

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2011

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

2011/56 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllr J Freeth.

2011/57 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

A declaration of interest was submitted by Cllr S Jefferson on the Industrial Units to be discussed under Agenda item **2011/66**.

2011/58 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th April 2011

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

2011/59 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said he had only one matter arising. He said he had discovered that David Rose was not the Wiltshire Council person dealing with the extraction of Minerals, it is Geoff Winslow. He asked Geoff to attend the June Parish Council meeting to discuss mineral extraction site options and Geoff sent him an e-mail to say that he would speak to his line manager and would let the Clerk know her decision. The Clerk said he would let the members know the outcome.

Action: The Clerk

2011/60 Approve 2010 – 2011 Accounts for Audit

The Clerk said the internal audit of the 2010-2011 accounts was completed by the Internal Auditor, Trevor Heath, on the 3rd May. The Clerk then gave the members an explanation of the figures in the Accounting Statement to the Government's External Auditors, Mazars of Southampton. Approval for the Chairman and the Clerk (Responsible Finance Officer) to sign the Audit document was proposed by Cllr A Stefanovic, seconded by Cllr E Tidmarsh and unanimously agreed by the members.

2011/61 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by reporting that £500 had been received from the Section 106 funding for the Millennium Green Hedge cutting that was done early last year. The Ashton Keynes Section 106 money held by Wiltshire Council is currently £19,621.92. However, he said, there should be more money being deposited as a result of the dwelling being built across the Thames on the High Road. The five projects that have been proposed to attract Section 106 money so far are: The path from Church Walk to the Churchyard; The Lotts Play Area Equipment; Grassing over of Kent End Ditch; the Pre-School Garden and the installation of a BMX Track.
- On the subject of finances, he said he had temporarily transferred the money from the Co-operative Bank Investment Account to the Current Account for safe keeping. His reason for this was the low rate of interest we were being offered – namely 2%. He said he was now actively seeking a savings/investment account with a better interest rate. When he has done so, he would be investing the money safely in an account attracting a higher interest rate than before.

- The current Parish Council Insurance Company is Zurich, which is operated through Community First. The insurance is due for renewal on 1st June, but the quote from Zurich is up from £1,332.07 last year to £1,744.81 this year, a massive increase of 31%. He said he was looking for a cheaper quote, without losing any of the insurance benefits currently enjoyed. As the insurance has got to be renewed before the next Parish Council meeting, he will e-mail the quotation for their acceptance or otherwise.
- He said he had received a quote of £300 from the Tree Surgeon to fell two Cherry Trees and Crown raise to 4 Metres and remove dead wood on a Robinia Tree. He had received a further quote of £90 from David Clover to Crown raise to 4 Metres and clear dead wood on a Cherry Tree and to clear a heap of dead branches etc from other trees. After a short discussion on "Orders for Work", Cllr E Tidmarsh proposed that for work above £500 a second quotation should be obtained, which was seconded by Cllr A Stefanovic and agreed unanimously by the members. The Clerk said he would amend the Standing Orders at the next re-print.

Action: The Clerk

- 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 items were reported to him, which were recorded and would be passed to Wiltshire Highways Partnership.

2011/62 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Received:

The Council noted that the following payments had been received:

▪ Wiltshire Council (Half Precept)	£ 16,235.00
▪ Wiltshire Council (Millennium Green Hedge Cutting)	£ 500.00

b. Payments Made (by Cheque):

The Council noted that the following payments had been made by cheque:

▪ Aeshton Services (April Grasscutting)	£ 850.00
▪ Patrick Edwards (Belts and Tractor Starter Motor)	£ 202.00
▪ Chairman's Expenses (Presentation Boards)	£ 37.45
▪ WALC (Annual Subscription)	£ 437.33
▪ Printing (Footpath Maps)	£ 9.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (April)	£ 608.44
▪ Clerk's Expenses (April)	£ 82.61
▪ AK Village Hall (April Room Rental)	£ 61.00

c. Payments Made (by Debit Card):

The Council noted that the following payments had been made by Debit Card:

▪ DELL Printer Cartridges	£ 77.08
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2011/63 Clerk's Appraisal

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr S Jefferson had recently conducted the Clerk's annual Appraisal, in accordance with the Standing Orders and using the National Association Local Council's model Appraisal Form. The Chairman said he had consulted a number of members before he and Cllr Jefferson made their Appraisal decisions. Their conclusion was that the Clerk had performed his duties to a level that was in excess of the expectations of his office and they recommended his salary increment be raised by one Spinal Column Point from 1st April 2011, which was agreed.

