

Cold Ashby Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.30pm at Cold Ashby Village Hall.

Minutes

Present: Councillors Roper (Chair), Harpham, Taylor, Peel, RDWilliams, RLWilliams, members of the public and Councillor Kevin Parker.

This meeting was recorded by the Council and separately by a member of the public.

Meeting started: 19:30 Meeting ended: 20:20

Interests: No pecuniary interests were declared.

23.10.1 - Apologies: Natalie Heath (Clerk) – approved
Councillor Bailey - approved.

23.10.2 - Minutes: it was resolved to approve minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 6th September 2023.

23.10.3 - Matters arising: none.

23.10.4 - Open forum: The chairman reminded the public regarding the rules of the open forum, asking that behaviour should be orderly and that regrettably if open forum prevented council conducting business Council may consider removing open forum from the Agenda.
A request was made that part of the Parish Council noticeboard which was currently under-used might be made available to publicise forthcoming events in the village. The speaker volunteered to keep this updated. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would give this its consideration at a future meeting.

23.10.5 – Accounts: it was resolved to approve the accounts for October.

23.10.6 – Grant Applications:

Cold Ashby Memorial Hall (£900): This application had been withdrawn for re-submission next month.

Church Council/Friends of St Denys Church (£640): it was resolved to approve the grant application in part by awarding a grant of £240 in total for the months of September, October 2023 and March 2024. The Chairman explained that regrettably the Council's published Grant Awarding Policy did not allow grants to be awarded retrospectively.

23.10.7 – Highways, CAPC & WNC Traffic Meeting 8th September 2023: Cllr RD Williams summarised the findings of the final version of the WSP Traffic Census conducted last year and the outcome of the meeting. Whilst some of the findings of the Census were open to differing interpretation, the total number of vehicle movements through the Village per week was in the region of 32,000, the majority of which were to or from junction 1 of the A14. It was acknowledged by the Head of Highways and Transport at WNC that Cold Ashby had a traffic problem, but he did not have any ready solutions. However, the Parish Council has been able to suggest a number of relatively low-

cost mitigation solutions which WNC was currently considering. It was acknowledged that any more ambitious improvements would have to be funded in the main by the private sector, and in particular DIRFT, whether through Section 106 payments or direct investment in the local road infrastructure. **It was resolved** that the Council should engage direct with DIRFT and WNC on a regular basis to take advantage of any available funding at the earliest opportunity.

23.10.8 – Access to the A14: This item related to unlawful use of the development land adjacent to the slip road for the west-bound carriageway of junction 1 of the A14 by off-road bikes and other vehicles. Cllr Harpham felt that the Police were not using the various statutory powers available to them to prevent breaches of motor vehicle and anti-social behaviour legislation. He suggested that the Council take the problem up with the landowner, the Northamptonshire Police and the WNC Environmental Health (noise abatement) Department. Cllr RD Williams suggested that the Council should write to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable. Cllr Harpham agreed to liaise with the Clerk to formulate a strategy aimed at addressing this ongoing issue.

23.10.9 – Environment: The Chairman said that he had concluded his investigations in connection with the damage to the cemetery wall earlier this year. **It was resolved** to approach the Council's insurer with the available evidence for them to deal with as appropriate.

23.10.10- Verbal Reports: Cllr Taylor reminded the meeting that the CAPFA annual bonfire and fireworks was due to take place on Friday 3 November.

23.10.11 - Post: The Chairman explained that the Council had received two complaints which were in the process of being dealt with by the Clerk.