

ASHBY ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2009 at 7.45 pm at
Ashby and Thurton Village Hall

Present: Terry Kitt, Carol Powell, Sarah Cook and Edgar Hoddy.

Also Present: Linda Gray (Clerk), Adrian Gunson, County Councillor,
Derek Blake, District Councillor and 0 Members of Public.

1. Election of Acting Chairman for the meeting.

Terry Kitt was proposed by Sarah Cook to stand as acting Chair, seconded by Carol Powell, Terry Kitt agreed to stand.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Robert Todd (Chairman), Peter Wright and Mark Rolph, Councillors accepted their apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest relating to items on the Agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2008

The minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Thurton and Ashby St Mary Residents Association (TARA). Councillors remained uncertain of the objectives of the association and would like to invite members of the group to attend the next Parish Council meeting for an informal discussion.

Speeding, PCSO Kevin Nightingale had included Ashby on the list for the Speed Activated Message (SAM) survey for the future.

5. Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information Act came into force at the beginning of 2005 and encourages greater openness and transparency across the whole public sector. The Act provides individuals or organisations with the right to request information held by a public authority. The Act obliges every public authority to adopt an approved Publication Scheme. The approval for all existing publication schemes expired on 31 December 2008. The Information Commissioner's office has produced a new model publication scheme that all public sector organisations must adopt from 1 January 2009. The model scheme may be adopted without modification and such adoption requires no further approval. The Clerk will circulate the publication to Councillors. Sarah Cook proposed to adopt the Freedom of Information Act 1 January 2009 without modification, seconded Carol Powell and agreed unanimously.

6. Correspondence-tabled separately-There was nothing to discuss from the recent correspondence.

7. Finance - The payment table, proposed by Edgar Hoddy, seconded by Carol Powell and agreed unanimously.

Receipts				
31.12.08	Balance of current account		£ 500.00	
31.12.08	Balance of savings account		£1,267.43	£ 1,767.43
01.01.09	Bank Interest January		£ 1.01	£ 1.01
		Balance	Subtotal	£ 1,768.44
Payments				
22.01.09	L Gray CILCA Training	100237	£ 162.50	
22.01.09	L Gray Salary and Expenses	100238	£ 338.65	
		Subtract	Total	£ 501.15
		New	Balance	£ 1,267.29

8. Planning

Application Ref & Date	Address and Proposal	Parish Council Decision	South Norfolk Planning Decision
2008/2392 10.12.2008	Land Adj 33 Ashby Road, Thurton Proposed residential development comprising of 5 new dwellings & garages and one replacement garage (and ancillary works)	Abstained	

The comments already returned to planning services for the above planning application were, “Ashby St Mary Parish Council recognises the planning application site is in the Village of Thurton. As a result of the site not being in our village we do not believe it to be appropriate to approve or refuse directly as a Parish Council.

We would however wish to strongly request that the full impact of the proposed development on the neighbouring properties is fully considered prior to a decision. Ashby St Mary Parish Council is aware of a number of concerns raised by residents which include over development/density of the site, highways and access issues, the scale of the individual properties (given that most of the surrounding properties in Thurton are bungalows). However, the most significant concern is the detrimental impact from overlooking”. Councillors discussed the planning application and would like the following conditions considered if the development is approved. During construction the deliveries of materials to the site be restricted to outside school times on Mill Road and Ashby Road and the parking of Tradesmen needs to take into consideration the residents and users of these roads. The consideration of providing a footway in front of the development to overlap with the foot way on the opposite side of the road to be included and approved as part of the application.

9. Report from Representative on the Village Hall Committee

The report from Terry Kitt included the following points; An electrical test and survey will be undertaken soon due to regular problems. The contract for the school to use the playing field is now in place. A BMX circuit had been dug out and along with further work will be ready for use shortly and netting had been put up behind the goal posts. The police had visited the site to advise on security issues. A recent proposal to provide a footpath from The Meadows and Vale Road through the playing field to Ashby Road no longer seemed viable. The committee will discuss further improvements and refurbishment required at the next meeting.

