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Cold Ashby Parish Council

A meeting was held on Wednesday 7th October 2020, at 7.30 p.m.
By ZOOM

Minutes

Present: Cllr Bailey (chairman), Williams, Williams, Harpham, Peel (withdrew after item 3 with technical problems); the clerk; visitor PC J King.

Interests: none

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Varley (leave) - accepted
2. **Minutes:** minutes of the Council meeting on the 2nd September 2020 were approved.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Open forum:** PC King was welcomed to the meeting. He explained his interest in the village and his awareness of traffic issues connected to speeding, HGV use and 'rat running'.
5. **Accounts:** Details of payments for October 2020 and receipts and the new balance reported in **Annex 1 (version 2)** were **approved** and the payments shown in them **authorised**. The balance at the meeting was £18,597.67 (£12,316.10 current and 6,281.57 investment).
6. **VAS Unit on West Haddon Road:** The chairman reported a meeting with S Barber from NCC. SB supported the placing of a replacement VAS unit on West Haddon Road and would supply costing details for use by the clerk in a grant application to Northants police road safety committee. Subsequently:

It was resolved that the council would attempt to secure the funding for the installation of a new solar-powered VAS unit on West Haddon Road in 2021-22. The proposed unit would need to include features not currently available. If external funding is not available the council should consider committing up to £10,000 of its own resources in the 2022-23 budget. Detailed costings will be considered once agreement in principle has been secured through this resolution.
7. **Additional Grass cutting:**

It was resolved that an additional sum of £540 be included in the 2021-22 budget to cover the costs of one additional grass cutting from the 2021 season onwards, bringing the budget to £4000.
8. **Planning:** Members noted that no observations were made on DA/2020/0682 (Fieldfare) which was sent to members by email.
9. **Meeting with NCC highway officials.** The chairman reported at length on the outcomes of the meeting with Ian Boyce and Sarah Barnswell. The written report was made available to members. The report focused on measures to control dangerous vehicle use along Church Lane and the need for the measures was supported by PC King.

The main proposal was the introduction of a 20-mph speed limit along the road. The clerk would provide evidence of the need for the restriction (no pavement, narrow road, frequent pedestrian use, pet fatalities and the increasing frequency of complaints), for use at the relevant highways review committee. PC JK indicated he would support this especially if hard evidence of volume and speed of use could be provided following an entry/exit survey and data from a speed gun, which he would provide. He indicated that the design of the road system along the A14, especially the failure to provide a southern route at the Catthorpe Junction, had caused the problems which affected Cold Ashby uniquely. His view was that the designers had some responsibility to ameliorate the problems the village faced as a result. **(Action)**

Councillor Bailey indicated that improvements to the road markings at the Church end of the lane had also been mooted and that he supported them, as did the meeting generally. Mr Boyes would be asked to implement them. **(Action)**

Councillor Bailey explained the economic case for a by-pass (not used as prominently as the environmental, social etc case) and indicated that he would use it in representations to DIRFT, the local MP and others. He also pointed to the increasing health problems reported in the village along the route of the most severe traffic flows.

Finally, the chairman had reported the return of the buses to the 'lay-by' at the A5199 junction. The bus company had undertaken to remove them again.

On Motor cycle use of the Eurogarages land at the junction with the A14, PC King advised the council to press complaints to the Environmental officers at DDC and to maintain a diary of incidents.

- 10. Complaint against the council:** the complaint about procedure had been forwarded to members by the clerk, together with a response. The complaint has been considered and discussed at the first (informal) stage of the council's complaints procedure. A response to the clerk from DDC monitoring Officer advised that the Parish Council had acted within its powers under the 2011 Localism Act and its own standing orders and it is believed a similar response was given to the complainant. No further action is being taken.
- 11. Post:** the chairman agreed to contact the resident who had supplied information about a clean-up campaign and to discuss with him what further action was planned.



Graham Jones 9th October 2020