

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th April 2011

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas and D Wingrove
County Cllr C Soden

2011/34 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Tidmarsh.

2011/35 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were declarations of interest submitted by Cllrs S Jefferson and R Thomas on the Industrial Units and Village Shop Update to be discussed under Agenda items **2011/45** and **2011/46** respectively.

2011/36 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th March 2011

The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2011/37 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said there were two matters arising, as follows:

- The Clerk said that he wrote a follow up letter to Malcolm Beaven in Wiltshire Council with respect to the filling in of the ditch outside Wheatley's Farm. He asked him if he would investigate the situation and determine whether Mr Gleed had met his responsibilities; whether he is the Riparian Landowner of the 'Ordinary Watercourse' outside his farm. He had since received a telephone call from Malcolm saying that an investigation was ongoing. Further to that, he spoke to Danny Everett, the man responsible for Wiltshire Council's ditches and drains, and Danny confirmed that he and Malcolm were conducting an investigation into what had happened and will let us know the outcome.
- The Clerk said that he wrote to Wiltshire Council to resurrect the need for a barrier around the pond at North End Crossroads. The reply he got was that there had only been three personal injury collisions there in the last three years, so Wiltshire Council did not intend to do anything about it for the time being.

2011/38 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by giving his end of financial year unaudited report on the financial position of the Parish Council as of 31st March 2011; the figures had been rounded to the nearest pound. At the beginning of the financial year, there was £23,461 in the three Bank Accounts and during the year the Parish Council received the Precept allocation of £32,685 and a further income of £18,300 giving a total of £74,466. Over the past twelve months, the Parish Council spent £53,979 and there was now a total of £20,467 in the three Bank Accounts, which is £2,994 less than at the start of the financial year. The main reason for this large drop in Reserves is that a loan of £6,000 was given to the Village Shop last year. However, the loan can count as part of our Reserves for the future. What has to be borne in mind is that the Reserves do include £4,000 ring-fenced for other purposes.

- Stuart Harper of Wiltshire Council inspected the Millennium Green hedge project and was satisfied that it had been completed and to a high standard. He has recommended that Colin Kennerson release the Section 106 money. The amount of money involved is £2,600, £2,100 of which is match funding for the Area Board Grant and a further £500 is to recompense the Parish Council for cutting the hedge early last year.
- 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 only two items reported to him, namely the potholes in The Mead and the road signs in Park Place that need to be cleaned or replaced.

2011/39 Payments Made:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ Aeshton Services (March Grasscutting)	£ 800.00
▪ AK Village Hall (March Room Rental)	£ 39.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (March)	£ 608.64
▪ Clerk's Expenses (March)	£ 11.03

2011/40 Accounts for Payment

The Council approved the following item for payment:

▪ Cllr D Wingrove (Printing)	£ 7.68
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2011/41 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Wiltshire Council

County Cllr C Soden said she was pleased to report that Wiltshire Council had been given a windfall by the Government of £3.7M for the repair of potholes. Cllr Soden went on to mention two village Planning Applications that have been refused, namely "The Forge" and "The Coach House in the Old Vicarage", which she will be attempting to overturn. She questioned whether Planners were becoming more liberal because they are listening more often to Council members. On the other hand, she said, there were still problems with the Conservation Department. Cllr Soden reported that the Police had recently been outside the School.

Cllr C Soden said there were 2,500 signatures on the Footpaths Petition, Ashton Keynes providing the largest number, and Gloucestershire County Council solicitors are now looking at it. She said that she would keep us informed of the legalities

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas said he had nothing to report.

Footpath and Roads Working Group

Cllr M Seymour reported that there would be a Working Group meeting in early May 2011. A discussion then followed about the footpath that runs across the field from the corner of Happy Land, on whether it should be diverted around the field. Cllr Seymour said he would bring it up at the upcoming Working Group meeting and make recommendations.

The Chairman asked if there was a volunteer to attend the Wiltshire Highways meeting on 18th May 2011, which Cllr M Jackson agreed to attend.

Minerals Liaison Working Group

Cllr J Hughes said that he had a frank exchange with Moreton Cullimore about the mud on Fridays Ham Lane, during which he said that Cullimore's were now using a wheel washer to cut down the amount of mud leaving the site. Cllr M Jackson said he has found that Aggregate Industries Cleveland Farm site is usually open at 6.30am, which is contrary to local agreements.

Playing Fields

Cllr D Wingrove said he had read in the Wiltshire Council April Parish Newsletter that that Wiltshire Council has got a play area inspection service. The Chairman said he would look into it.

Keynes Country Park

Cllr A Stefanovic reported that the Cotswold Water Park Trust will be occupying the Water Park rent free.

Greener Village

Cllr M Carter said that the Working Group was redefining its strategy.

2011/42 Project Funding

The Chairman said that the Millennium Green Hedge project Section 106 match funding had resulted in the non-return of £400 VAT. As a result of which, he said that all future match funding Section 106 offers must be Nett of VAT and that we must ensure the VAT is refundable.

