



SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st July 2024 at Simpson Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Barnes - Chair (DP), Cllr Dalgarno (RD), Cllr Tucker (DT),
Apologies: Cllr Ezeh (CE)
Others present: Katherine Harmsworth (Parish Clerk),

30) Apologies for Absence

Cllr Ezeh sent her apologies.

The Parish Council extends its condolences on the recent passing of Janis Lees. A resident of Simpson for over 50 years, Janis was deeply passionate about enhancing our community. Most recently, she contributed significantly as a Friend of Simpson Village Hall. Her dedication and spirit will be greatly missed.

31) To Appoint Vice Chair for 2024/25

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

32) Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the council held on 24th June 2024 were received and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

33) Finance Report and Discussion

- a) Payments between 1st May and 25th June were reviewed and approved.
- b) The financial summary up until 25th June was reviewed and approved.
- c) PB previously oversaw the Parish Council's finances as Vice Chair. However, now that he has become Chair, it was decided that another Councillor should take on this responsibility. It was agreed that Cllr. Dalgarno would assume this role.
- d) It was agreed to remove DP as a signatory on all bank accounts and the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund and to replace with RD.

34) Planning Applications

- a) 24/00216/ENF 66 Flexerne Crescent Ashland – Planning enforcement are investigating whether this has been converted into a separate dwelling.
- b) 24/01308/HOU 42 The Mount – Planning application for the erection of a single storey extension to the gable frontage of the existing house. The PC has been unable to access the documents for this planning application online. Once the documents have been viewed the PC will agree whether to respond via email, in time for the deadline on 23/7/24.
- c) 24/01391/COU 7 Genesis Green - Change of use from C3 to C2 (children's home) for up to 4 children. The Parish Council is concerned that this would be the second supported living home in Genesis Green, potentially leading to an unbalanced community. Additionally, there are worries about increased noise and parking demands. While the previous application was approved, making approval of this one likely, the Parish Council will still raise these concerns with the planning department.
- d) Five Acres – To note that the units are now being marketed for rental. The PC is investigating to ensure that the relevant HMO licenses are in place.

35) Social Media

- a) It was noted that there has been an increase in advertisements on the Simpson and Ashland Facebook page. Residents have expressed a preference for fewer business adverts. It was agreed that the Parish Council would request that only special offers benefiting Simpson and Ashland residents be advertised, rather than standard marketing posts.

36) Open Space

- a) A report on Open Space was given by KH including the following matters:
 - i) The PC has received several reports of Giant Hogweed within Simpson: on a piece of private land on Milholm Rise, alongside a public path on Mount Pleasant and alongside the stream running parallel to Simpson Road. MKCC are aware of all locations and have sprayed weedkiller on the plants near the path by Mount Pleasant earlier this year. The other locations are on private land and do not currently present a risk to public health.
 - ii) It was noted that there were six weeks between the grass cutting in May and the next one in June, whereas the schedule should ideally be every three to four weeks. MKCC explained that this delay often occurs in May and June due to increased grass growth and the need for additional cuts in areas with long grass or where bulbs are growing.

37) Ashland Lakeside

- a) Payments and hire income for Ashland Lakeside were reviewed and approved.
- b) KH provided a report on Ashland Lakeside. It was noted that there are frequent maintenance needs at AL.
- c) The terms and conditions of hire were reviewed and approved, now including the sharing of hirers' phone numbers with the volunteers responsible for unlocking and locking the building.

38) Simpson Village Hall

- a) Payments and hire income for Simpson Village Hall were reviewed and approved.
- b) KH provided a report on Simpson Village Hall. It was noted that there have been challenges in scheduling the landscapers who were approved in the May meeting. DT agreed to approach a local gardener to check their availability, with the intention of getting a further quote should the original landscaper fail to carry out the agreed work.
- c) The terms and conditions of hire were reviewed and approved, now including the sharing of hirers' phone numbers with the volunteers responsible for unlocking and locking the building.

39) Young People

It was noted that the summer holiday sessions will be going ahead as agreed in the May meeting.

40) Community Engagement

No update received.

41) Review of Delegated Decisions

Delegated decisions were reviewed and approved.

42) HR Matters

- a) The PC used CVS as the payroll provider for many years however they gave notice that they would cease to trade from 30th June 2024. Three quotes were received, and it was agreed to use DCK Payroll going forward.
- b) It was agreed that the Parish Clerk and Facilities Manager would no longer be paid a month in arrears but would change to being paid at the end of the month. This would ensure all employees are paid in the same manner.

43) Legal Matter

- a) It was agreed that the PC needed to seek further information before making any decisions.

44) To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 2nd September at Ashland Lakeside Community Centre at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 21:23

Signed (Chair)

Date

Signed (Clerk)

Date