

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th December 2009

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, M Jackson, Y Jordan, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh, D Wain and I Woods
County Cllr C Soden
PC S Akers, PCSO S Walsh and Mrs K Chapman

2009/149 Update from Wiltshire Constabulary

The Chairman welcomed PC Simon Akers and PCSO Sam Walsh to the Parish Council meeting and invited them to give an update on recent Police activity in and around the village. PC Akers began by introducing himself and said that on 1st November he had become the Beat Manager for Ashton Keynes, Minety and a number of neighbouring villages. He proceeded to give a short but concise update on the local crime scene and PCSO Walsh said she was involving herself in crime prevention in the local area. The Clerk gave a short exposition on what had been discussed in Church Walk and asked the Neighbourhood Police Team to assist with stopping cars parking along the wall in Church Walk, which they agreed to do if the cars are causing obstruction in the road. Cllr R Thomas raised the subject of a "Stop" sign being installed near the White Hart in lieu of the "Give Way" sign, which PC Akers agreed to investigate. Cllr Thomas also mentioned the number of cars that park illegally opposite the School daily obstructing the gateway, to which PC Akers said he would write an official letter to the School and ask them to warn parents not to park their cars in front of the gateway.

The Chairman thanked PC Akers and PCSO Walsh for their update and they then left the room.

2009/150 Presentation by the Pre-School Chairman

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Katie Chapman, the Chairman of pre-School, and invited her to give a presentation on the 'Garden Project' she would like to implement for Pre-School with the assistance of the Parish Council. Prior to beginning the presentation, Katie hand out a drawing and an explanation of the Garden Project. Together, they articulated what the Pre-School had in mind, which is to introduce raised flower beds and Planters with flowers, plants, a tractor tyre, bird feeders, a butterfly house etc. into their courtyard adjacent to the Village Hall. Katie said the estimated cost of the project was £915 and she was asking for financial support from the Parish Council. She said she would also be asking for a contribution from the Minerals companies and B & Q, to which County Cllr C Soden suggested approaching the Wiltshire Council Community Grant Scheme for funding and Cllr M Carter suggested she speak to Dobbies. The Clerk was asked additionally to check with Wiltshire Council if funds could be released from Section 106 money.

Katie thanked the Council for listening and the Chairman thanked her for her presentation and she then left the room.

Action: The Clerk

2009/151 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Jefferson.

2009/152 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2009/153 To confirm the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 11th November 2009

The Minutes were approved, with one small amendment in the penultimate paragraph on the last page, and signed by the Chairman.

2009/154 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said he had two matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. The first was that the Chairman and he had attended the SLCC SW Regional Conference in the Four Pillars Hotel the previous Thursday and he would be issuing a report on the day's activities.

The second was on the subject of the damage to the grass verge in Church Walk. He had received a letter from Wiltshire Council 'Department for Transport, Environment & Leisure Section' that said their Technical Team had investigated the situation and would let me know the result. They did not think one of their Lorries had done the damage. The Clerk said he assured them that it was one or more of their Lorries involved and, consequently, they decided to send their Technical Team, Lisa Lowton and Steve Matthews, up to Church Walk that morning and met with Cllr M Seymour and himself. The outcome of the discussions were that they would be speaking to their Lorry crews and asking them to be more careful and if the Lorries cannot get through due to parked cars then they would be told not to reverse down the road. Cllr Seymour and the Clerk agreed that instead of yellow lines on the road we would ask the Parish Council to give serious consideration to having two signs erected at the High Road end of Church Walk stating that, "Church Walk is a Residents only parking area". Also, Mrs Richardson in the Old Vicarage was asked for her agreement to two signs being placed on their wall along Church Walk stating that, "Parking is prohibited at all times", which her husband approved. Other options were suggested, such as narrow the road with the residents' permission, or persuade the residents to move their bins to the end of the road on the appropriate days. The Chairman asked the Clerk to speak to Wiltshire Highways concerning widening the road to take cars and Lorries. County Cllr C Soden said it would be worth talking to Miranda Gilmour about obtaining funding through the Area Board Community Projects.

Action: The Clerk

2009/155 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he had not yet received the Thermal Camera Risk Assessment, which he needed to complete the annual Risk Assessment review. He asked if someone in the Greener Village Working Group would write and send him the Risk Assessment on the Camera.
- He said he had received an envelope with information about the Wiltshire County flag, which he showed the members and asked them to contact him if they were interested in any of the items.
- Community First had sent him a copy of their latest Newsletter, which Cllr J Freeth asked to borrow.
- He said his last item was, as usual, to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month, which would be recorded and passed on to Wiltshire Highways Partnership. There were two items reported, which the Clerk said he would submit to Wiltshire Highways.

2009/156 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Made:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ Village Hall (November Room Rental)	£	17.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (November)	£	585.40
▪ Clerk's Expenses (November)	£	87.85

b. Accounts for Payment:

The Council approved the following items for payment:

▪ SLCC (Annual subscription)	£ 118.00
▪ SLCC (SW Regional Conference)	£ 112.70
▪ HM Revenue & Customs (Three months Tax & NI)	£ 704.57

2009/157 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

County Cllr C Soden said that a Consultation was taking place as part of a review of Wiltshire roads and invited the members to let her know their thoughts; whether they agree or otherwise to the proposals. She said it was Wiltshire Highways intention to work on 'C' and Unclassified roads in 2011.

