

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, S Jefferson, Y Jordan, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh, D Wain and I Woods

## **2009/138 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Jackson and County Cllr C Soden, who was attending the Malmesbury Area Board Meeting.

## **2009/139 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2009/140 To confirm the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **2009/141 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk said he had three matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. The first was to report that he had the new Standing Orders printed with a green cover so that the new version would be distinguishable from the previous. The second was to say that he had been in contact with Steve Scothern concerning the ditch between Eastfield and Four Acre Close update. Steve had said he would be discussing the work with Danny Everett and would let the Clerk know when they could carry out the necessary work. The last item concerned the purchase of the Sound Level Meter and accompanying Calibration Certificate, which he had done and passed them to the Chairman, and included them in the Asset Register.

## **2009/142 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said an SLCC SW Regional one day Conference for Clerks and Councillors would be held in the Four Pillars Hotel on the Spine Road on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009. He had always attended the South West Regional Conferences, but no Councillor had ever agreed to accompany him, even though the usual mix of delegates was 60% Clerks and 40% Councillors. The cost would be £49 a head for SLCC members or £125 for three delegates from the same Council and said if any Councillor would like to accompany him, please let him know as soon as possible.
- He reported that a grass verge in Church Walk had been badly damaged by the Brown Bin lorry on Monday and he passed around three photographs showing the damage. He said he was in contact with Matt Perrett of Wiltshire Council Highways Department to try and find ways of preventing it happening again once the damage had been repaired. He hoped our Parish Steward, assisted by Cllr Michael Seymour, would make good the damage shortly. Cllr I Woods said that Church Walk was not the only place in the village where verge damage occurred.
- Whilst on the subject of Highways, the Clerk said the Malmesbury Area Board was meeting that evening and County Cllr Dick Tonge would be reporting on the progress of the safety issue at North End Crossroads, among other Highways issues. He said that so far Wiltshire Highways had only replaced the stolen road signs at the crossroads and cut back vegetation to make the crossroads more visible. The Coroner dealing with the death of the Bristol Motorcyclist a few weeks ago had not yet sent his report and recommendations to the Highways Authorities. He said he was trying to discover which Coroner had been appointed to the case, but was asked to stop doing so..

- He said his last item was, as usual, was 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 five items reported, which the Clerk said he would submit to Wiltshire Highways.

## **2009/143 Financial Transactions**

### **a. Payments Received:**

The Council noted that the following payments had been received:

- **Sale of Thermal Imaging Camera** **£ 436.20**

Cllr D Wain requested that the money be ring-fenced for the Greener Village Working Group, who had obtained the money to purchase the Camera through a Grant. The members unanimously agreed to the money being ring-fenced.

### **b. Payments Made:**

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

- **Aeshton Services (Grasscutting, Tree & Hedge Surgery)** **£ 1,030.00**
- **Patrick Edwards (Tractor Repair)** **£ 920.00**
- **Village Hall (October Room Rental)** **£ 17.00**
- **Digital-Meters (Sound Level Meter)** **£ 129.80**
- **Busy Fingers (Printing & Binding Standing Orders)** **£ 48.82**
- **Viking Direct (Stationery)** **£ 17.56**
- **Royal British Legion (Wreath)** **£ 16.50**
- **Clerk's Salary (October)** **£ 585.40**
- **Clerk's Expenses (October)** **£ 56.36**

### **c. Accounts for Payment:**

The Council approved the following items for payment:

- **Matthew Milnes (Website Hosting Annual Renewal)** **£ 210.00**

## **2009/144 Debit Card for Clerk**

The Chairman said that the Clerk has been purchasing a number of items for the Parish Council through the use of his own Debit Card and claiming the money back later. He said that this was wrong and suggested that the Clerk should be given a Parish Council Debit Card for items, such as Internet purchases. After a short discussion, the members agreed to the suggestion, as long as auditable checks could be introduced into the system. The Clerk was asked to obtain the necessary Mandate from the Bank and report back at the December meeting.

**Action: The Clerk**

## **2009/145 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

### **KCP**

Cllr Y Jordan reported that there would be a Keynes Country Park meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November when they would walk the footpaths that have been in controversy. She said that progress on the footpaths Rights of Way issues were progressing by the inevitability of gradualism (slowly but surely).

