



Ashchurch Rural Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at Ashchurch Village Hall, Ashchurch Road,
Ashchurch. GL20 8LA
on 11 March 2023 at 1.00pm

Venue: Ashchurch Village Hall, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. GL20 8LA

Present: Cllr. J. Hargreaves (Chairman), Cllrs. A. Brown, T. Davies, D. Garnett, D. Street.

Attendees: Jules Owen, Clerk, Assistant Clerk L. Beech, B. Cllr. V. Smith, PCSO T. Magovern and 32 members of the public.

11.3.23.1 **Welcome by the Chairman of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council**

11.3.23.2 **To receive and consider apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate**

Apologies received from Cllr. B. Cook and Borough Cllr. Gore.

11.3.23.3 **To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on 7 May 2022 and 28 April 2021**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on 7 May 2022 and 28 April 2021 were signed by the Chairman.

11.3.23.4 **To receive the following reports:**

4.1 Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor John Hargreaves gave his Annual Report – see Appendix 1.

4.2 St. Nicholas Church thanked the Parish Council for the continued maintenance of the parish churchyard which is very much appreciated and commented on by many who visit.

4.3 Ashchurch Village Hall – Ian White gave a report, see Appendix 2.

4.4 Save Our Lanes – Ian Parker gave a report – see Appendix 3.

4.5 Pamington Residents Association – Richard Drewitt gave a report – see Appendix 4.

4.6 Local Police Community Support Officer T. Magovern gave a report – see Appendix 5.

4.7 Tewkesbury Borough Council – No report received.

4.6 Gloucestershire County Council - Councillor V. Smith gave a report – see Appendix 6.

7.5.22.6 **To receive questions from members of the public**

A question regarding the time of the meeting was received but the Chairman confirmed that it was due to venue availability.

A member of the public had sent a message wishing to thank all members of the Council for their hard work for the community.

Meeting closed at 1.50pm

Signed Date
Chairman of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council

The draft Minutes will be signed at the next Annual Parish Minutes

Appendix 1

Ashchurch Rural Parish Council Chairman's Report 2022/2023 11 March 2023

Positives:

1. Judicial review of the ABOR.
2. NDP.
3. Appeal refusal for 500houses in Mitton
4. Agreement with "Solar Farm" installer to modify Bridleways and other PROW over the "Solar Farm" site, and to install solar panels on the Ashchurch Village Hall, FOC.
5. We now have three defibrillators in the Parish, one at the Village Hall, one at the Back In Action Pamington Farm and one at Aston-on-Carrant. A fourth to be fitted in the phone box in Fiddington
6. Leah the Assistant Clerk is running an open office at the village hall, for residents to get information or questions answered.

Negatives:

1. Still no progress on an alternative for the A46 through Ashchurch
2. Garden town project. Still progressing despite having a major trunk road running through the middle and an MOD site as its centre piece

Comments in black from 2022 Chairman's Report **Comments in blue – update for this Chairmans's Report**

Developers still taking advantage of the lack of building land in the TBC development plan. Resulting for another year that TBC are unable, or it is very difficult to stop planning applications being made and eventually being Permitted.

Developments presently underway or to start soon:-

The Linden Homes development Barleyfields, 150 houses. Phase 2 now in progress.
[To be completed 2024.](#)

Aston Cross - 14 Dwellings Phase 1 Completed.
[Phase 2 - 10 Dwellings, still awaiting planning permission.](#)

Hitchins Garden Centre and Retail Outlet, Dobbies completed and open for business.
[Spine road into housing estate over the flood plain, to be completed early 2023.](#)
[Retail outlet no real progress, yet.](#)

New Dawn 45 houses East of the railway line South of the Village Hall, progressing.
[Due for completion late 2023 early 2024.](#)

West of Natton /East of M5, North of Homedowns, Hitchins 850 houses Spine road under construction.
[Spine road progressing over the Tirl Brook and Flood Plain, houses due to start 2024.](#)

West of Fiddington/East of M5 South of Homedowns Hitchins 460 houses 21/01348/OUT.
[Probable start after completion of Spine Road 2025.](#)

Solar Farm, East of Fiddington, East of the railway line.
21/00259/FUL - preliminary ground works started, ready for completion 2024.
[Preliminary ground works electrical cables etc. along Bozzard Lane being installed.](#)

Rhino Developments 90 Houses 90 bed care home. [Site still for sale.](#)

Still to be debated at TBC planning: -

West of the railway line North of Homedowns, Hitchins 170 houses. This will probably go to appeal, as Non Determination by TBC.

[Still waiting](#)

Cllr. John Hargreaves

Chairman
Ashchurch Rural Parish Council
11 March 2023



Ashchurch Village Hall – 2022/23 report

Although the Covid pandemic effects have greatly reduced, the effects are still evident in our report this year.

