

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th December 2010

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas and D Wingrove. Cllr E Tidmarsh arrived at 9 pm.

2010/142 Update from Wiltshire Constabulary

The Chairman said neither PC Simon Akers nor PCSO Sam Walsh could attend the meeting, and the Clerk was asked to read out an e-mail received from PC Akers.

The Clerk read as follows:

"I now have access to the Ashton Keynes web site and propose to post information, appeals etc when the need arises. I have also displayed contact details etc so hopefully this will make Sam and I even more accessible. Please bear with me though as I have never done this before and am on a learning curve!

We have a consultation outside the shop on **2 February 2011** so perhaps someone can come along and support us and also witness that we did attend

We are investigating the damage to High Road playing fields but very difficult when apparently no one saw or heard anything. Apart from that all appears to be ok in your neck of the woods unless you know different. I am still on recuperative duties and cannot patrol etc for some weeks yet.

Hope you have a very Happy Christmas and I wish you all the very best for 2011"

2010/143 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden.

2010/144 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2010/145 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th October 2010

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

2010/146 Matters arising from the Minutes

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

1. The incorporation of suggestions from members onto a Street Lighting map, which will feature on the Website for villagers to comment on, is ongoing by Cllr M Carter and himself.
2. A meeting took place on 18th November at the Millennium Green to discuss the work to be done on the hedge to make it environmentally friendly. An Application Form now has to be submitted to Wiltshire Council requesting that they spend some of our Section 106 money in support of the project. It was suggested that the Royal Agricultural College be approached for information on the environmental aspects of hedgerows.
3. No member has expressed any disagreement to the proposition that the Village should be added to those in Wiltshire to trial a 20 mph speed limit. It has been placed on the Website as a survey and should now proceed to a Public Meeting. We could cover this proposal with an agreement on the Street Lighting. Cllr M Jackson was concerned that the implementation of the 20mph speed limit would require the introduction of chicanes and other traffic calming measures. The Clerk believed this was not the case.

4. On the subject of speeding, Martin Rose of Wiltshire Council Highways Department had a Speed Detection Radar (SDR) device installed on the High Road. He told me that it would be uninstalled in the next couple of days and he would inform me when he has the results.

2010/147 Recommendations from Grants and Finance Working Group

The Chairman said that every member had had an opportunity to study the Minutes of the Grants and Finance Work Group Meeting held on the 25th October 2010, and asked if there were any further comments. Cllr R Thomas stated his disagreement again with giving the Pre-School a Grant, on the basis of them being a business, albeit a Charity. The Chairman reiterated what had been written in the Minutes of the meeting, about the Pre-School being the future of the village, and that their role was key to keeping up the numbers of children attending the school.

After a further short discussion, the Chairman asked for a proposer to adopt the 2010 Grants; Cllr S Jefferson proposed the adoption, Cllr A Stefanovic seconded the proposal and all but one member approved the adoption; Cllr R Thomas abstained. Cllr M Carter then proposed the adoption of the 2011/2012 Precept recommendations and Cllr S Jefferson seconded the proposal, which the members unanimously agreed. The Clerk said he would inform the village organisations and Wiltshire Council respectively.

Action: The Clerk

2010/148 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying that Miranda Gilmour, the Malmesbury Area Board Manager, had said that she could not recommend the Parish Council application for a £270 grant towards the cost of buying the Grit Spreader, which amounted to £545. The Clerk said that if she didn't support the Application, then we stood very little chance of it being approved. In view of the continuing inclement weather and the upcoming increase in VAT, the Chairman suggested that the Grit Spreader be bought now from Reserves, rather than wait until the January Area Board meeting. Cllr M Jackson proposed the purchase, which was seconded by Cllr J Hughes and approved unanimously. The Clerk said he would inform David Clover the following day to initiate the buying process.

Action: The Clerk

- He said that following Cllr A Stefanovic's appointment as the Parish Council representative on the School Board of Governors, replacing David Moss, he said he would like to write a letter of thanks to David for all his effort on behalf of the Parish Council; the members were fully in agreement.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk said that he had attended the SLCC one day South West Conference in the Four Pillars Hotel on 2nd December, along with 100 other delegates, and found it especially informing. The most important Local Government legislation that is about to be released is the Decentralisation and Localism Bill (shortened to Localism Bill), which was mentioned at length. The Solicitor and Head of Legal Services NALC and the SLCC Branch Development Officer were two particularly good speakers and they were extremely vocal on the upcoming Bill. As with all the SLCC Conferences, he said he was very pleased to have attended and, as usual, made good use of networking with a number of other Clerks, as well as Councillors.

