

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

M

**COLD ASHBY PARISH COUNCIL
AGENDA
Wednesday 4th November 2020**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30 p.m.
By ZOOM**

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Bailey, Williams Rd, Williams RI, Harpham, Peel. The Clerk.

Interests: No pecuniary interests. Chairman had supported a NCF 'windfarm' bid for the project in item 8.

1. **Apologies:** None received. Cllr Varley absent.
2. **Minutes:** minutes of the meeting on the 7th October 2020 were approved
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Open forum:** it was noted that no members of the public were present and that an open invitation with the Zoom link to the meeting had been posted with due notice on the PC website. Because of this, no individual invitations had been sent, though the website continues to offer this as an additional service for those requesting it.
5. **Accounts:** Details of revised payments and receipts for November 2020 and the new balance were reported in **Annex 1** and shown on the meeting screen. Members **approved** them and **authorised** the payments shown in them. The balance was 17,890.88 (11,607.08 and 6,283.80).
6. **Streetlighting:** discussions continue with Eon over the calculation of consumption and other bills for the new streetlights. Several disputed bills are outstanding and the clerk has entered a £650 placeholder in the December accounts to ensure the final figures do not mislead members. Members agreed that no further payments should be made until a satisfactory agreement had been reached.
7. **Planning:** DA/2020/0843: St Denys Church: rebuild section of retaining dry stone wall alongside footpath to entrance etc. Members supported the planning application and noted that the churchyard and gardens were an important feature in the village environment and that there were safety aspects to the application.
8. **Application for a grant under the council's awards scheme.**
9. (NB: the PC chairman has sponsored an application to NCF from the organisation referred to below and thus has a non-pecuniary interest in the scheme, which does not exclude him from participating in the debate and vote on the matter.)

The meeting papers include a completed application form from the 'Friends of St Denys Church' (FoSDC) alongside an explanatory note requesting a sum of £750 - £1000 to help with the rebuilding of a stone retaining wall, which was the subject of the earlier planning item (7) on this agenda. In considering whether to support the application members were clear that they were not endorsing any religious aims or views, but were supporting a much-used village amenity (the walkway past the church) on amenity, safety and environmental grounds.

It was resolved to award £1000 from the 2020-21 budget to the FoSDC solely as a contribution to the building of the retaining wall and on the understanding that the funds will be returned if the project does not go ahead for any reason. The Parish Council understands that the project is scheduled for May 2021 and depends on funds from other sources.

- 10. Batteries for VAS unit:** the request for funding was withdrawn pending investigations into a solar powered solution. The clerk had received costings which could now be used as the basis for a bid to the police road safety committee.
- 11. Budget:** Budget proposals for 2021-22 as a basis for the precept. Members considered the budget under each of the existing headings and arrived at a preliminary figure of £14,804, with a precept of £10,000 and a reserve of £8,596, to be confirmed at the December meeting. The figures are attached to these minutes.
- 12. To receive any verbal updates from members representing the council on other bodies.** Members noted the loss of income to both Capfa and the Village Hall as a result of the pandemic measures. The Village Hall AGM had been cancelled this month and would now be incorporated into the annual village assembly next May. Accounts had been posted.
- 13. Post:** the council had received an email asking for a progress report on the cemetery garden waste bin and the drain at the end of Stanford Road. **Cemetery bin:** the PC cannot pay by direct debit and the renewal certificate had been overlooked last May. Two emails have since been sent to Norse and a response is awaited and will be followed-up once more. **Stanford Rd drain:** it was noted that the drain had been the subject of numerous 'Street Doctor' reports and that the road at the site had been painted for action. Since these road markings were not a guarantee of immediate action, the clerk undertook to pursue the matter once more. There was some uncertainty over the nature of the required repair and whether the drain was blocked, missing a cover or had a loose and noisy cover. The email had not made this clear.

Graham Jones 5th November 2020



CAPC Proposed budget 21-22

	20-21 Budget	21-22 proposed
Audit Fees	100	100
Cemetery Rates		0
Cemetery		750
Maintenance	500	
premises and other		360
costs	360	
Clerks Salary/PAYE	1,353	1,353
HMRC	856	856
Data Protection	35	35
Election		
Grants	2,000	2,000
Grass Cutting	3,500	4,000
Insurance	1,500	1,600
NCALC - Acre	300	250
Neighbourhood Watch		
Consumables/IT	200	250
Room Hire - Meetings	250	200
Small Works	500	500
Special Projects	2,800	1,500
Streetlights	1,500	750
Sundry - Newsletter	100	
S 137		
Training		200
Water Charges	80	100
V.A.T	500	0
	16,434	14,804

	estimated
	c/o to 21-22
0.00	13,399.93
	add precept
	10,000.00
	23,399.93
	minus budget =

predicted reserve

8,595.93

Dec-20

agreed budget 21-22

Audit Fees	100.00
Cemetery Rates	0.00
Cemetery Maintenance	750.00
premises and other costs	360.00
Clerks Salary	1353.00
HMRC	856.00
Data Protection	35.00
Election	
Grants	2000.00
Grass Cutting	4000.00
Insurance	1600.00
NCALC - Acre	250.00
Neighbourhood Watch	
Consumables/IT	250.00
Room Hire - Meetings	200.00
Small Works	500.00
Special Projects	1500.00
Streetlights	750.00
Sundry - Newsletter	
S 137	
Training	200.00
Water Charges	100.00
V.A.T	0.00
total expenditure	14804.00
carried over (est)	14230.00
income (est)	2200.00
total income	16430.00
difference (income-budget expenditure)	1626.00
precept	10000.00
planned reserve	11626.00