Bookings at the hall continued to recover through 2022 and are now back to pre-pandemic levels. As before, the hall is very popular with regular hirers which makes it difficult for others to find a free time. Rising costs, particularly energy, have necessitated an increase in hire fees for the first time since 2014. The increase is £2/hr from 1st January (up from £12 to £14 for regulars and £15 to £17 for others)

Hirers include Line dancing, Puppy school, Zumba and many others.

We are still pursuing the addition of a small meeting room to the rear of the building. The pandemic has delayed this but there are problems with complying with planning rules for drainage and significant increases in cost of building materials and labour since we embarked on the project. Currently we are waiting to hear back from Planning and have made a submission for a grant from the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund. The room would be available for hire independently from the main hall and be suitable for meetings of possibly up to 20 people. It would be a very useful resource for the parish.

It won't be obvious to visitors to the hall but there has been no letterbox for the last 97 years. This changed earlier this year with the addition of a letterbox beside the front door. This has led to the hall finally being able to obtain a postcode, shortly being followed with an inquiry from TV Licensing asking why there is no TV Licence for the premises!

AVH Trustees
May 2023

#SAVEOURLANES

Annual Report 2022-2023 SaveOurLanes Community Association (SOL)

Constitution's Purpose and Objectives *'The association is an informally constituted community group for people living in Fiddington and the surrounding area who share a pride in the character of the rural amenities and seek to protect them.'*

General Introduction.

Although there were no formal meeting of SaveOurLanes during 2022-23, SOL continued to communicate with local residents, to keep abreast of local issues, and where appropriate, fact finding, supporting and commenting on various topics.

It should be noted that along with other residents groups in the area, SOL are frustrated by the lack of meaningful communication by Tewkesbury Borough Council, whether for permitted developments or future major projects.

Congratulations to ARPC for their success with the appeal for the Ashchurch Bridge over Rail.

Developments of current interest/concern

1. Retail outlet centre
2. Garden Town
3. Hitchins 850 and 460 for reserved matters
4. Cycleway from Homedowns to Tewkesbury School
5. Hitchins 120
6. Bloor Homes 250
7. Homedowns Business Park
8. Solar Farm
9. Ashchurch Bridge over Rail
10. A46 Re-route

M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme

In conjunction with Teddington and Alstone A46 Advisory Group (TAAG) and Councillor Vernon Smith, SOL continues to promote a business case for the A46 route to **M5 Junction 10**. Presently although this route generally meets or could be aligned to the scheme objectives it is being rejected by GCC Highways on the following counts

1. Adverse impacts around M5 J10
2. Increased Engineering works
3. Safeguarding development land to the north of the A4019
4. Gloucester and Cheltenham Green Belt
5. Wingmoor recycling centre
6. Cost estimated at £750m to £900m

Further discussions are underway.

The public consultation is expected in summer of 2023

#SAVEOURLANES

Community Pathway Group

SOL has continued to support the Community Pathway Group regarding issues with PROW, liaising with the GCC PROW officer to resolve local issues, either where developments have required the closure or have restricted a PROW.

The Group is keen to ensure that suitable safe routes are preserved for vulnerable road users, whether on or off road, suggesting some aspirational routes.

September 2022, the group organised a Pass Wide and Slow ride as part of a national event to highlight the safety issues for vulnerable road users (Walkers, Runners, Cyclists and Horse Riders). 9 horse riders, 3 cyclists and 10 Walkers were joined by our MP, County Councillor, Borough Councillor and Parish Councillors. It is anticipated that the event will be repeated in 2023.

PASS WIDE (2metres) and SLOW (10mph)

November 2022 an Equestrian Table Top sale was organised, although sales were not great, the event was well attended and was good for promotion of the group...

Ian Parker
SaveOurLanes Community Association
March 2023

PAMINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Report to the Ashchurch Rural Parish Council AGM – 11th March 2023

Over the last year the PRA has continued to seek to support the interests of residents in Pamington and to comment on wider strategic issues which are likely to affect us in the future. The majority of our recent work has been concerned with road safety and longer-term development issues.

Community Speedwatch Fund / 20 is Plenty – We have engaged with this scheme through GCC and expressed our interest in reducing the speed along the lane to 20mph. Although our interest has been acknowledged, there has been no update for some time on what is happening on the new Road Safety Policy. A traffic survey was conducted as part of the scheme but the figures that were used were taken in lockdown and are not representative of typical traffic flows, although they do show that a proportion of vehicles are travelling faster than is appropriate for the nature of the lane. We continue to push for further preventive road safety improvements, especially as the use of the lane by walkers with children and dogs has increased significantly since the Barleyfields estate was built.

Garden Town – The recent sale of land to the south of Pamington for longer-term residential development has raised concern among our residents. We are currently seeking to understand the current position of development strategy and phasing through our Borough and County Councillors. Our principal concerns are regarding any further increase in through traffic on Pamington lane and further loss of identity of Pamington as a hamlet due to encroachment of new developments.