- While at the Conference, the Clerk said he picked up a book entitled 'The Councillor'. It was first published over half a century ago, but 'The Councillor' remains the best available guide to the duties and responsibilities of the elected Council members. Designed to assist Councillors in the appreciation of the working of a Council, the scope of the book is such that a better understanding of local administration will be afforded anyone involved in the process. He said he had passed the book to the Chairman, who will give it back to him to circulate among the members. When he receives the invoice for the book it will be for £11.95, which he would be grateful to pay through Council funds. Cllr J Freeth proposed the book be paid for by the Parish Council, which was seconded by Cllr S Jefferson and agreed unanimously.
- He had received the invoice for the Annual Subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for 2011, which amounted to £118; he said this was the same amount charged for 2010. Cllr S Jefferson proposed the amount be paid, which was seconded by Cllr J Freeth and agreed unanimously. The Chairman said that this was another annual subscription that the Clerk should pay without recourse to the members throughout the rest of the life of this Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk said that Wiltshire Council is holding a Civic Carol Service on the 15th December in St John's Church, Devizes at 7pm, followed by seasonal refreshments in the Church Rooms. Wiltshire Council has invited two members from each Council in Wiltshire to attend. There were no volunteers forthcoming at that time.
- He had received a letter from the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association (WRHA) and a publication on 'Affordable Rural Housing'. The publication is a Practical Guide for Parish Councils, produced by the Rural Alliance, of which the WHRA is a member. He said if anyone would like to borrow the publication they are welcome to do so, otherwise it will be stored with the Council publications in his office and would be available at any time.
- David Clover has given him a quote for £260 to cut the top and both sides of the hedge along Happy Land and remove all spoils, including fallen tree branches. Following a short discussion, Cllr J Hughes proposed the hedge cutting, which was seconded by Cllr D Wingrove and agreed unanimously.
- He informed the members that the amount per elector of Section 137 money goes up from the current £6.15 for this year to £6.44 for 2011/2012. He explained that this is the amount that might be placed in the Section 137 budget line in the next Financial Year Precept.
- The Clerk said that the 2011 United Kingdom Census will take place on 27th March 2011 and that further information about the Census could be found at www.census.gov.uk. The Chairman suggested that this information should also feature on the Parish Council Website, on which Cllr M Carter agreed to take the necessary action.

Action: Cllr M Carter

- 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 damage to the railings by the Waterhay Car Park and the low tree branch over the footpath behind Gosditch.

2010/149 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Made (by Cheque):

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

▪ AK Village Hall (Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ SLCC (Regional Conference Fees)	£ 64.62
▪ Clerk's Salary (November)	£ 599.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (November)	£ 43.14
▪ HMRC (Tax & NI)	£ 711.27

b. Accounts for Payment

The Council approved the following item for payment

▪ SLCC (Annual Subscription)	£ 118.00
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2010/150 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Footpath and Roads

Cllr M Seymour had nothing to report.

Greener Village

Cllrs M Jackson and M Carter said they were in discussion about the Camera.

Minerals Liaison

Cllr M Seymour reported that he had re-established contact with those involved with the Aggregate Industries meetings and would be having a meeting on 20th January 2011.

He said he would now do the same with those who had been involved with the Cullimore's meetings, and hoped to have a meeting in March 2011.

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas said he had nothing further to report than that which was written in the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman reported on the damage to the High Road Playing Field, both to the land, the fence alongside the Car Park and a demolished bench. The Police are investigating the offence, but no one had heard the noise that must have accompanied the damage being caused. David Clover and Martin Carter had repaired the damage to the land at a cost of £55, but it will cost £780 to replace the fence with more substantial 6 x 4 inch timbers. The Clerk said he had approached the insurers to pay for the damage, but was told categorically that the items were not covered. The Chairman said that the Playing Fields Committee would find the sums required to pay for the repairs.

Cllr E Tidmarsh arrived in the room.

2010/151 Planning Application for Village Hall Extension

Cllr R Thomas said the Planning Committee was not happy with the drawings that were submitted with the Planning Application, they felt it made the extension not look in keeping with the rural nature of the village. Planning Committee member, Cllr M Jackson, had made a suggested alternative drawing, copies of which were distributed among the members. The drawing received general agreement from the members, who felt it was simple but traditional; the high roof was explained to be an important feature, because it afforded storage space for the shop.

There followed considerable discussion on the Planning Application, the legal issues, the design features and the best way forward in terms of debating the issues with the Management Committee of the Village Hall and the Village Shop Association Management Committee. It was agreed that a small Working Group should be formed to work with these Committees; Cllrs M Jackson, J Hughes and D Wingrove offered to serve on the Working Group, the Terms of Reference of which will be that of the other Parish Council Working Groups.

The Chairman said that if the Working Group needed to speak to the Parish Council members, then an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting could be called, giving three working days notice. The Chairman asked the Clerk to see if he could find anything in support of the Doctor's Surgery being built in the Village Hall.

In conclusion, it was agreed by the members that if a second Planning Application needed to be submitted to Wiltshire Council, the drawings should first be modified as discussed, and it should be registered with the Parish Council, as the owner.

2010/152 Path from Church Walk to the Churchyard

The Chairman said that a Parish Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) Application for funding support, to improve the look and feel of the path area from Church Walk to the Churchyard, was submitted in November. He said it would be some time yet before we heard the result. In the meantime, he had also taken the Wiltshire Council representative, Colin Kennerson, who adjudicates on Section 106 applications, to the site and he had been suitably impressed; it is hoped that any top up in funding that may be needed will be forthcoming from Section 106 money.

2010/153 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said that the Village Shop sales for November were steady and the profit margin was slightly up on October. He said the stock situation was proving to be more efficient.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.40pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 7.45pm