

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th March 2011

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

2011/24 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs I Woods and E Tidmarsh.

2011/25 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest

2011/26 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th February 2011

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

2011/27 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said there were a number of matters arising, as follows:

- Martin Rose, the Principal Highway Engineer in the Wiltshire Council Traffic and Network Management, has said that the North End Crossroads project was still very much on his long list of 'things to do'; unfortunately as he heads towards 'year end' he has got a number of pressing work commitments. Hence, he has been unable to complete the necessary plan of work for the Parish Council's perusal, but he was hoping to have something for us shortly. The Clerk said Martin was also involved in determining the average speed of vehicles along the High Road and looking again at the "Stop" sign by the White Hart. Cllr M Seymour said in view of the two vehicles that recently went into the North End pond, the Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council and resurrect the need for a barrier around the pond.

Action: The Clerk

- He said that Colette Mallon had telephoned to let him know that she was still investigating the industrial unit situation. She has discovered that Aggregate Industries are not interested in selling land piecemeal off their Cleveland Farm site, and there is still two more years of mineral extraction left at the site.
- Wiltshire Council finally delivered the 2 tonnes of salt that was requested. David Clover has carefully stored the salt ready for the next period of inclement weather.
- He said he had spoken to Mrs Jean Wilde about the "Great Poppy Party Weekend" on the 10th to 12th June and she would be speaking to Gwen Astin and Peter Hartland about it. He had told her that the Parish Council would give them support, where possible.
- He had received a letter from Prospect Hospice on the subject of the cost for the pavers that he mentioned last month. The minimum cost is £50 for an 8.25 x 4.13 inch paver, with £75, £100 and £500 options available. The Parish Council declined to purchase a paver, on the basis that the project was more of a private nature rather than a public scheme.

- On the subject of the BT Pole in the Village Hall Car Park, BT was uncompromising in their approach to any negotiations regarding an alternative to a one-off Wayleave remuneration. An agreement was reached, because to have not done so would have denied three Parishioners their opportunity to have a telephone installed.
- In the January Parish Council meeting, he was asked to write to County Cllr C Soden stating our concern on the ditch in front of Wheatleys Farm being filled in. As a result, he received a letter from Wiltshire Highways Division saying they had inspected the area and concluded that there were no drainage problems. He took the opportunity to mention the drainage problem at the junction of Kent End and Rixon Gate, which they have said will be receiving attention. The Clerk was asked to write again to Wiltshire Council and determine who owns the land adjacent to Wheatley's Farm and whether they had a right to fill in the ditch. County Cllr C Soden said she had a Riparian owners paper, which she would send if the Clerk could not find his.

Action: The Clerk

2011/28 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying that he had to amend the £1,910 Section 106 money requested for the Millennium Green Trust hedge project, because the Trust had to pay for the work to be done. His costings were based on the Parish Council paying and, therefore, getting the VAT back. So, he requested £2,600 to pay for match funding and the £500 the Parish Council had paid last year for the first cut of the hedge. Having spoken to Colin Kennerson in Wiltshire Council, he said he would pay the money requested once he had seen the completion of the Millennium Green project.
- He mentioned that the recent "Footpaths and Roads Working Group" Minutes, only had one small Roads entry. Also, following the resignation of Guy Bridge, there had been no Highways Representative on that Working Group for six months. The Working Group members suggested that it be renamed "The Footpaths Working Group" and, if there was a need for a "Highways Working Group", as before, then the Annual Meeting would be the place to resurrect it. After a short discussion, it was proposed by Cllr M Seymour and seconded by Cllr A Stefanovic that the Roads should be removed from the Working Group name. The vote was 8 in favour and 1 against.
- He said he had renewed the Tractor Insurance for £138.10, which was a small increase on last year, and still considerably cheaper than that which we used to pay Zurich Insurance.
- He had received a letter from CPRE inviting Ashton Keynes to participate in the "Best Kept Village Competition – 2011". Cllr D Wingrove said he was prepared to take the lead on the project and the Clerk agreed to discuss previous entries with him.
- He mentioned the Malmesbury Area Board meeting, which would be taking place on Wednesday next week in the Village Hall; the last time the Area Board met here was in January 2010. He said it was a good way of meeting those persons and organizations that are responsible for the things in our area of Wiltshire. He said he would e-mail everyone the Agenda for the meeting and find out from Miranda Gilmour who would provide the tea and coffee and set-up the room, and inform the Chairman.

Action: The Clerk

- He said that local communities wishing to hold street parties for the royal wedding were being encouraged by Wiltshire Council to apply as soon as possible. The Council has set-up a new user-friendly flow chart on their website to help people arrange and conduct small, private events such as street parties and fetes. The Chairman asked him to add the Notice to the April edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Action: The Clerk

- He reported that signature sheets would be available for everyone to sign in all the Libraries across the County, the mobile libraries as well, to send their good wishes to the Royal couple. The sheets will be available for signature until Friday 8th April, when they will be collected in a book, which will be sent to the couple. The Clerk said he would include this item with the above Notice in the Parish Newsletter.
- The Clerk pointed out that the above two articles had been found in the Wiltshire Council monthly Parish Newsletter, which he said he used to circulate to all the members. The members agreed that they would like him to begin sending them a copy each month.

