggins to convene a meeting. Cllr Blackburn reported there was a potential for £22,000 through S106 monies from Dandara Phase 2 available for Sports Facilities and he hoped that ideas for possible projects could be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

23.70 Tree Survey

Cllr Blackburn covered this in his Chairman's Report.

23.71 General Village Matters

- I. Village Green Verges - The Clerk reported on behalf of Cllr Poulton.

Cllr Poulton with Cllr Chambers organised a working party to trim the Village Green verges, the Children's Playground and around the bridge and Pavilion area. Cllr Poulton would like to acknowledge and thank Hans Stacey, Josh Clarke, Xander Strachan, Richard Cartwright, Steve Overton, and Chris Newman. Cllr Poulton stated he hoped the same working party could repeat the work as part of an Autumn Clean Up.

- II. Village Planters

Cllr Chambers thanked Jack Poulton & Sons for the additional top soil for the planters. He thought a further £100 spend on perennials to fill the planters would be necessary. The Clerk requested he arrange for a quote for the Parish Council to consider at a further meeting.

CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDANCE**23.72 Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Children's Playground inspections would commence week beginning 21st August 2023.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Date	Meeting	Venue
Tuesday 26 th September 2023	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm	To be confirmed
Tuesday 21 st November 2023	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm	To be confirmed
Tuesday 27 th February 2024	Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm	To be confirmed

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed _____

Date _____