### **Youth**

Cllr S Jefferson began by reporting that the youths had obtained some quotes for the building of a Wheeled Sports Facility on Bradstone Sports Field. Maverick Industries Ltd had produced a design for the facility, the drawings for which Cllr Jefferson passed around the members. He said the design was ambitious and would cost £80K. The members were generally in favour of the design and the position of the facility on Bradstone, although Cllr I Woods expressed his concern at the loss of trees to accommodate it. It

was agreed that the Parish Council would await the general feeling of the Parishioners on the content of the Consultation document that Cllr Jefferson had produced. The Chairman asked Cllr Jefferson to work closely with Cllr Woods, as the facility would be installed on Bradstone Sports Field.

**Action: Cllr Jefferson and Woods**

### **Footpaths & Roads Working Group**

The Chairman reported that the Footpaths and Roads Working Group had met the previous evening and the Minutes would be distributed with the next Agenda.

### **Playing Fields Committee**

Cllr I Woods reported that six moles had been trapped on Bradstone and a number of rabbits were killed as part of the cull. He said the cull had cost £400, but their results justified the expenditure of that amount of money.

### **Greener Village Working Group**

Cllr D Wain reported that the Greener Village Working Group had recently met, but only to learn how to operate the Thermal Imaging Camera. The Chairman suggested that the Working Group should rerun their previous advert in next month's Parish Magazine.

### **2009/146 Playbuilder Grant**

Cllr I Woods said that since the October meeting he had looked at more sympathetic designs for the use of the grant for adventurous projects from various sources. He said that Nikki Willows, the Play Development Advisor for Wiltshire Council, had been very helpful in choosing some of the equipment. Cllr Woods handed out several drawings of timber structures that were made by a German company, and a Park Boulder design. He said the purchase price of the timber structures was about £26K and £8K for the Boulder, which together were over the Grant by about £4K. After a short discussion, the members then considered a pyramid structure suggested by Cllr E Tidmarsh, which Cllr Woods said he would show to the children in the village and ask for their observations.

Cllr Woods said that he had to have the design of the structures into Wiltshire Council by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November and everything had to be installed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The Chairman proposed that Cllr Woods should proceed with his suggestion of the two structures, which was seconded by Cllr M Carter and the members agreed unanimously. Cllr D Wain said the Council should thank Cllr Woods for all his hard work. The members agreed that any shortfall in the funding should be applied for from Section 106 funds. The Chairman thanked Cllr Woods for all he was doing to provide new playing equipment for the children.

### **2009/147 Noise from Dairy Farm Site**

The Chairman gave an update on the situation and said he had trialed the Noise Level Meter that was working well but it used an inordinate amount of batteries. He said that he will install the Meter in Simon Sheppard's property in 7 to 10 days time. He said the readings from the Meter will complement those taken by the Environmental Health organization later.

### **2009/148 Use of PC Land**

The Chairman said that Cllr M Seymour had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda. He asked Cllr Seymour to explain why he wanted the item discussed. Cllr Seymour said it concerned the lighting of bonfires on Parish Council land by the Parish Handyman, David Clover. He said that David was leaving unburnt rubbish where the bonfire had been lit and it was an eyesore. He said he was concerned about the rubbish, because it bounded the Thames Path, which was used regularly by visitors to the village. Cllr Seymour felt that David should burn the village rubbish on the piece of land offered by Mr Guy Collister. He said although he was burning the rubbish as a favour for the village it was, nonetheless, public land and should either be opened to the public to use as well, or it should be closed. Cllr D Wain said this topic had been brought up by Cllr Seymour

before and the Council had decided that David could use it. Cllr Seymour proposed that the Council land in question should be closed, which was seconded by Cllr E Tidmarsh. Before the vote was taken, Cllr I Woods suggested an amendment, which was that the status quo of David solely using the Council land be maintained. The amendment was seconded by Cllr D Wain and a vote was taken, the result of which was six in favour and three against, with one abstention. The Chairman said he would have a meeting in his house with Cllr M Seymour and David Clover to discuss the matter.

The Chairman said he had been asked by Cllr R Thomas if he could bring up one item, which was to express his disgust at the salary being offered to the replacement Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Wiltshire Council. He said it had been reported in the Press that the incoming CEO would receive a salary 20% up on that of the outgoing CEO. The members expressed their concern that the increase in the new CEO's salary could affect the amount of money available for Wiltshire Council to pay for some of the services currently being enjoyed in the County.

The Chairman sought and received the approval of the members to write a formal letter of complaint to Wiltshire Council, regarding the Transport and Development Manager's letter dated 29 October 2009, which stated that the increase in on-street parking in Fore Street was not a highway concern.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.15pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7.45pm**