



SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 15th May 2023 at Ashland Lakeside

Councillors present: Cllr Pye - Chair (DP), Cllr Barnes – Vice Chair (PB), Cllr Ezeh (CE),
Cllr Eatwell (RE), Cllr Tucker (DT)

Apologies: None

Others present: Katherine Harmsworth (Parish Clerk), Natasha Cheriyan (Facilities Manager) and
1 member of the public

Part 2 – Annual Meeting of the Council commencing at 8pm

7) Introductions and Apologies for Absence

None received.

8) To Appoint Chair for 2023/24

David Pye confirmed he was willing to stand again. No other nominations were made. The Parish Council unanimously supported this nomination and Cllr Pye is the new Chair for the forthcoming year. The Declaration of office was signed at the meeting.

9) To Appoint Vice Chair for 2023/24

Peter Barnes confirmed he was willing to stand again. No other nominations were made. The Parish Council unanimously supported this nomination and Cllr Barnes is the new Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

10) Specific Declarations of Interest

No change to current declarations in place.

11) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the council held on 13th March 2022 were received and signed as a correct record.

12) Finance Report and Discussion

- a) Payments made between 1st March 2023 and 28th April 2023 were reviewed and approved.
- b) The financial summary for 2022/23 was reviewed and approved.
- c) The financial summary from 1st April to 28th April was reviewed and approved.

13) Chairmans Allowance

- a) It was agreed to have a Chairman's allowance of £200 for the forthcoming year.

14) Audit

- a) The report from the Internal Auditor was reviewed and approved.
- b) The following actions from the Internal Audit Report were reviewed and agreed:
 - i) To remove reference to payment via cheque at the next review of the financial regulations.
 - ii) To add to the risk register, the need to back up computer facilities regularly.
 - iii) The register of interests for DT should be reviewed to ensure it is complete.
 - iv) A review of the risks should be taken at every meeting and noted.

- v) The Finance Councillor (Cllr Barnes) should make a note on the monthly bank reconciliation, to confirm that he has reviewed a selection of payments and corresponding invoices.
- c) The Annual Governance Statement was considered and agreed.
- d) The Accounting Statement Figures were considered and agreed.
- e) The dates of the Exercise of Public Rights, Monday 5th June until Friday 14th July, were noted.

15) Planning Applications

- a) PB reported that revised plans for Five Acres have been approved. There are several conditions that the applicant must meet before work can begin on site. MKCC have not approved all conditions yet. Developers are hoping to start work shortly and expect to be on site for around 9 months. PB also reported that three planning applications had been approved since the last meeting of the PC; 57 Newington Gate, The George Amey Centre and various addresses across Ashland.

16) Open Space

- a) KH reported that MKCC have now removed the Giant Hogweed that was in Mount Pleasant.

17) Facilities Manager

- a) Interviews were held on Monday 3rd April for the position of Facilities Manager. The successful candidate, Natasha Cheriyan, was happy to accept the position as advertised and began the role on Monday 1st May.

18) Ashland Lakeside (AL)

- a) As previously noted, AL now has a Facilities Manager who is taking responsibility for the overall running of the community centre.
- b) Hire charges for AL were agreed. They will be the same as SVH at £12.50 for residents, £15 for charities and £20 for all other users. It was also agreed that usage of the building should be reviewed after a year to ensure that Ashland Residents are able to hire the building when required.
- c) It was agreed that the PC would work towards 6th June for the booking system to go live on the Parish Council Website. Bookings would then be taken from 13th June onwards.
- d) It was agreed that the PC are happy for Ashland Lakeside Steering Group to take ownership of an opening event. The PC have agreed to fund the opening event but would like to see costed options before a budget is agreed. Due to a decision needing to be made before the next PC meeting, it was agreed that the decision will be made via email.

19) Simpson Village Hall (SVH)

- a) Payments and hire income for Simpson Village Hall were reviewed and approved. In total in 2022/23 SVH received £6566 in hire income. £5534 was spent on utilities and maintenance.
- b) It was agreed that NC will obtain 3 quotes for removal and disposal of the weeds around SVH and also for a long term weed preventative measure. Due to this work needing to be completed urgently, the quotes will be presented and decided via email.
- c) It was also agreed that NC should obtain 3 quotes for the removal of the moss and weeds on the accessibility ramp, steps and on the carparking surface. Due to this work needing to be completed urgently, the quotes will be presented and decided via email.

20) Young People

- a) It was agreed that Treetop Childcare would run a holiday club in the summer holidays. There will be 2 morning sessions per week, either to be held at AL or Charles Warren Academy. The total cost is £855.

21) Community Engagement

- a) CE reported that the Street Champions last met in February and they have since developed a WhatsApp group which is now very active. They have helped with the Ashland Social, the Ashland Street Party and litter picking. Their next meeting is on 13th June.

22) Civility and Respect Pledge

- a) It was agreed that SAPC would become a signatory of the Civility and Respect Pledge.

23) Review of Delegated Decisions

The following delegated decisions for the period of 1st March 2023 – 28th April 2023 were reviewed and approved:

- 1) It was agreed to have Ashland Lakeside professionally cleaned after the end of the building works at a cost of £540.
- 2) It was agreed to purchase a new phone for both the Clerk (due to the old one no longer working) and the new Facilities Manager at a cost of £239 each.
- 3) It was agreed to purchase a new laptop for the Facilities Manager at a cost of £293 due to the old community worker laptop no longer functioning.
- 4) It was agreed to purchase a personalised external mailbox for Ashland Lakeside at a cost of £97.98.

24) To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 4th September at 8pm at Simpson Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed (Chair)

Date

Signed (Clerk)

Date