Action: The Clerk

- He discovered that the members did not have the Roster of the nominated Councillors to set-up the Ashton and Keynes room at 5 pm on the Parish Council meeting days. He said he would send the Roster the following day.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk gave a reminder that the Census would take place on 27th March 2011 and there may be persons in the village that need assistance in completing their forms. Wiltshire Council is conscious that there will be fines for those individuals not completing the Census on time.
- 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 three items reported to him, namely the potholes in The Mead, the footpath behind Gosditch and the moss covered triangular sign on the wall of Cove House. The Clerk said the large hollow that appeared in the road outside Cove House had been inspected by a Wiltshire Highways Engineer and would be the subject of a major highway repair in the summer. County Cllr C Soden said that she would attempt to get the Highways Department to bring the repair date forward, because of the potential hazard to vehicles and pedestrians alike.

2011/29 Financial Transactions

Payments Made:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ AK Village Hall (February Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ Came and Company (Tractor Insurance)	£ 138.10
▪ Clerk's Salary (February)	£ 599.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (February)	£ 108.35
▪ HMRC (Tax & NI)	£ 711.47

2011/30 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 the Council Tax for Wiltshire had been frozen for two years and said that none of the County's Libraries would be closed. She further reported that the Government had given the Council £1.5M to deal with the pothole problem. Lastly, Cllr Soden thanked all those people of Ashton Keynes who had signed the Footpaths petition.

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas said the Ellison's appeal to their Planning Application had been withdrawn, reasons unknown. There followed some discussion on the mechanism for reporting unauthorised work without appearing to be vindictive. County Cllr C Soden said instances requiring enforcement procedure should firstly be e-mailed to her for notification to the Planning Authority, who never publish it in the public domain.

Minerals Liaison Working Group

Cllr D Wingrove referred to the Minutes of the recent Minerals Meeting with Cullimore's (Gravels) Ltd, in which it said that Fridays Ham Lane was brushed three times daily to remove mud from the road. He said he did not believe it was happening, because the mud on the road was getting deep and becoming a road hazard. Cllr M Jackson agreed and said the mud was often 3 inches deep and he offered to take photographs in support. The Chairman said that Cullimore's had an obligation not to put mud on the road. County Cllr C Soden suggested that the Clerk should speak to the Neighbourhood Police. Cllr J Hughes said he would speak to Cullimore's about it.

Action: Cllr J Hughes

Cllr M Jackson said the volume of Lorries parking outside the Aggregate Industries Cleveland Farm site in Fridays Ham Lane before 7am was becoming dangerous and their numbers needed to be reduced. Cllr J Hughes said he would speak to Aggregate Industries and ask them to try and deal with the problem.

Action: Cllr J Hughes

Footpath and Roads Working Group

Cllr M Seymour reported that there had been a Working Group meeting on the 16th January 2011, the Minutes of which had been distributed. Cllr D Wingrove asked if there was a map of the Footpaths that he could obtain. Cllr J Hughes offered to get his map of the Footpaths photocopied up to A3 size for him.

Action: Cllr J Hughes

2011/31 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said he attended the Village Shop Steering Group meeting on the 7th March and reported that Sales for the period January and February 2011 were slightly down on the £10k/month level achieved in the four months to 31st December. It was noted, however, that February was a short trading month; the margin was also down, largely due to a stock write down in January. This had resulted in a small loss (around £600) for the January/February period.

Cllr Hughes said that Loans/Bonds funds had increased to £20,500 (from £19,150 at the end of December) and the Group would be looking to raise more funds in the next six months. An informal request was made to the Parish Council for more financial support, but this was not quantified. Progress on the new build seems to have slowed and little progress had been made since the last meeting. It was estimated that the earliest start date for building the extension would now be April 2011

2011/32 Keynes Country Park

Cllr A Stefanovic referred to a recent Newspaper article about the Keynes Country Park, when she highlighted the fact that Watermark has five years of its lease to run. She said it would take a sum of £400K to get the Company to relinquish the lease, which could not be found.

2011/33 Parish Online Maps for Planning

Cllr M Jackson explained why he had asked for this item to be added to the Agenda. He said Parish Online was a company which, for a reasonable sum, would produce maps of the area for Parish Councils that would prove invaluable for the Planning Committee and for other Council purposes. The Clerk asked whether this could be done any cheaper by dealing directly with Ordnance Survey. The Chairman said he would like to postpone the decision on this item until the next meeting.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.33pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th April 2011, commencing at 7.45pm