



## **MINUTES OF ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL** **COMMUNITY MEETING**

**PRESTON ROOMS, SCHOOL ROAD, ASHMANHAUGH**

**TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2017**  
**7.00PM**

**16 members of the public attended.**

**Chair:** Harry Buxton

**Clerk:** Clare Male

### **1. NNDC Planning policy 2021 - 2036**

#### **Question:**

NNDC are currently formulating a new Local Plan for the District. This will inform planning policy and development over the next 20 years.

How should Ashmanhaugh respond? Does the village need more housing? Should it be affordable? Should the Parish Council put forward to Planners that we welcome the concept of some limited opportunities for infill housing within the settlement?

#### **Views expressed:**

- The majority of people expressed their support for more housing in Ashmanhaugh with a show of hands.
- Strongly against a large development as seen in Hoveton.
- Need to maintain the tranquility, ambience and peace that residents currently enjoy - important to keep the existing tone.
- Any development should be within the confines of the village.
- The rural nature of the countryside should be considered.
- Lack of facilities will naturally keep the village small.
- The demographic is ageing - reflecting national trends.
- Village institutions, such as the Preston Rooms, are struggling due to a reduction in the number of volunteers.
- Would like to see some new blood in the Village, especially families with children.
- The younger generation have to move away as they can't afford houses in the Parish.
- There is some need for affordable housing in the village.
- It was felt there is sufficient rental accommodation in the village.
- The Common is protected and will remain an open space for the Village. The Parish Council is working to improve the area.
- The Parish Council is talking to Ashmanhaugh & Barton Wanderers Cricket Club about the future of the Cricket Club. It is expected that this would remain a recreational space in the long term.

**Conclusion:**

- The Village should grow by about 10% in the next 20 years. There are currently 74 houses, so 7-10 new properties would be welcome.
- This should be linear housing - filling in existing gaps in the road frontage with individual properties and within the existing 30mph zone of the Village.
- There should be some affordable housing available to buy, with priority for local families.

## 2. Neighbourhood Watch

**Question:**

There has been limited interest in reintroducing Neighbourhood Watch in the village. Is this a good idea? Crime rates in the village continue to be extremely low. Is it a good use of resources?

**Views expressed:**

- This is generally a close knit community where people look out for each other anyway.
- There has been only been one crime in the last twelve months.
- It was felt there should be a way to make information available on specific scams and areas of concern now that the newsletter has gone.
- Anyone can sign up for information from the Norfolk Police Connect service and get updates direct to their inbox, text or phone.

**Conclusion:**

- No support was expressed for resurrecting the neighbourhood watch scheme.

## 3. Red BT Phone Box

**Question:**

No calls have been made in the last 12 months. Should it be adopted by the Parish Council and used for something else?

**Views expressed:**

- The Parish Council has agreed not to purchase a defibrillator as there are two First Responders in the village who maintain units themselves and do not support a public unit.
- No other use was mentioned for the box.

**Conclusion:**

- Leave the box as it is, with a working phone, maintained by BT.