

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

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

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, S Jefferson, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh and D Wingrove

2011/83 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllrs M Jackson and A Stefanovic.

2011/84 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2011/85 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th June 2011

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th June 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2011/86 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said that due to pressure of work, Geoff Winslow, who is dealing with Minerals Extraction in Wiltshire Council, was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting this evening to discuss mineral extraction site options. However, he will be available for our September meeting if we would still like to invite him.

Malcolm Beaven in Wiltshire Council Highways Partnership is still on the case of the ditch that was filled in outside Wheatleys Farm. He said that there is correspondence between him and Mr Gleed, who claims to have had permission from the County Council in a letter dated 28th April 1992.

2011/87 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by giving his report on the current financial position of the Parish Council; the figures having been rounded to the nearest pound. At the beginning of the financial year, namely 1st April, there was £20,467 in the Bank Accounts and in April we received half our Precept allocation of £16,235, giving a total of £36,702. The Parish Council has also received a further £1,678 and spent £8,139 this financial year, so as of the 30th June 2011, there was £30,241 in the Bank Accounts and the Savings Certificate.
- He has asked the Area Highways Engineer, Malcolm Beaven to repaint the white lines in the village. Malcolm agreed to survey the situation and would let him know when the white lines will be refreshed.
- Malcolm Beaven has said that Highways could not afford the cost of piping the water that lies at the end of Kent End during heavy rainfall across Rixon Gate Road to the ditch. However, the Chairman and the Clerk will meet with him to show there is a pipe laying near the new entrance to Bradstone that may lay across the road, which might be able to take the water away.
- He said that the Parish Council has received an invitation from Community First to attend their AGM on 14th September in the Corn Exchange, Devizes, commencing at 5.15pm. If any member would care to go to the AGM instead of attending the September Parish Council Meeting, he will forward their name to Community First.

- The Clerk said that a number of consultations have arisen that the members might feel inclined to comment on, which are "Wiltshire Compact" and "Wiltshire Core Strategy". Cllr M Carter said that he and Cllr D Wingrove had attended a meeting a few weeks ago on Wiltshire Core Strategy and gave a brief outline of what it was all about.
- The Clerk read out a part of a letter he had received from Cricklade, outlining the work going on at the moment to look at providing a campus to improve the services Wiltshire Council delivers to the community. A questionnaire was provided inviting the people in the surrounding villages to express their views, which Cllr M Carter offered to place on the Parish Council website.
- He said his last item, as usual, was to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month. A number of footpath items were reported to him, which were recorded and would be passed to Wiltshire Highways Partnership.

2011/88 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Received

- **Playing Fields Committee (Insurance Premium) £ 996.93**

b. Payments Made by Cheque:

- **Aeshton Services (June Grasscutting) £ 850.00**
- **Aeshton Services (Bus Shelter Removal) £ 25.00**
- **AK Village Hall (June Room Rental) £ 17.00**
- **Parish Online (Subscription) £ 48.00**
- **Bobby Van Trust (Donation) £ 50.00**
- **Broker Network Ltd (Insurance Premium) £ 1408.93**
- **Thames Tree Services (Tree Surgery) £ 360.00**
- **WALC (Good Councillor's Guides) £ 5.50**
- **Mrs J Wilde (British Legion Donation) £ 50.00**
- **Clerk's Salary (June) £ 627.24**
- **Clerk's Expenses (June) £ 74.32**

c. Payments Made by Debit Card:

- **Dell (Ink Cartridges) £ 77.40**

2011/89 Cullimore's Gravels Ltd Dairy Farm Planning Application

The Chairman said he had exchanged e-mails with County Cllr C Soden on the Planning Application and was not happy with what the Senior Planning Officer, Greg Lester, had written to Cllr Soden. The Chairman said it would help if a Parishioner were to write to the Wiltshire Council Environmental Protection Officer, John Freegard, in the Chippenham offices, and complain about the noise and dust when the crusher is being operated. Cllr E Tidmarsh said we should do some noise monitoring ourselves between now and the new Cullimore's Planning Application, which is due in March 2012. Cllr J Hughes said he was going to speak shortly to Mike Bailey about it and Cllr M Carter suggested speaking to Dr Ager, who lives nearest the site at the end of Gosditch. The Chairman concluded by saying that Keith Bowley had reported Bitterns are nesting in the area, although this has not been confirmed. Bitterns are a protected species of bird and may have a bearing on the crusher operations.

