

Cold Ashby Parish Council Agenda Wednesday 2nd December 2020

**A meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.30 p.m.
By ZOOM**

**Councillors are summoned to attend this meeting of the Parish Council.
Members of the public and press are invited to attend**

Agenda

Present: to record the presence of Cold Ashby Parish Councillors, Officers, members of external authorities and others in official attendance at the meeting.

Interests: Members' attention is drawn to the need to disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests not already registered before any relevant agenda item.

- 1. Apologies:** to receive and consider apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes:** to **approve** minutes of the meeting of the Council on the 4th November 2020 and of the extraordinary meeting on 18th November 2020.
- 3. Matters arising: to consider for information only** any relevant matter arising from the minutes.
- 4. Open forum:** to receive and discuss matters raised by members of the public present at the meeting.
- 5. Accounts:** the balance reported at the November meeting was **£17,890.88** (£11,607.08 current and £6,283.80 investment). Details of payments and receipts and the new balance are reported in **Annex 1**. Members are asked to **approve the accounts and agree the payments** they contain.
- 6. Budget: to agree** a budget for the council in 2021-22. Annex 2 is a copy of the proposals made at the November meeting. Members are asked to **agree or amend the following resolution** to form the basis of the agreed budget used to set the precept in January.

The council resolves to set an expenditure budget of £14,804 for the year 2020-21. This requires £0 to be spent from council reserves and will retain a prudent reserve of around £11,600, depending on the 2019-20 outturn figures, which have been estimated to show an estimated carry-over of £14,400. The budget will require a precept of £10,000 to be collected by DCC.

- 7. Streetlights:** members will note that the long-standing discussions with EoN over the streetlights and the running and maintenance costs appear to have been resolved in favour of the council's position. The new bill indicates the substantial fall in expenditure that is consistent with the council's expenditure plans and which has been adjusted in the earlier budget proposals. **Members will recall the October 2020 decision to place**

savings in the council's reserve account as a contribution to a potential cost of new cemetery land. The transfer will be made following members' agreement at the end of the financial year, once the outturn figures are finalised.

8. **Queen's Jubilee:** June 2022 marks the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. The Council is asked if it wishes to take a lead in celebrating the event and, if so, how it wishes to oversee the planning and organisation.
9. **VAS unit:** the council has been awarded a grant of £4,032 from the road safety fund of Northants Police. The clerk has written to the police to thank them for their generosity and support. The award will cover the cost of the new unit and installation. In addition, Councillor Peel has requested a solar unit for the existing VAS unit and will bring details to the meeting. The council will be asked to frame a resolution on this purchase once details are known.
10. **Traffic Issues:** review of the current position following actions by the police and Northants County Council. The council is asked to consider how it wishes to maintain the momentum behind current planned or promised initiatives.
11. **Councillor Vacancy:** the council has had a vacancy since the election in May 2018. The next elections are not scheduled to take place until May 2025, as a result of the reorganisation of local government in the county. Any new co-opted councillor would therefore have a four-and-a-half-year term of office. The vacancy was advertised continuously on the council's website until this summer, with no formal applications as a result. A vacancy occurring in this way (i.e. following an election) can be filled by co-option. A vacancy arising at any other time would mean formally offering the electors of Cold Ashby the opportunity of a new election, which would require 10 signatories applying to the Proper Officer at Daventry, before the council can set about the process of advertising more informally and filling the vacancy by co-option. The co-option process involves an interview and a councillor vote, following a check on eligibility. Councillors are asked to consider the following resolution.

It is resolved that the council resumes the process of filling the current vacancy by co-option. Subsequent vacancies will be filled using the extended procedure.

12. **Verbal reports:** members are asked to report back any items of significance from the bodies on which they represent the council.
13. **Planning: DA/2020/0936:** Ashby Lodge, Northampton Road, Welford (CA Parish), NN6 6JE: new front porch, single storey rear extension with par5 balcony above. Two storey rear extension. Glass and timber covered walkway to form link to kennels. Observations are requested by 14th December.
14. **Post:** to note and/or discuss items of correspondence with the Council not considered elsewhere on the agenda or previously circulated:
 - The council has been thanked by the Parochial Church Council for its grant of £1,000 towards the reconstruction of the churchyard retaining wall.
 - The local organiser responsible for publicising the help available in completing the March 21 census has expressed a wish to meet the parish council.

Graham Jones 26th November 2020