10. Web Site

The Web site continued to maintain good levels of information and was now fully functioning.

11. Homewatch

Although Ashby had not had any recent cases of bogus callers there had been some bogus Water Authority callers locally, along with several thefts in the Poringland and Stoke Areas.

No Cold Calling Zones – Terry Kitt had brought No Cold Calling Zones to the attention of Councillors. After research the Clerk reported that quite a lot of No Cold Calling Zones had been set up. No Cold Calling refers to salesmen calling at your house unannounced trying to sell goods and services. Zones are usually set up by residents in identifiable areas such as an individual road or close who have a history of bogus callers and scams and have vulnerable residents. Once accepted sign posts would be installed to put off potential Cold Callers and residents would need to work together under a co-ordinator. There is also a training pack available with information to help residents.

12. Annual Parish Meeting Planning

It was discussed and agreed to include the No Calling Zones information in the Annual Parish Meeting invite and at the meeting.

13. Public Consultation and Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from Adrian Gunson, County Councillor

A146 – Requests for the installation of wooden posts along the A146 between Ashby Road and Vale Road were being considered. Terry Kitt asked for wooden posts to be installed from the George and Dragon junction to the crossing. More information available at the next meeting.

Repair of road surface dressing – between Langley and Claxton and Hardley Road, Chedgrave would be requiring attention.

X2 bus service between Lowestoft and Norwich. The service had improved in places and two newer double decker buses had been put on the route.

Northern Distributor Road – The planning application to be submitted next year but funds are unlikely to be available from the County Council until 2014. A Government grant could be available soon to start the Postwick Hub a complicated junction to eventually connect the A47 Southern Bypass to the new NDR at Postwick and Broadland Business park.

Trowse lights – The Highways Agency recognise the traffic lights are in need of replacement and have plans to replace them later in the year.

Hobart High School – With increased levels of pupils on the role, extra class rooms were required. Plans to provide a new canopy for the swimming pool along with changing rooms from modular buildings could see the re-designating of the old changing rooms as class rooms.

Recession affecting NCC – The present recession is affecting the revenue and budgets available. There are fewer large planning applications, more over 60 eligible for Pension Credits and benefits, an increase in the eligibility for free school meals and pupils being transferred from private schools to the local schools, all create a drain on resources.

Report from Derek Blake, District Councillor

Parish Plan Review - Derek confirmed he had submitted the updated Parish Plan to the relevant officers in South Norfolk. Regarding building development of Ashby, Derek queried if affordable housing projects need to be included in the no further development view.

Car Park at Loddon – The issues had been resolved and the Car park was making money.

Planning Training Session – the next planning training session would include renewable energy sources.

Housing – Of the 52k houses in South Norfolk most had doubled their value in recent years, much more affordable housing is required as salaries had not increased in line with property.

Recession affecting SNC – The present recession is affecting the available revenue at South Norfolk. Unemployment is rising which increased the amount of Job Seekers allowance being claimed. A review of the benefits department had also seen an increase in eligible claimants and again planning applications had fallen. The rate of Council Tax would be affected by the increases in the Parish Councils Precept Claims and the concessionary bus service had been proving a drain on resources.

14. Other Matters for future agendas and items for information

Internal Accounts Audit by Mark Rolph. The accounts at present are audited 3 times; the time scales for the main audit to be sent away had been reduced. The Clerk will investigate by contacting Norfolk Association of Parish Councils the best practice for the next meeting.

Parish Plan Review, Derek Blake had asked if the no development in Ashby St Mary included Affordable Housing development and if so should be included in the Parish Plan.

Date of next meeting 19 March 2009

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting of Ashby St Mary Parish Council

All residents are invited to come along

Thursday 23 April 2009