2011/43 Minerals Extraction

The Chairman said that the consultation period on future gravel extraction had now ended and the Clerk was asked to look again at what we had said in the Consultation. The discussion then turned to Licensing of companies to meet their quota for extraction. The Clerk was asked to write to David Rose and Ms Jo Baker and object to poor quality of back fill and that we may be subjected to the same in the future. The Clerk was also asked to invite them both to the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: The Clerk

2011/44 Parish Online Maps

Cllr M Jackson said that he had looked into the use of "Parish Online" and for a small annual fee the Parish Council could download maps and aerial photographs from the web. He said these would be very useful for the Planning Committee or other Parish Council applications. Cllr Jackson proposed that the Parish Council subscribe to the Parish Online service, which Cllr M Carter seconded and the members agreed unanimously. Cllr Jackson said he would forward the necessary information to the Clerk.

2011/45 Industrial Units

The Chairman said that Peter Wheelhouse in conjunction with Colette Mallon have been looking at various areas in the village to increase the availability of Industrial Units. The Clerk said that he had sent a letter on 6th April informing Peter that there may be a possibility that the Landowner of the field adjacent to the Old Brickyard might release some of it to enable the Old Brickyard to be extended. Peter was requested to discuss with the Development Services whether they would grant planning permission for this development. Cllr M Jackson pointed out that to get planning permission it would require the local needs to be established. Cllr R Thomas said that a check should be made with Mrs Powell in Cleveland Lodge, North End, on whether she is prepared to sell any of her outbuildings/workshops to convert into Industrial Units.

2011/46 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said he attended the Village Shop Steering Group meeting on the 11th April and reported that trading for the Jan - March period had been just below plan and there was a small loss on the year to date. He said Bonds and loans continue to be received, with a loan of £5000 received in March, boosting the total so far to over £25k

The Management Committee have asked for quotes for the shop build and have received only one so far. They have extended the closing date to allow 3 more bids that are expected, but this might put the whole project back by a few weeks. There was some questioning of the original budget for the new build of £65k, because the quote received was significantly in excess of this figure.

2011/47 Gosditch Traffic

The Chairman reported that he had met the Head Teacher of the Primary School and the Chair of the School Governors to observe the traffic in Gosditch. They chose a Friday afternoon to do the monitoring, but the traffic was light, so they intend to go back and conduct their observations on a different day. They did notice, however, that there were a number of Teachers' cars parked in Gosditch at the time. The Chairman said that it has been suggested that a white line be painted along Gosditch to act as a footpath, and to narrow the road and make it difficult for cars to travel along the road.

2011/48 Stranger Danger

The Chairman said there were reports that four men in a Vauxhall car had approached some children in the village, which subsequently had been found to be unfounded rumours. However, the Clerk was asked to put a message in the Parish Magazine warning parents of the Stranger Danger that exists in every community.

Action: The Clerk

2011/49 Fish and Chip Service

The Chairman said that the members had all been given a copy of an e-mail received from a mobile Fish and Chip service that a person would like to come to the village and provide. After some discussion, the members said they would have no objections, but the Chairman asked the Clerk to find out if it was within our remit to grant a Licence for street trading.

Action: The Clerk

2011/50 Resurrecting Road Name – East Street

The Chairman said that in the first instance it was not known whether the residents along the stretch of road between Happy Land and Rixon Gate wanted the name re-instated. He asked the Clerk to find out what the formal process would be to reinstate the road name and who would be the responsible authority.

Action: The Clerk

2011/51 Chairman's Expenses

The members thought that the generous provision of wine by the Chairman for the Council Dinner should not be repeated in future years. They felt that the realistic expenses of the Chairman should revert to past years and be reflected in the Precept. Cllr S Jefferson proposed that the Councillors should pay for themselves and their wives/partners for their share of the food and wine consumed at future Council Dinners. The proposition was seconded by Cllr M Jackson and carried unanimously.

2011/52 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman reminded the members that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday 27th April from 7.30pm, and that it would follow the same format as last year. He said that he would use 'Chairman's Expenses' to pay for the wine. The Clerk was asked to invite the Village Shop to participate with a board of their own.

Action: The Clerk.

2011/53 Clerk's Appraisal

The Chairman said that he and the Vice Chairman would conduct the Clerk's annual Appraisal before the end of the month.

2011/54 Ashton Keynes Charities Representative

The Clerk read out a letter from the Ashton Keynes Charity requesting a replacement Nominative Trustee be appointed for a term of four years, following the resignation of Mrs Diana Wain. Cllr D Wingrove agreed to become the appointed representative from the Parish Council, along with Cllr R Thomas. The Clerk said he would inform the Ashton Keynes Charity accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

2011/55 British Legion Garden Party

The Clerk said everyone should have received a notice through their doors telling them that there would be a Garden Party in the garden of Cove House on Sunday 5th June 2011. He had not yet received any specific request for assistance, but would let the members know if he did.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.40pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 11th May 2011, commencing at 7.45pm