

Minutes of BAINTON & ASHTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7pm in the Reading Room, Bainton.

Present; Councillors Mr W Gibson, Ms S Lucas (Chairman) and Mr S Taylor.

Clerk; Miss J Rice

Members of the public; 5

24/EM1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. Apologies were sent via Ms S Lucas from Mr M Lucas and Councillor I Walsh was not able to be present.
24/EM2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). There were none.
24/EM3	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 15 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda. The Chairman explained the history of the issues surrounding activity down High Field Road and the move of activity from Southey Woods and Wansford to this location, hence increasing the numbers of men meeting others or just alone in the daylight to engage in sexual activity. She explained there had been meetings on site with the Wildlife Trust, Peterborough City Council environmental officers and Highways officers and the local nature recovery group to try to control the parking and subsequent inappropriate behaviour in public, but the ideas were not thought to be suitable and might encourage more parking. The issue was then stated as a police matter, however their resource is limited to effectively manage the extent of activity and a longer-term solution is needed. There have been some increased police controls taking place however this will be a short-term measure. Residents compiled and sent impact statements, and these have formed the basis for holding the meeting today. Members of the public stated they would like a multi-agency approach, and a letter sent from the Parish Council to the police, to arrange a co-ordinated response and plan of action. Members of the nature recovery group mentioned the damaged verges of the County Wildlife Site also being a problem caused by the continual parking over the verges, with men sat there in their cars. Another issue reported is the amount of offensive litter that is left. It was noted that to walk there in groups is a more effective way to dissipate cars, however residents have stated they feel very uncomfortable and uneasy walking up the road, especially with children, worried what they might encounter. They stated they have also felt intimidated when trying to get evidence via photos, as requested. The feeling is that residents want to somehow "reclaim the area" locally and a list of ideas were discussed eg CCTV, drones, fencing off the damaged verges, logs in the entrances, a bund/ridge to prevent parking, improving the area generally, more signage (about surveillance, no parking, quiet lane status), cameras.
24/EM4	HIGHFIELD ROAD To discuss the issues of parking and anti-social behaviour at High Field Road, Ashton and resolve a plan of action. The Councillors resolved to compile a letter to the parties involved (Rural police, Police and Crime Commissioner, City Council, Ward Councillor, local MP) to explain the issues and attach the impact statements and suggest the ideas for feedback and support in getting some action and hopefully resolution. Action Clerk to draft for comment before sending.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____