

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting for the Parish of Ash held on Monday 13 March 2017 at 7.00 p.m in the Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash

Present: Cllr Nigel Manning - Chairman Ash Parish Council
Carole Olive - Clerk to the Council

16 members of the public including Ash Parish Councillors, Ash Parish Council Staff and Residents of the Parish of Ash

1. The Chairman of the Council opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Marsha Moseley and Cllr Bill Cole.
3. There were no declarations of interest to report.
4. The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 March 2016 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman of Ash Parish Council.
5. A Financial Report of the Trustees of the Parochial Charity (Smith's Charity) was received and noted.
6. A Report of the Trustees of the James Payne Memorial Fund was received and noted.
7. A Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council was received and noted.
8. The Annual Reports of the Chairmen of the Parish Council Committees and the reports submitted by the representatives on other bodies were received and noted.
9. **OPEN MEETING:** Items raised for discussion, of local concern or interest, are detailed at Appendix A.

The meeting concluded at 7.43pm

Chairman _____

Date _____

APPENDIX A

Mr Richard Tolley

The footpath behind Ash Grange School is very wet and boggy. The grill in the culvert is still missing and broken slabs have been thrown in the culvert. Rubbish is accumulating in the ditch.

However, the water is flowing hard in this section, but there is no flow through the ditch at Shawfield Allotments.

Cllr Nigel Manning: the Parish Office will report this to the relevant officer at Guildford Borough Council.

Mr Tolley: is there was any update on a previous query regarding the low water level at Murrells Pond.

Cllr Nigel Manning advised that an update had been given at the full council meeting on 13 February 2017, when Mr Tolley was not present. A response had been received from the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership who had advised the low water level at Murrells Pond, could be due to the low rain fall this winter as other ponds in the area are the same. The Clerk will forward Mr Tolley a copy of the email received.

Mr Alan Norris

The footpath at Ash Green Lane West has become unpassable.

Cllr Manning: the issue would be reported to the Surrey County Council Planning and Rights of Way officer.

Mr Norris: had researched, on the Parish website, the duration of the Parish Council's Committee meetings and suggested that as each meeting was generally under an hour in duration, all matters discussed at Committee level could be discussed at full Council.

Cllr Manning reminded the meeting that all Ash Parish Councillors carried out their duties voluntarily and did not received any payment from the Parish. Committee meetings were of less duration due to the major issues previously requiring lengthy discussions being resolved. However, Cllr Manning noted Mr Norris's comments and would put the matter of reducing Committees to the Councillors for discussion, commenting that Councillors may prefer to have shorter meeting on a regular basis rather than a whole evening at one meeting.

Mr Tolley commented on this matter, remembering when his father was a Parish Councillor and all matters were discussed by the full Council. Meetings often didn't finish until 11:00pm.

Cllr Pat Scott reminded the meeting that in addition to Council meetings and duties, several members were the Parish Council's representatives on outside bodies which involved attending the meetings of those bodies in addition to Council and committee meetings.

Mr Haig

The car park fence in Foreman Park has fallen down. Several caravans have been abandoned in the car park.

Mr Haig believes there is a covenant on the land that states no caravans are to be left in the car park.

Cllr Manning: The Parish office will contact the developer regarding the fencing and the caravans. The Parish office will also check with Guildford Borough Council Enforcement team as to what could be done in respect of the caravans.

Mr Haig: Building has commenced on the site adjacent to Foreman Park and that the contractors had cleared the debris from the verges and cut the grass where Guildford Borough Council had previously been unable to cut. The parking issues in Foreman Road will increase once Lorries begin moving to and from the site on a daily basis.

Cllr Manning: Guildford Borough Council's parking review did not consider the parking in Foreman Road an issue. The parked cars were not considered an obstruction as traffic could still pass through, albeit in single file. The current situation would only be considered an obstruction when vehicles could not get through the road at all.

Foreman Road will be put forward for consideration for the next parking review in 2018, and the Parish Council will press for a resolution.

Mr Norris

When Councillor Nigel Manning takes up the office of Mayor of Guildford, will he attend as many functions as possible in Ash to raise the profile of the Parish?

Cllr Manning assured Mr Norris that he would attend as many functions as possible within the Parish and had already accepted invitations from Ash organisations.

Mr Harrowing

Within the bridle way from Ash Station to Harpers Road there is a ditch that takes water under the road at Ash Station. The grill is covered and full of rubbish, and the water smells. The brick building within the site on the Guildford Road now has a toilet.

Cllr Manning: The brick building was always going to have toilet facilities and it maybe that the filters from this facility are not being cleaned properly, leading to the odour. The Parish Office will contact the Environmental Health Officer and the drainage officer at Guildford Borough Council to see whether samples of the water need to be taken and tested.

Mr Harrowing raised concerns that the trees with in the site behind Dene Close have been cut down. Will the arisings be burnt on site? A large section of a tree has been placed across the bridle way blocking the path.

Cllr Manning: The Parish office will contact Planning Enforcement and raise concerns regarding the disposal of the trees. Councillors have been successful in obtaining Tree Preservation Orders on some of the trees on the site, but a recent change in policy does not allow a blanket order on Tree Preservation to over an entire area. The Parish office will include the blocked pathway in the report to Planning Enforcement.

Mr Harrowing also raised concerns that the kerb inlets at Ash Station had flooded again over the past weekend, and that the gulleys required more than surface cleaning.

Cllr Manning: The Parish Office would raise this matter again with Guildford Borough Council, but the gulleys had been jet cleaned.

Mr Harrowing reported that the abandoned car was still in Chester Road and there were no notices attached to the vehicle.

Cllr Manning: The Parish office would report this again to Guildford Borough Council.

Mr Harrowing queried the two masts at Ash Station.

Cllr Manning confirmed that planning consent for the new mast had been given by Guildford Borough Council, but the removal of the old mast had not been included in the application.

Mr Haig

A guy rope to a telegraph pole in Foreman Road had frayed down to one strand.

Cllr Manning: The Parish ground staff will check the plaque attached to the telegraph pole and contact the company responsible for this. The lighting issues in Foreman Road were ongoing, with the Parish Council waiting for SSE to attend and fix the supply problem. The Parish Office and the street lighting contractor had been given today's date, 13 March 2017, for SSE to attend. If the issue had not been addressed further pressure will be exerted on SSE to rectify the issue as a matter of urgency.

Mr Richard Tolley

The replacement streetlights in Grange farm Road are a vast improvement.