A46 Relief Road – We await the public consultation that is due in the summer. The decision on the chosen route will undoubtedly have an effect on local development, particularly the speed with which some phases of the Garden Town are developed.

Increasing levels of crime – We are concerned by the levels of crime reported over the last few months on the Barleyfields estate and will be engaging with our local police community support officer to understand the current community policing strategy.

Neighbourhood Watch – We have recently rejuvenated the Pamington Neighbourhood Watch scheme and a number of residents have signed up. There is good communication within our local community which is supported by vigilance from many residents who use the lane on a daily basis.

The PRA continues to try to engage with the wider local community and to contribute to APRC meetings whenever possible.

Richard Drewitt
Chair, Pamington Residents' Association

4th March 2023



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

Parish Council Crime Report for Ashchurch

13/02/23 – 27/02/23

The following information shows the incidents and crimes recorded in Ashchurch between the above dates.

During the period 13/02/2023 to 27/02/2023 there were a total of 1 incident reported to the Police in the Ashchurch area. Of these incidents 1 were recorded as crimes, below are a list of the crimes.

Harassment/Stalking	0
Assault with injury	1
Malicious communications	0
Public fear, alarm, distress	0
Assault without injury	0
Burglary	0
Theft	0
Criminal Damage	0
Public Order	0
Other incidents	0

Below is some information regarding burglary protection.

Burglars look for opportunities:

They want to find empty-looking homes, where they can't be seen by neighbours and where they can get in and out quickly. Take away their opportunities by installing the 'WIDE' (Window locks, Indoor lights on timer switches, Double or deadbolts fitted to doors, Exterior lights on a sensor) combination of security devices and by carrying out the following actions:

Is your back gate your weak spot?



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

Stop access to your back garden. It is really important. Install strong fences and gates and make sure they are kept locked. Make it difficult for burglars to climb over them by adding trellis and spiky plants. Burglars enjoy the privacy of a back garden as it allows them to spend the time they need to get into your home often by smashing patio doors.

Install CCTV or digital doorbells

Install external CCTV or digital doorbells. Burglars don't want to be seen and these devices can capture evidence we can circulate amongst our officers and the public.

See guidance on installing domestic CCTV here at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) by [clicking here](#).

Can your neighbours see your entrances and exits?

Increase the visibility of the entrances and exits of your home. Cut back and consider removing any plants, bushes and high fencing that block your neighbour's view of your home's access points. Burglars do not want to be seen as they may get caught.

Mark your property with forensic marking liquids

Use forensic marking liquids to increase the likelihood of getting your belongings back. These liquids act like DNA evidence and can be used to link recovered property back to you. Popular brands include SelectaDNA and SmartWater.

You may be able to purchase these kits from us directly at a discount (£12.50) as well as through your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Check if valuables are on show and close doors and windows



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

Check what valuables can be seen from the outside of your home. If there are items that may look tempting to a burglar remove them from view. When you're not using a room make sure external windows and doors are closed and locked.

Shed, garages and garden items

Use and upgrade locks to protect your garage/shed and consider installing alarms. Wheelie bins left out the front offer burglars help to get over your fences. Tools and heavy objects left out help them smash or force their way in. Put them away.

Thank you for taking the time to read, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

PCSO Tracey Magovern

tracey.magovern@gloucestershire.police.uk

Tewkesbury NPT

Council approve £567 million 2023/24 budget

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/council-approve-567-million-202324-budget/>

County council's road safety ambitions highlighted at national conference

Gloucestershire County Council's ambition to halve the number of serious accidents on the county's roads through its road safety policy was given a national platform at a conference.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/county-council-s-road-safety-ambitions-highlighted-at-national-conference/>

Council plants 1,000 trees at Arle Court roundabout

Gloucestershire County Council has planted more than 1,000 trees at Arle Court roundabout in Cheltenham.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/council-plants-1-000-trees-at-arle-court-roundabout/>

Fire safety advice when cooking

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is encouraging parents and carers to make any kitchen activities a chance for children to learn about cooking safety.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/fire-safety-advice-when-cooking/>

Extra winter fuel payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts

Gloucestershire County Council and local councils will continue to pay £125 per month to those hosting on the Homes for Ukraine scheme for February and March 2023.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/extra-winter-fuel-payments-for-homes-for-ukraine-hosts/>

Celebrate World Book Day at county libraries

Gloucestershire Libraries are ready to celebrate World Book Day across the county next week, giving families the opportunity to take part in all things book-related.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/celebrate-world-book-day-at-county-libraries/>

Find a new career at the Friendship Café

Gloucestershire County Council's Adult Social Care recruitment team is attending the Community Open Day at the Friendship Cafe in Gloucester on Saturday 11 March.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-february-2023/find-a-new-career-at-the-friendship-cafe/>

Thanks,
Vernon

Cllr Vernon Smith
Email vernon.smith@gloucestershire.gov.uk