2011/90 Minerals Extraction Update

The Chairman said that the Cotswold Community were selling their 9 acres site off Spine Road West and there was concern about who would be buying it. The Chairman gave a short background to the area and the fact that it is an historic site with an important cemetery. The Chairman agreed that he and Cllr J Hughes would collaborate with County Cllr C Soden and Somerford Keynes Parish Council on the future of the site.

2011/91 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman reported that the CCTV was now installed at the Bradstone Sports Field, and asked the Clerk to thank Steve Blackwell in the Parish Newsletter for installing the equipment free of charge. He also said that he was delighted to report no more dog mess on the field since the CCTV was installed, however, he thought there should be another Dog Bin fitted by the exit by the bridge.

Action: The Clerk

Footpaths Working Group

Cllr M Seymour reported that the next meeting of the Working Group was not until the end of August. He also said that the farmer had now cut the footpath out of the maze on the field opposite Four Acre Close. The Clerk reported that there were two new volunteers to replace Yvonne Jordan on the Working Group.

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas reported that the Planning Application to change the use of land at Clayhill Copse to a Wildlife Care and Activity Centre had been withdrawn.

Greener Village Working Group

Cllr M Carter said that the Working Group would be meeting later in the year.

Emergency Planning Working Group

Cllr M Carter reported that he had been looking on the Internet and at the plans of other Councils. He said there was a need to ask for another member to join the Working Group, which Cllr S Jefferson agreed to do. Cllr Carter said that the greatest risk in Ashton Keynes would appear to be flooding and high winds affecting trees. He said he would be looking at the Silica Gel sacks to reduce the effect of flooding.

2011/92 Industrial Units

Cllr S Jefferson said that after investigation, the best place to build more industrial units was the Old Brickyard, but more space was needed. He had discovered that the Planning Application for more land to be released would be difficult to pursue, but he would be having a meeting to discuss it with Keith Bowley the following week.

2011/93 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes reported that the Shop had made a good profit for the month of June. He said the money had been released by the Plunkett Foundation and the Co-op Bank, but there was no sign yet of the Landfill Tax money being agreed. He said the work on building the Annexe to the Village Hall is planned to begin on 11th July.

2011/94 Donations to Charities

Cllr J Hughes explained why he had asked for this item to be added to this month's Agenda. He and Cllr D Wingrove questioned whether some requests by outside organisations could be more appropriately channelled to AK Charities. Cllr R Thomas said AK Charities were only permitted to spend money on AK people or AK organisations. After some discussion, Cllr Hughes suggested that specific requests for donations should be approved on a case by case basis, which was agreed.

The Chairman agreed to the following subjects being raised:

Cllr D Wingrove reported that he had discussed with the village historian, David Britton, what the name of the road between Rixon Gate and Happy Land might have been. According to David Britton, as far as he could tell looking at past records, the road has never been named. The members agreed not to pursue this subject any further.

Cllr D Wingrove said he would like to discuss further the suggestion that the members should adopt various areas of the village, within which they would discuss important matters with their Parishioners as necessary. The Chairman asked the Clerk to add this item to the September Parish Council meeting Agenda.

Action: The Clerk

Cllr R Thomas said a 30mph post had been taken away for some unknown reason. The Clerk was asked to check with the Parish Steward if he knew anything about it.

Action: The Clerk

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.12pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 14th September 2011, commencing at 7.45pm