County Cllr C Soden said she noted the discussion at last month's Parish Council meeting on the salary being offered to the new Wiltshire Council (WC) CEO. She said the job of the new CEO would be different from the outgoing CEO, so one could not compare apples with apples. In fact, she said, the new CEO's salary was at the lower end of the Unitary Council CEO's scale, so WC was lucky to get him.

Cllr Y Jordan was asked what was happening with the problem of footpaths in Keynes Country Park. She replied that there had been a meeting of representatives from the villages involved with the Wiltshire Rights of Way Officer, Barbara Burke, and a submission will be made to Wiltshire and Gloucester Councils. She then mentioned that forms were going out asking local residents how long they had been walking those footpaths.

The Chairman then asked for comments on Working Group Minutes. He said his only comment was on the Planning Application to erect a first floor extension to a house in Park Place, which had been refused. Cllr Y Jordan said there was a precedence for this extension on her house, two doors away, for which there had been 'No Objection'.

2009/158 Playbuilder Grant

Cllr I Woods said that two potential suppliers had been approached to submit a quotation to build the climbing structure in Rabania Wood, 3 Metres in height. Steve Richardson of Wiltshire Council had agreed to Project Manage the installation. Rockwork Builders have said they would build a model of the Park Boulder that they would be manufacturing. Cllr Woods said he was concerned that he had not heard from Wiltshire Council legal department and there was a need to get the project moving in order to complete by 31st March 2010; County Cllr Soden said she would speak to the Chief Solicitor. Cllr Woods said in view of the timescale, he did not want to wait until the next Council meeting to make decisions and asked if a small number of members could form a Committee to make those decisions, but the Chairman said an extraordinary Parish Council meeting could be called if necessary. When asked about the funding for the Playbuilder project. Cllr Woods said £30K would be asked for in a Grant from Wiltshire Council and the other £9K would be requested from Section 106 money.

2009/159 Approval of 2009 Grants and 2010/2011 Precept

The Chairman said that every member had received a copy of the Minutes of the Grants and Finance Work Group Meeting held on the 23rd November 2009, and asked if there were any comments. Cllr D Wain asked why the Chairman's expenses had been reduced to £20 and was told by the Chairman that £230 would be carried over from last year. Cllr R Thomas congratulated the Working Group on the outcome of their deliberations. The Chairman asked for a proposer to adopt the 2009 Grants; Cllr I Woods proposed the adoption, Cllr M Carter seconded and all but one member approved the adoption, Cllr D Wain abstained. Cllr I Woods then proposed the adoption of the 2010/2011 Precept

recommendations and Cllr M Carter seconded the adoption and the members were unanimously in favour. The Clerk said he would inform the village organisations and Wiltshire Council accordingly. The Chairman concluded by saying that the Grants and Finance Working Group would meet one month earlier in 2010 to start the process

Action: The Clerk

2009/160 Charitable Donations

The Chairman said that he had obtained a list from the Clerk of charitable organisations to whom the Parish Council regularly gave a donation and he was keen to keep to budget by pre-planning who would be sent a donation this coming financial year. Cllr E Tidmarsh said all causes were worthwhile supporting and we could not pre-plan to whom we would give a donation. After a short discussion, the Chairman said that we would continue to make donations on an ad-hoc basis, but would try to keep to budget.

2009/161 Website Hosting

Cllr I Woods said too much money was being spent on website hosting; he said we should not be spending more than £50 to £70 a year, instead of the current £210. After a short discussion, the Chairman said he would organise a small Working Group to get together with David Sheppard to examine the situation and this item would be revisited in the January 2010 Parish Council meeting.

2009/162 Green Waste

The Chairman said that this item arose out of a meeting in his house to discuss the burning of waste on Parish Council land. He said a sensible suggestion had been made at the meeting concerning the purchase and usage of a Wood Chipper and he would like to set up a Working Group to suggest a way forward. The following members volunteered to be part of the Working Group, Cllrs Y Jordan, M Seymour and D Wain, to which the Chairman said he and Cllr S Jefferson would also be involved.

2009/163 Debit Card for Clerk

The Clerk said he has applied for a replacement Application Form for a Bank Debit Card and would be making the Application shortly. In the meantime, Cllr Y Jordan had agreed to produce a form of words to cover the usage of the Card.

The Chairman said a letter had been received from the Clerk of Ashton Keynes Charity informing the Council that Cllr R Thomas had completed his four year term as a Nominative Trustee appointed by the Parish Council. The Charities Clerk said Cllr R Thomas had confirmed his willingness to serve a further term of four years in that capacity. The Chairman asked if there were any other volunteers for the position and, on receiving none, asked if the members were all in favour of Cllr R Thomas fulfilling the role again, to which there was unanimous agreement.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.35pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th January 2010 at 7.45pm