2011/64 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Planning Committee

Cllr M Jackson referred to Planning Application N/10/04592?FUL, which had been submitted by Mr Keith Bowley, and said it requested a change of use of land at Clayhill Copse to a Wildlife Care and Activity Centre, together with permission to erect a temporary dwelling. Cllr Jackson passed around all the drawings to the members for their perusal and pointed out, among other things that the Application included the provision of a car park to accommodate 130 cars and a large number of other vehicles. After considerable discussion, it was concluded by all the members that it was the wrong business in the wrong place and the Clerk was asked to request that County Cllr C Soden call in the Application.

Action: The Clerk

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman reported that some metal pegs, used to hold down the senior Football Club Goal nets, had been found on the Bradstone Sports field; they were a danger to children and would damage the Gangmower blades. He said he had written to the senior Football Club about the problem previously and asked them to replace the metal pegs with plastic, which they clearly had not done. The Clerk was asked to write to the senior Football Club and tell them that unless they replace the metal pegs with plastic, Football would not be permitted on the Bradstone Sports Field.

Action: The Clerk

2011/65 Minerals Extraction

The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council still has a number of site options in this area for the extraction of aggregates to meet the Government quota for the building and transport industries. Cllr J Hughes produced a drawing, which the Chairman held up for the members to see that showed a number of sites just South of Waterhay that would be investigated. The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council would be holding a Consultation in September/October on the suitability of the sites.

Cllr D Wingrove suggested that a similar approach to the recent Footpath petition should be undertaken to obtain the Parishioners comments on the minerals extraction. The Chairman said the members should be pro-active and visit every address to determine the pros and cons of what is being considered. Cllr Wingrove offered to work with the Clerk and map out the areas of the village for Councillors to visit all the Parishioners. The Chairman said that the village would become a virtual island if the extraction takes place South of Waterhay and there was no financial benefit to the village. Whereas, Cllr S Jefferson said that extraction to the South would prevent Cricklade creeping nearer the village, and the previous minerals extraction had reduced water levels in the area and reduced the risk of flooding.

Cllr M Jackson said that if Geoff Winslow gets permission to attend the June meeting of the Parish Council, he would like to meet with him an hour or so beforehand. The Chairman said that there would be a need to put together all the villagers' comments before the September Consultation and called for volunteers to do so. Cllr J Hughes, M Seymour and E Tidmarsh agreed to undertake the work and formulate the Consultation response from the Parish Council.

2011/66 Industrial Units

Cllr S Jefferson said he was trying to set up a meeting between the owner of the Old Brickyard, Colette Mallon, Simon Smith of Wiltshire Council Planning Section, the Chairman and himself. The purpose of the meeting would be to look at the Planning aspects of extending the Old Brickyard and convince the Planning Section that the Conservation Area is being preserved. The Chairman asked the Clerk to determine what the classification was of the land on the opposite side of Cox's Hill.

2011/67 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said he attended the Village Shop Steering Group meeting on 9th May and reported that trading for the January to April period had been just above break even. Four tenders were eventually received for the new shop build, ranging from £50k to ££90k. He said the Committee was likely to accept the £53k quote by the company that built the Down Ampney village shop; Cllr Hughes said the timescales would be a three week lead in and then 16 weeks to build. There have been several offers of assistance received from local companies with the supply of materials. Finally, he said, one new bond had been received in April of £50.

2011/68 Fish and Chip Service

The Chairman said that this item should be dropped from the Agenda.

2011/69 British Legion Garden Party

The Clerk said he had received a call from Mrs Jean Wilde asking for a donation of £50 to cover the cost of tea/coffee/cakes to be served at the Garden Party. Cllr E Tidmarsh proposed £50 be donated for this good cause, Cllr A Stefanovic seconded the proposal and the members agreed unanimously.

Action: The Clerk

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.38pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th June 2011, commencing at 7.45pm