



**MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY MEETING**  
**“THE FUTURE OF THE COMMON, CHURCH ROAD,**  
**ASHMANHAUGH”**

**held in the Preston Room on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.00pm**

**23 members of the public attended.**

**Chair:** Harry Buxton

**Clerk:** Clare Male

**Introduction from Chair of Parish Council**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. Noted the Common is registered as a Common with the Secretary of State *and* as a Surveyor's Allotment with North Norfolk District Council. All works will be subject to appropriate permissions being sought and sufficient funding being available.

**Immediate proposals**

1. Reinstating the drainage ditch connecting Church Road culvert to the Blacksmith's Farm ditch network (running west to east along the southern boundary of the Common).
  - a. Objectives are to decrease the level of water in the Church Road culvert, therefore making it safer and to drain the waterlogged areas of the Common. Expected that the ditch would be dry for most of the year.
  - b. Spoil would either need to be removed or to be distributed across the Common in some way. Support was expressed for spreading the spoil on site. Need to create a specification and establish what permissions would be required, probably Environment Agency. Hoveton Estate would be prepared to provide a digger free of charge but not to remove the spoil.
  - c. Discussed reinstating the bridge that used to cross the ditch and connect the Common and the cricket pitch.
  - d. Discussed a culvert instead of a ditch but this would be cost prohibitive.
  - e. 20 people expressed their support for the idea with a show of hands.
2. Drainage for septic waste from the properties at the end of Church Road.
  - a. All properties wishing to disperse liquid into the ditch will need to have suitable treatment plant and/or certificate with regard to the quality of the water.
  - b. An annual charge would be paid to the Parish Council and the monies used for the upkeep of the Common.
  - c. Discussed if this would be classified as discharging into a watercourse and what the implications of that would be.
  - d. 20 people expressed their support for the idea with a show of hands.
3. Boundary markers to be inserted on edge of track or around the whole Common.
  - a. These would need to be durable and of limited maintenance.
  - b. Clarified that these are not continuous bollards to prevent access/reduce erosion but maybe 6-7 stakes which would mark the boundary.

- c. 20 people expressed their support for the idea with a show of hands.
- 4. Bollards or edging stone or sleepers to keep/maintain the existing edge to the Common.
  - a. Access to the Common would need to be maintained.
  - b. Discussed drainage. Need to avoid creating problems with water flowing back onto Church Road.
  - c. Maintenance issues. Must consider grass cutting and reduce the need for lots of strimming. Railway sleepers are a good option as they require no additional maintenance. Used successfully at the entrance to Hoveton Hall.
  - d. A low kerb or sleeper arrangement would allow the residents of the far end of Church Road to build their road up to.
  - e. Liability issues with installing a barrier of any type.
  - f. 18 people expressed their support for the idea with a show of hands.
- 5. Roadway access to the Common.
  - a. The public Highway stops at the boundary between Holly End and no 38. The road travelling easterly beyond this is a private street and the responsibility of the residents.
  - b. However the road is the principle access to the Common and the public have a right of access over it.
  - c. If the Common was to be developed further then the implications of increased traffic along this road need to be considered.

#### **Possible future uses**

1. Creating an open public amenity area for villagers i.e. short grass, shrubs, benches etc. That could be on either the whole or part of the Common.
  - a. Discussed the Common as a space for children to play. Possibility of installing play equipment, although this has a high capital cost and involves routine maintenance. Concerns that it might not get used very much, although on the other hand it might attract younger families into the village.
  - b. Discussed installing benches and flower beds to make a quiet area for people to sit.
  - c. Residents noted that they like it as a quiet area.
  - d. 15 people expressed their support for the idea with a show of hands.
2. Christmas tree rotational planting, reduces costs of cutting and provides free trees to the village?
  - a. No support for this suggestion.
3. Any other suggestions that should be considered by the Parish Council to take this forward.
  - a. Discussed the Cricket Pavilion and that residents felt it was an eyesore. Possibility of planting some trees or shrubs in front of it to reduce the impact. Ideally residents would like to see the Pavilion repainted and generally tidied up. Parish Council to feed comments back to the Cricket Club.
  - b. The Cricket Club have permission for the Pavilion to be sited on the Common. This expires at the end of August 2019.

There was full and open discussion on all topics. Meeting closed at 20.15 and refreshments were served.